

**Energy Transitions Commission
Representatives Meeting
Summary note
20th February, 2025**

Thursday 20th February, 11.00 am – 3.00 pm UKT

Time (UK)	Agenda
11.00 – 11.10	Welcome
11.10 – 12.20	<p>State of the climate debate in early 2025: reflections, challenges, and the path to COP30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerging global challenges in the climate debate, including a perspective from Tim Gould, Chief Energy Economist at the International Energy Agency (IEA) • Reflections on COP29 and criteria for success looking ahead to COP30 • Rise of disinformation in the climate space and a discussion on how ETC's communications strategy can evolve to respond
12.20 – 12.50	<p>Low-carbon Molecules: a brief update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential upper bound role of electrification and hydrogen • The potential to recycle and reuse carbon molecules
12.50 – 13.20	Lunch
13.20 – 14.40	<p>Transforming Power Systems: emerging insights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balancing the system: requirements, technological options and cost • Optimising grids: technologies, costs and demand-side flexibility • Overall impact on total system costs
14.40 – 14.55	<p>Ways of working with the ETC: opportunities and tools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025 workplan and reminder on ways to engage • Update on the launch of the ETC's latest report on Buildings • decarbonisation and related communication activities • Proposal for a) new initiatives to strengthen engagement with ETC members in Asia, and b) use of AI notetaking in the ETC meetings
14.55 – 15.00	Conclusion and wrap-up

Key discussion takeaways

The ETC would like to thank its Representatives for their active participation at the meeting and the rich discussion. This note captures the main takeaways from our discussions. All materials from the meeting are available for download on [ETC Member portal](#). Please note that these are internal documents not to be shared beyond your organisation.

1. State of the climate debate in early 2025: reflections, challenges, and the path to COP30

2024 witnessed significant pushback in political and media support for the transition; COP29 lacked significant progress, and early this year the US pulled out of the Paris Agreement for the second time. During this session, the ETC summarised recent developments since COP29, followed by an intervention by Tim Gould, Chief Economist at the IEA, who presented a perspective on the regional state of the transition. The ETC team then presented an overview of the impact of mis- and disinformation in the climate debate as a driver of a perceived weakening of support for climate action. However, despite this, the evidence shows that public belief in the need to fight climate change is still high.

This year, the ETC is looking to extend impact beyond our traditional audiences of policymakers and corporates, to influence broader audiences and increase conviction on the need to accelerate the energy transition. The team proposed an approach to reach broader audiences in 2025 and asked for feedback on five areas that we could target further: Denialism, Salience of the transition, Education, Economic impacts, and Progress.

Representatives agreed the ETC could and should do more to counter negative messaging and take a wider role in the public space. There was constructive debate about being realistic on timelines for energy price reductions, whilst maintaining broader political support for the transition. Representatives agreed we cannot focus on long-term lower costs in our key messaging whilst costs of living are rising; there should be greater focus on where technologies are giving consumer benefits and creating economic growth and jobs now.

ETC welcomes further input from members to help with these efforts, and we plan to continue the discussion about our developing communications strategy and how members can get involved at the upcoming ETC Comms Club on March 27th from 1:00-2:00 pm (UKT). We invite member communications leads to join this discussion. Please get in touch with Shane O'Connor if you would like to arrange a further discussion.

(Session material available [here](#))

2. Low-carbon Molecules: a brief update

During this session, an update was provided for Phase 1 of the carbon molecules workstream, which was undertaken late last year. Phase 1 focused on 1) how large a role can and should direct electrification play in a zero-emission economy and 2) the role of hydrogen and non-carbon H₂ derivatives. This included an overview of disruptions that could push the share of electricity and hydrogen in final energy demand higher, reducing the role of carbon molecules. Disruptions with higher potential included electrification of high temperature heat, electrification of steel/iron making and solid-state batteries.

