MINUTES OF THE 102ND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Friday, June 26, 2026 (13:30-14:00 CP only; 14:00-18:00)
Venue: Garnet Room, New Engineering Building, 1 Madiba Cir, Upper Campus, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch, Cape Town, 7700, South Africa. Maps link.

Online: TEAMS link included in the calendar invitation
Contacts: Kathleen Vaillancourt, (kathleen@esmia.ca), Brian Ó Gallachóir (b.ogallachoir@ucc.ie), George Giannakidis (ggiannakidis.gg@gmail.com)

AGENDA

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6.3 ETSAP Participation and Outreach activities	
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7.1 Vote for chair and vice-chair	
7.2 Next ExCo: ETSAP 103 ExCo meeting (Online): September 26, 2026 ?	
7.3 Other meetings:	
- ETSAP Winter Workshop 2026 (Paris, France): Dec 3, 2026	
- ETSAP 104 ExCo meeting (Paris, France): Dec 4, 2026	
- ETSAP 105 ExCo meeting (online): March 25, 2027?	
7.4 Any other businesses	

Attachments

J1 Minutes and Action list from the 101 ExCo meeting
J2 Short status report from Operating Agent
J3 Budget and Economy 2026
J4 Project updates
J5 TIMES code maintenance
J6 Communication from the Secretariat

0. EXCO DISCUSSION WITH CONTRACTING PARTIES ONLY

A 30-minute private session for Contracting Parties (CPs) was held prior to the formal meeting.

The Chair (Brian) highlighted the key agenda items for decisions during this ExCo meeting, including:

- The strong ETSAP/TIMES presence at the International Energy Workshop (IEW), including keynote contributions from the ETSAP community and a lunchtime session.
- The opportunity to engage further with African Energy Futures to support energy systems modelling capacity in Africa.
- The need to agree on the future processes for TIMES code maintenance.
- The need to make progress on the future of TIMES software, including GAMSPy, Julia/JuMP and other open-source options.
- ETSAP's 50th anniversary and the opportunity to use this milestone to reflect on the next 25 years of ETSAP and TIMES.

Additional points were raised by Contracting Parties:

- The use of the new ETSAP Basic TIMES Training materials were discussed, including clarification that ETSAP-funded trainings follow an official trainer-selection process, while other trainers may use available materials independently. ETSAP does make available on request a list of TIMES trainers but these are not formally accredited by ETSAP.
- Members highlighted the importance of making TIMES more attractive to young modellers.
- Tiina (Finland) informed members that she will not be putting her name forward for one of the ExCo vice-chair positions, but will continue as Finland's ExCo representative.

1. QUORUM COUNT

Representatives from 13 CPs participated in the meeting (as outlined in Annex 1), ensuring a quorum enabling the ExCo meeting to proceed formally. The ExCo meeting was chaired by Brian Ó Gallachóir.

The Chair thanked the University of Cape Town for hosting the ETSAP Summer Workshop and the ExCo meeting.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Chair introduced the proposed agenda, comprising seven main sections. The ExCo adopted the agenda with the following adjustment: item 6.1 Communication from the Secretariat was moved earlier in the agenda (to item 3.3) to accommodate the availability of the IEA Secretariat representative.

3. MINUTES OF THE 101^{E} EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

3.1 Minutes of the 101^{e} Executive Committee

No comments were received on the draft minutes of the 101st ExCo meeting. The ExCo adopted the minutes as presented.

3.2 Matters arising

The following matters arising from previous ExCo meetings were addressed here (other actions arising are already covered elsewhere in the agenda):

- Contact details of former ETSAP contributors have been collected for the 50th anniversary event.
- The invitation to Indonesia remains an ongoing item, as we explore how to establish formal contact with the relevant Ministry representative.
- A dedicated session on post-processing tools could not be accommodated during this summer workshop and will be considered for a future workshop.

The Chair raised the question of how to use the pre-reading assessment included in the new ETSAP Basic TIMES Training materials. The proposed approach is to require participants to answer all multiple-choice questions correctly before being eligible to attend the training, while allowing unlimited attempts. This aims to ensure that participants engage with a minimum common foundation. It was suggested that the assessment be tested with students before implementation to verify whether the threshold is realistic.

