

G20 Energy Ministers Highlight Energy Efficiency and Welcome Progress under the G20 Energy Efficiency Action Plan in 2015 and key role for Finance

On Friday, 2 October 2015, Energy Ministers from G20 countries met for the first time in Istanbul, Turkey, for a high-level meeting to discuss this year's collaboration between G20 countries on strategic energy issues. G20 Energy Ministers highlight energy efficiency and recognize its benefits, including lower costs for households and businesses, greater economic productivity and growth, strengthened energy security, and improved environmental outcomes.

Ministers welcomed the Report on the Voluntary Implementation of the Energy Efficiency Action Plan prepared by the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC), together with other international organizations and participating countries under the *G20 Energy Efficiency Action Plan*, endorsed at the G20 Leaders' Summit last year in Brisbane, Australia.

"We are delighted that G20 Energy Ministers welcome the enormous efforts by participating G20 countries in this IPEEC coordinated international collaboration on energy efficiency", praised Santiago Creuheras, Chairman of the IPEEC Policy Committee and Director General for Energy Efficiency and Sustainability at the Ministry of Energy in Mexico. He also commended the "troika" countries (Australia, Turkey and China) as well as the G20 countries for their confidence and support in implementing the G20 Energy Efficiency Action Plan in 2015 and their continued support of IPEEC.

IPEEC Executive Director, Benoit Lebot, added, "energy efficiency has finally secured the level of recognition it deserves, and is here to stay as a central piece of the G20. Energy efficiency is crucial to G20 countries, and G20 countries are critical to energy efficiency".

In addition, the Communiqué highlights the *Voluntary Energy Efficiency Investment Principles* for participating G20 countries, a key piece of work carried out under the Energy Efficiency Finance Task Group (EEFTG) co-chaired by Mexico and France. The product of sustained consultations between 13 participating governments, financial institutions and market actors, the Principles are aimed at accelerating the flows of capital into energy efficiency investments. Fatih Birol, the Executive Director of the International Energy Agency, highlighted the much-needed energy investments and welcomed these Principles.

"The *Energy Efficiency Investment Principles* provide a welcomed framework to increase public and private investment flows into energy efficiency", said Sylvie Lemmet, Director for European and International Affairs at the French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, and co-chair of the G20 Energy Efficiency Finance Task Group. "This seems like a very important signal for immediate and concerted global action on energy efficiency investments which can be emphasized as we build momentum towards COP21."

Peter Sweatman, CEO of Climate Strategy and a member of the G20 EEFTG Secretariat, stated, “G20 Energy Ministers rightly place their focus on the need to enhance capital flows into energy efficiency and these *Energy Efficiency Investment Principles* are a clear signal of policy direction in participating countries to stimulate and frame the growing interest in this area from banks and long-term investors.”

Over 70 banks have made voluntary commitments to enhance energy efficiency investments under the *Financial Institutions’ Statement on Energy Efficiency Finance*, which is an initiative co-led by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) in parallel to the G20 policy work on energy efficiency finance. Long-term investors have also signed onto efforts to increase investments in energy efficiency through the *Energy Efficiency Investor Statement*, which is currently underpinned by over US \$2.7 trillion in assets managed and coordinated by UNEP FI and its partners.

“Through this innovative process, with increasing awareness and work on both policy and finance sides, we can expect to create conditions for a large-scale mobilisation of the private finance sector, with proposed steps to embed energy efficiency into their practices and business models”, said Annie Degen, Energy Efficiency Coordinator at UNEP FI.

The Action Plan launched in 2014 represented the first time G20 Leaders had agreed upon international cooperation on energy efficiency on such a scale. G20 Energy Ministers’ welcoming reception of the report, and the recommended policy options contained within it, marks an important milestone for political consensus on energy efficiency. The endorsement from Energy Ministers for “further work to ensure that the Plan has a long term perspective” is a strong signal for deepening and bolstering this collaboration in the years to come, beginning with the Chinese G20 Presidency in 2016.

The [Ministerial Communiqué](#) adopted at the end of the Meeting will be presented to the G20 Leaders’ Summit in Antalya on the 15th-16th November 2015.

For more information, please visit the IPEEC [website](#) or contact ailin.huang@ipeec.org.