In addition, an introduction to Phase 2 of the workstream was provided, which focuses on the potential to recycle and reuse carbon molecules. This introduction highlighted the size of the carbon molecule demand anticipated to 2050 and the key recycling/reuse technologies that the workstream would analyse. Members pointed out the importance of understanding when cost parity for the different technologies reaches that of fossil+CCS and that potential competitive electricity prices for these technologies could be found in the global south, however significant challenges could be found in financing industry shifts to these regions. Members also highlighted the potential impact of a significant drop in fossil

fuel demand on market infrastructure and stability of market dynamics. It was also raised that regionally, hydrogen and ammonia were gaining traction for co-firing and power generation and that it was important to analyse carbon sourcing methods including sustainability and cost implications, including shipping CO₂. Carbon sourcing and costs will be the focus on Phase 3 of the Carbon Molecules work program, starting in Q2 this year. Please get in touch with Andrea Bath if you would like to arrange a further discussion.

(Session material available [here](#))

3. Transforming Power Systems: emerging insights

The Power team shared an overview of the structure, insights and techno-economic analysis that will be included in the upcoming Power Systems Transformation report, which will be published in June of this year. The session covered the critical importance of clean electrification, examining the challenges of managing future power systems. Key topics included strategies for managing system balancing, approaches to building and optimizing grids, and an analysis of what total system costs could be in clean power systems. Finally, the presentation highlighted the key enablers needed to unlock the power system of the future, offering stakeholders a preview of the comprehensive insights and actionable recommendations that the full report will deliver.

Reflecting on the presentation, representatives echoed the increasing role of renewables, with regions like Spain and Australia demonstrating confidence in high shares of variable renewable energy, while noting that others still face challenges. The importance of long-distance transmission, particularly within large countries, was emphasized as a useful technology for balancing.

The discussion also turned to the required expansion of grids. It was noted that total system costs are increasingly based on transmission and distribution (T&D), which are not coming down. One key factor for this is the complexity of building undersea cables and the challenges of permitting for offshore projects. Furthermore, the discussion noted the need for modularity in cost curves of key grid components. Within this context, the importance of comparing current and future costs, as well as considering business-as-usual costs in 2050, was discussed.

(Session material available [here](#))

4. Ways of working with the ETC: opportunities and tools

This session included a reminder on 2025 workplan, an update on the recent launch of the ETC report [Achieving Zero-Carbon Buildings: Electric, Efficient and Flexible](#) and communication activities. The Member Engagement Team provided a brief overview of various how member can engage with the ETC, including:

- ETC Representatives and Commissioners
- Analytical programme inputs,
- Communications & Outreach opportunities,
- Engagement within the ETC Regional program,

- ETC participation in member-hosted events.

Detailed information on member engagement activities could be found in monthly [ETC Insider newsletter](#) as well as [the Member Portal](#). The ETC team also proposed we proposed several new initiatives to enhance our engagement with our members in Asia & Australasia including:

1. **Asia & Australasia members focused ETC meetings:** In addition to the hybrid ETC Commissioner and Representatives meetings, we plan to organise 2-3 dedicated sessions with the ETC Chair and team, specifically for Asia members and those interested in Asia. These will be held at 7am UKT, lasting 2-2.5 hours and scheduled close to existing ETC meetings. Prior to these dates, pre-reads and a general agenda covering all ETC items with topical discussions will be circulated . These additional meetings will be open to Asia & Australasia members as well as those interested in Asia-focused discussions.
2. **Expert Workshops and bilateral follow-ups:** To enhance the accessibility of our workshops, the ETC has now begun recording the expert & member workshop sessions, excluding the Q&A portions to maintain an open and confidential dialogue. These recordings will be made available to all members. Additionally, one-on-one follow-up discussions continue to be offered with the ETC analysts as needed.
3. **Regional events:** The ETC team is exploring the possibility of hosting an ETC Commissioners Dinner during Energy Asia (June 16-18). This event would be open to all members, providing an opportunity for meaningful networking and discussion.

(Session material available [here](#))