Decision:

- The ExCo agreed to pilot the pre-assessment approach, requiring 100% correct answers but allowing unlimited attempts, and to review the experience at the next ExCo meeting.

3.3 Communication from the Secretariat

The IEA Secretariat (Uwe) provided an update on recent IEA activities. Key points included:

- Recent IEA publications and analysis on energy technology, clean technology manufacturing and trade, and technology deployment.
- The TCP Universal Meeting held on 8–9 June 2026, where discussions focused on communication through practical case studies. The Chair (Brian) presented on behalf of ETSAP.
- Changes in the TCP network and IEA governance structure, including the establishment of the Critical Minerals TCP and changes to working party mandates and names.
- Ongoing efforts to streamline TCP extension procedures and improve coordination through National TCP Coordinators and National TCP Days.
- The continued development of TCP Coordination Groups, which now cover several thematic areas and provide opportunities for collaboration across TCPs.

The Chair reported that the activities and impact of ETSAP had been very strongly highlighted and positively received at the Universal TCP Meeting. Several national delegates and National TCP Coordinators referred to the impactful contribution of ETSAP and TIMES to national policy development.

4. ANNEX XVII (2026-2028): ENERGY SYSTEMS, SOCIO-TECHNICAL SYSTEMS AND STRUCTURAL CHANGE

4.1 Short status report from Operating Agent

The Operating Agent (Kathleen) provided a brief activities status update since the previous ExCo meeting:

- Continued engagement with the IEA and other TCPs, including IEAGHG, the Wind TCP, and participation of the Chair (Brian) in the IEA Universal TCP Meeting in Paris.
- Upcoming and ongoing ETSAP representation in relevant international activities, including the IEA Energy Efficiency Conference in Montreal and IAEA activities on nuclear modelling.
- Ongoing outreach to Indonesia, although the appropriate formal contact remains to be clarified.
- Preparation of upcoming workshops, including the Paris 50th anniversary event.

- Resumption of the ETSAP webinar series, including a May webinar on modelling nuclear power.
- Delivery of ETSAP Basic TIMES Trainings, with the list of participants available to ExCo members.
- Finalisation or near-finalisation of consultancy and research contracts, with the GAMSPy contract still awaiting final signature following legal review.
- Continued social media activity, including a new post series promoting advanced TIMES features.

4.2 Budget and Economy 2026

The Operating Agent (Kathleen) provided a brief status on the 2026 budgets and expenditure:

- The budget remains in a healthy position.
- Cash flow remains high, partly because income continues to be received while some project expenditures remain outstanding.
- Some outstanding payments remain, including from countries with previous arrears (France and Greece), and follow-up continues.

The Chair noted that the current financial position reflects previous ExCo decisions to limit the R&D project budget in order to maintain reserves for strategic investments in tool development.

Note: A detailed budget breakdown in Excel (Attachment J3) was circulated prior to the meeting.

4.3 Work programme discussion

The Chair opened a discussion on the objectives of ETSAP-funded R&D projects and the need for a more structured outreach strategy. Discussion points included:

- The need to distinguish more clearly between core R&D projects and outreach activities.
- The need to define the target audiences for ETSAP outreach, including new users, policymakers, students and early-career modellers, and the existing TIMES community.
- The outreach opportunity created by the IEW Cape Town workshop, particularly through engagement with African Energy Futures and African modelling teams.
- The need to position TIMES more clearly by communicating its strengths, policy relevance and advanced capabilities, especially given the visibility of other modelling communities.
- The potential use of webinars and more outward-facing workshops to engage non-TIMES users and policymakers, while maintaining workshops as a core forum for the existing community.
- The importance of involving younger modellers and students in discussions on how TIMES and its tools should evolve.
- The need to improve workshop organisation, including registration, presentation upload mechanisms and clearer deadlines.

