

**Energy Transitions Commission
Representatives Meeting**

**Summary note
19th September 2024**

HSBC, 8 Canada Square, London E14 5HQ
with virtual participation option

19 September 2024, 08.45 - 17.30 UKT

Time	Topic
8.45 – 9.20	On-site arrival from 8.45 AM UKT with welcome tea & coffee followed by seating Virtual Zoom link for the meeting will be accessible starting at 9:10 AM UKT, and the meeting will commence at 9:20 AM UKT
9.20 – 9.30	Introduction
9.30 – 10.30	Power systems transformation: Emerging conclusions from the ETC's work
10.30 – 10.50	Break
10.50 – 12.50	Net-zero buildings: summary conclusions from the ETC's work on buildings heating, cooling, lighting, appliances and embodied carbon
12.50 – 13.50	Lunch
13.50 – 15.00	ETC 2024/25 Work Programme: Highlights, Strategy Recap, and look ahead to 2025
15.00 – 15.45	Road transport productivity: Summary overview of ETC 'Short'
15.45 – 16.05	Break
16.05 – 16.40	Keeping up the momentum: 2024 key communication milestones, upcoming events and future COPs
16.40 – 17.15	Connecting Regions: round-up of the ETC Programmes across the globe
17.15 – 17.30	Conclusion & 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. Power systems transformation: Emerging conclusions from the ETC's work

Representatives reflected on several key issues, including on the extent that demand side flexibility can be deployed in the power system, the importance of appropriate power market design, issues around global long-distance transmission links, and electrification pathways, notably around the electrification of industrial heat. Several representatives commented on challenges around global transmission links, specifically around aligning

business cases across different markets, as well as geopolitical risks; however, the discussion also reflected the importance of highlighting the overall potential opportunity of more global integration of electricity flows. Several representatives commented on electrified heat pathways, noting the importance of granular assessments across different processes. These topics will continue to be covered within the ongoing Power system transformation workstream, with a report publication planned for 2025.

(Session material available [here](#))

2. Net-zero buildings: summary conclusions from the ETC's work on buildings heating, cooling, lighting, appliances and embodied carbon

Reflecting on the presentation, Representatives highlighted both optimism – including from the increasing cost competitiveness of heat pumps in some countries and positive outcomes from emerging demand-side flexibility initiatives (e.g., from dynamic tariffs) – and also how challenging and fundamentally different the buildings transition is. These challenges include the fragmentation of the buildings sector and decision-making, especially around embodied carbon, and the challenges of bridging high upfront capex costs to unlock lower running costs. A key discussion was whether the debate on moving away from the “fabric first” approach has already been won, with members having different views on how prominently our key messages should focus on this. A clear takeaway was the need to highlight the importance of taking a holistic, whole-building approach to decarbonisation. Representatives encouraged the ETC to bring out the clear, no regrets policies that will help shift the dial this decade in its upcoming report, that is due for publication in December.

(Session material available [here](#))

3. ETC 2024/25 Work Programme: Highlights, Strategy Recap, and look ahead to 2025

ETC Representatives had a lively discussion looking ahead at the ETC's upcoming work programme. In response to the presentation of the ETC's new workstream on the role of carbon molecules in the transition, the discussion focused on the need for clarity around key terms given the technical nature. Regardless of terminology, it was noted that the relative pathways of molecules vs electrons is a critical area of focus.

In response to the upcoming areas of focus in the ETC's workstream on power system transformation, representatives recognised the growing importance of demand from AI/data centres and agreed with the proposed focus on geothermal energy, given its potentially significant role alongside wind and solar. In response to the presentation of the forthcoming ETC workstream on the economic impacts of the transition, the importance of clearly outlining the issue of jobs in the transition was highlighted. Other discussion points focused on the issue of trade barriers, which continue to shape and influence all aspects of the energy transition.

Members recognized the importance of the work on finance repackaging ahead of COP, and expressed interest in further understanding the 'supply chain principles' (see p.21 of the *Supply Chains session material*) that were debated at the June Commissioners meeting – the supply chains presentation from that meeting is [here](#).

(Session material available [here](#) and June Supply Chains session material [here](#))

4. Road transport productivity: Summary overview of ETC 'Short'

Overall state of electrification in the road transport sector was discussed, with some noting that significant advances have been made on EV uptake globally, and while others noting that in key markets EV sales have significant room to increase. ETC Representatives also raised the importance of battery recycling and the costs of green steel in EVs as two important trends to watch, in terms of overall feasibility of transition. Finally, members commented on the critical importance of the turnover effect of the oldest ICE cars exiting the fleet as one of the most significant emissions reductions levers, and noted the importance of emphasising this in the ETC's forthcoming report.

(Session material available [here](#))

5. Keeping up the momentum: 2024 key communication milestones, upcoming events and future COPs

Progress and priorities of the ETC's communication strategy for the rest of 2024 and the coming year were presented, including the success of the three-pillar strategy, which has significantly increased the ETC's visibility and influence through targeted media engagement and strategic dissemination of key reports.

ETC Communications team outlined the upcoming communication plans for key climate events including Climate Week NYC, the Clean Energy Ministerial, and COP29. A key focus is repackaging the 2023 ETC report [Financing the Transition](#) in a new ETC briefing note highlighting the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) and reshaping the global finance narrative. Further discussion around the evolving narrative climate action was also deliberated along with the role of ETC in monitoring and contributing to the narrative. Finally, ETC Representatives engaged in a dialogue about the ETC's communication tools, particularly the new [Member Portal](#).

(Session material available [here](#))

6. Connecting Regions: round-up of the ETC Programmes across the globe

The session on the ETC Regional programme began by considering the pace of the transition within each region, applying the thinking of ETC's recent briefing *Creditable Contributions: Bolder Plans for Higher Climate Ambition in the Next Round of NDCs* to evaluate the policies and trends being seen. Currently, almost all of the [movement](#) is in China, the EU, and the US, with some progress being seen in India; by comparison, little investment is being made throughout the rest of the world.

The discussion then moved on to the various elections that have happened around the world in the past year: although it was previously thought these could swing the direction of the transition one way or another, the elections thus far have been a mixed bag and the biggest is still to come in the US in November. Regardless of election outcomes, the myths and misinformation about the energy transition continue to exist and could still undermine political support. Because of this, it was recognized that the ETC must continue to refine and repeat the key messages. Finally, while our regional partners continue to produce work that advances the transition locally, it was noted that the main focus for 2024-25 continues to be Brazil and Indonesia.

(Session material available [here](#))