

Minutes of CLLS Energy Committee Meeting

18 July 2017

Attendees:

Robert Lane (*Chairman*), CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang LLP

Kevin Hart, City of London Law Society

Sarah King, CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang LLP

Judith Aldersey-Williams, CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang LLP

Iain Elder, Shearman & Sterling LLP

1. Introduction

Robert Lane introduced the meeting and welcomed Iain Elder of Shearman & Sterling LLP to the Committee.

2. Update by members

General

It was noted that there have been a significant number of absences for recent meetings and the Committee agreed to review the options available to address that issue.

Discussion on foreign markets

There was a discussion regarding the Middle Eastern legal market, noting its increased commoditisation.

The members considered the African legal market for energy work, and it was noted that this is a challenging jurisdiction with a nascent renewables industry, which may offer opportunities in the future.

UK-based work

The attendees discussed the UK market, and the topics included the prospects for new large gas-fired and nuclear projects. It was also noted that there remains appetite for new interconnectors despite the Brexit-related uncertainty.

3. Queen's Speech – Energy Policy

There was a discussion around the energy elements in the Queen's Speech. In particular, the Committee noted potential policy or regulatory changes regarding energy price caps and the smart meter rollout.

4. Brexit Developments

General developments in the UK

There was further discussion regarding the impact of Brexit on UK energy matters and it was noted that issues such as the border between Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, increased interconnectivity and European investment in UK energy assets suggest that the negotiating parties should find a sensible solution.

Developments worldwide

The Committee considered the impact of the US withdrawing from the COP21 Agreement and it was agreed that this topic should be considered at length at the next meeting.

Effects on the UK oil & gas industry

There was discussion regarding the impact of Brexit on the oil & gas industry and it was noted that the market is mostly concerned about the ability to import goods/services and hire skilled workers from the EU, while ensuring that the Government does not lose focus on 'business-as-usual' matters.

5. CLLS Lifetime Achievement Award

The Committee was advised that the process for nominating a proposed recipient was now under way. Robert Lane advised that he would go out to the committee to ask them to submit nominations by e-mail to him in time for the deadline of 7th September 2017.

6. Consultations

Following a full discussion on other issues, there was no further discussion on this topic and it was agreed that consultations will be looked at in detail at the next Committee meeting.

7. CLLS 2017/18 Meeting Timings

The Committee agreed to hold the next committee meetings in September and at the end of November (before the pre-Christmas season), when the meeting dates for 2018 would also be agreed. A number of key dates for events in 2018 were also given to the Committee. They were provisionally:-

- **Monday 29th January:** The Annual CLLS Dinner for all members of the CLLS Committees;
- **Monday 21st May:** The Annual Service at St Peter ad Vincula, Tower of London, and Dinner at Trinity House; and
- **Monday 11th June:** the CLLS AGM and Reception

8. AOB

There was no other business.