Decision:

- The ExCo agreed to establish a small group, convened by the Project Head (George) and the Operating Agent (Kathleen), including Sweden (Anna), Germany (Markus), and James, to prepare a short discussion paper for the next ExCo meeting on ETSAP's outreach strategy.

4.4 Project updates

The Operating Agent (Kathleen) introduced the overview of completed and ongoing ETSAP-funded projects. Project leads provided short updates:

- **Excel-based technology database and submission tool:** The project is nearing completion; comments have been incorporated and data will be uploaded before the summer.
- **Modelling of Industry Sector and Material Efficiency:** Workshops have been completed in Stuttgart, Espoo and Nara; documentation is under preparation and completion is expected by 1 August 2026.
- **Modelling Nuclear Power in TIMES:** The project is completed, with further dissemination planned, including at the IAEA workshop.
- **TIAM Climate Module Update:** The project is at risk due to contracting delays, inflation-related budget issues and Antti's forthcoming retirement; remaining work requires clarification.
- **Advanced TIMES-VEDA Training and Knowledge Sharing:** The project is on track, with one training completed, another planned for the Winter Workshop, and follow-up webinars expected.
- **TIMES-to-JuMP feasibility study:** The report has been submitted to the management team and is discussed under Item 5.2.
- **GAMSPy Port of the TIMES Model Generator:** The project is progressing well and expected to be completed by December; members were encouraged to provide models for testing.
- **Fourth ETSAP Book:** Approval has been received from Springer and the project is on track.

The Chair encouraged project teams to consider webinar presentations as a means to disseminate project outputs.

5. TOOL DEVELOPMENT & CAPACITY BUILDING

5.1 TIMES code maintenance

The Project Head (George) presented the discussion paper on future TIMES code maintenance. The paper proposes moving from the current single-maintainer model toward a more structured governance framework, including defined roles such as users, contributors, reviewers, maintainers, release manager and a steering committee.

The proposal includes an initial phase focused on knowledge transfer, training of new contributors and future maintainers, and establishing development, review, testing and release procedures.

Comments received prior to the meeting were summarised, including a contribution from New Zealand and Switzerland/PSI. Key points included:

- The need to clarify whether the immediate scope is limited to maintaining the existing GAMS-based TIMES code or also includes preparation for future migration.
- The importance of clearly defining roles and distinguishing open community contributions from paid maintenance roles with clear accountability.
- The need for concrete deliverables, milestones and measurable progress indicators during the transition period.
- The importance of a robust quality assurance framework, including regression tests, reference models, release checklists, documentation and human review.
- The need to maintain documentation and clarify the relationship between the updated PDF and online documentation.
- The importance of identifying and training new maintainers quickly, given Antti's retirement.

Discussion points included:

- The most urgent need is to identify one or more people combining TIMES understanding, mathematical modelling knowledge and GAMS coding expertise.
- Potential candidates could come from within ETSAP, the broader GAMS community, or possibly with support from GAMS staff familiar with the TIMES code through the GAMSPy project.
- The GAMS forum or wider GAMS user network may help identify potential candidates.
- Maintenance and support on forum should be distinguished: experienced TIMES users could support the forum, while code maintenance requires deeper technical responsibility.
- Antti noted that recent maintenance needs have been moderate, though documentation and forum support remain part of the workload.
- The Liaison Officer (Gary) underlined that future maintainers need to understand TIMES from an energy systems perspective as well as the mathematical and GAMS code structure.

Decision:

- The ExCo agreed to establish an interim steering group to prepare the next steps on TIMES code maintenance for the next ExCo meeting, including Olex, Evangelos, Markus, James, the Project Head (George) and the Operating Agent (Kathleen), with Antti available to contribute to selected meetings subject to his availability.

5.2 Long term strategy including open-source tools

James presented the outcomes of the TIMES-to-JuMP feasibility study and a broader note on long-term strategy for open-source tools and innovation:

- The TIMES software ecosystem is powerful and mature, but ETSAP faces increasing pressure from open-source communities and policy environments that increasingly prefer open-source tools.
- A long-term open-source strategy could help ETSAP maintain relevance, attract new users and contributors, and support transparency and technical sovereignty.
- The feasibility study indicates that migration to Julia/JuMP is technically possible, but would require significant work, including reformulation of data structures and model logic.
- GAMSPy remains an important near-term route, while Julia/JuMP and HiGHS may provide a longer-term pathway, subject to funding and validation against large TIMES models.

Discussion points included:

- Members noted that the key strategic issues are accessibility, transparency, maintainability, community growth and performance, not only cost reduction.
- The need to avoid framing the issue as an immediate choice between GAMS/GAMSPy and Julia/JuMP; both may have roles in different timeframes.
- The importance of validating any alternative approach using real, large-scale TIMES models.
- The value of circulating information on Julia/JuMP prototypes and involving interested institutions, academic partners and younger modellers in testing.
- The need to revisit the issue once the GAMSPy project is complete.
- The importance of linking open-source development to a future contributor community, not only a one-off migration project.

Decisions

- The ExCo agreed that James will continue engagement with the Julia/JuMP, HiGHS and wider open-source optimisation communities.
- The ExCo agreed that the management team may allocate limited funding, including travel support, for this engagement over the next six months, within the existing approval limits.
- The ExCo agreed to revisit the long-term strategy at the December ExCo meeting.

6. IEA-ETSAP IMPLEMENTING AGREEMENT

6.1 ETSAP's 50th anniversary

The Chair recalled that ETSAP's 50th anniversary celebration will take place at the IEA in Paris on 4 December 2026. Gary provided an update on preparations. Several former ETSAP contributors have been contacted, and many have confirmed interest in participating (some may require travel support). IEA senior representatives are expected to participate. A draft programme structure was presented. Discussion points included:

- The need to reduce the number of presentations and focus more on discussion and storytelling.
- The value of recording legacy reflections, where feasible, to preserve institutional memory.
- The possibility of inviting CPs to provide short videos or slides from national stakeholders.
- The importance of telling a clear story linking ETSAP's past, present and future.
- The importance of ensuring the comfort and needs of elderly invited guests.

Preparations for the 50th anniversary event will continue. Contracting Parties are invited to send suggestions for invitees (to improve geographical and gender balance), programme elements and possible short national contributions.

6.3 Engagement with IEA and other TCPs: updates

The ExCo briefly discussed ongoing and potential collaboration with other TCPs.

IEAGHG has expressed interest in engaging with ETSAP regarding modelling work and analysis they are undertaking. It was clarified that ETSAP would not formally accredit or endorse another TCP's model, but could provide useful discussion, feedback and expert exchange. Members interested in engaging with IEAGHG or related activities were invited to indicate their interest.

Further TCP collaboration opportunities will be considered as part of the broader outreach and participation strategy.

6.4 ETSAP Participation and Outreach activities

The ExCo discussed recent outreach opportunities, including:

- Follow-up engagement with African Energy Futures, following the strong interaction during IEW.
- Ongoing efforts to clarify formal contacts with Indonesia.
- Emerging interest from Türkiye in energy systems modelling and potential ETSAP participation.

Decision

- The ExCo approved issuing an invitation to Türkiye to join ETSAP as a Contracting Party and further engagement with African Energy Futures to explore collaboration opportunities.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Vote for chair and vice-chair

The Project Head (George) became the meeting Chair for this agenda item and invited the ExCo to propose nominees for the Chair and Vice-Chairs for the upcoming year. Finland (Tiina) confirmed her decision not to put herself forward for the position of vice-chair, while continuing as Finland's ExCo representative.

The Operating Agent noted that the involvement of vice-chairs in regular operational meetings would be welcome, given the growing number of strategic and organisational issues requiring follow-up.

Decision:

- Brian Ó Gallachóir was nominated and re-elected as chair.
- Markus Blesl was nominated and re-elected as vice-chair.
- Pernille Seljom was nominated elected as Vice-Chair

Brian Ó Gallachóir resumed the role of chair for the remainder of the meeting.

7.2 Next ETSAP ExCo meetings

The 103e ExCo meeting will be held online on September 21, 2026.

7.3 Other meetings

Updates were provided on upcoming meetings:

- The ETSAP Winter Workshop will be held in Paris on December 3, 2026.
- The main 50th anniversary event will be held at the IEA in Paris on December 4, 2026, in the morning, followed by the 104th ExCo meeting. Further logistical details for the workshop and training venues will be confirmed.
- The 105th ExCo meeting is expected to take place online in March 2027, with the exact date to be confirmed.

The Chair informed members that the International Energy Workshop 2027 had been announced to take place in Paris, hosted by the IEA.

7.4 Any other businesses

No additional items were raised.

The Chair thanked participants, the University of Cape Town and all contributors, and closed the meeting.

9. AGREED ACTIONS

To do

Action list from previous meetings	Owner
New action items from the 102e ExCo meeting	
Establish a group, to prepare a discussion paper for the next ExCo meeting on ETSAP's outreach strategy.	George and Kathleen, with Anna, Markus, and James
Establish an interim steering group to prepare the next steps on TIMES code maintenance for the next ExCo meeting.	Olex, Evangelos, Markus, James, Antti, George and Kathleen
Continue engagement with the Julia/JuMP, HiGHS and wider open-source optimisation communities.	James
Revisit the long-term strategy for ETSAP tools (including open-source components) and innovation at the December ExCo meeting.	All
Engage further with African Energy Futures to explore collaboration possibilities	Brian
Issue an invitation to Türkiye to join ETSAP as a Contracting Party	Brian, George, Kathleen
Action list from previous ExCo meetings	
Revisit the use of available funds for methodological tool development at future meetings.	All
Invite Indonesia to join ETSAP	Brian
Revisit TCP collaboration models—including joint projects and potential shared annexes—at a future meeting, with draft options prepared in advance.	All CPs
Organise a dedicated session at a future workshop or a Webinar on post-processing tool development with experienced TIMES modelers.	George/Kathleen

Ongoing

Action list from previous ExCo meetings	Owner
Start preparing the ETSAP Winter Workshop in Paris and coordinate with Uwe, including the 50e anniversary activities	Kathleen/George/ Brian
Coordinate on options for maintaining and updating documentation (online and/or PDF).	Kathleen/Antti/Pieter
Look for an online upload system to collect workshop presentations. With the new website.	Kathleen
Suggest additional U.S. institutions as potential Contracting Parties for USA.	James/Angelina All CPs
Seek to coordinate with IEA on joint training workshops for IEA Association Countries	George / Uwe
Continue with ETSAP webinar series – ExCo members to encourage participation and to propose webinar topics to George.	George / Paul / All CPs
Revisit rules & ideas to refine the workshop format further to include more interactive formats.	Kathleen & All CPs
Engage with TCP Coordinating Groups to ensure inclusion in future activities	All CPs

Completed

Action list from the previous ExCo meeting	Owner
ExCo budget & rules	
Workshops and trainings	
Prepare the contract for the provision of trainings during Annex XVII.	Kathleen/George
Share contact details of former contributors for the ETSAP 50e anniversary and support dissemination efforts.	All
Start preparing the ETSAP Summer Workshop in CapeTown and coordinate with the local team.	Kathleen
Tool and capacity building	
Support James' participation in the upcoming JuMP meeting in Edinburgh (refund travel expenses).	Kathleen
Develop a call for expressions of interest for potential contributors to the TIMES code maintenance, further defining the governance structure, roles, implementation plan, and budget.	George
Revisit the long-term strategy and open-source tools at the Summer ExCo meeting.	James/George/Brian/ Kathleen
Annex	
Outreach and collaboration with other TCPs	
Arrange a discussion on ETSAP's outreach strategy at a future ExCo meeting. To be scheduled at the Summer ExCo meeting in Cape Town.	George/Brian/ Kathleen
Annual Reports, Social medias, Marketing activities	
Research projects	
Review intellectual property rights (IPR) clauses in contracts.	Kathleen/Tiina
Arrange a discussion on the objectives of funded R&D projects at a future meeting, and on the distinction between R&D projects and outreach activities in budget allocations. To be scheduled at the Summer ExCo meeting in Cape Town.	George/Brian/ Kathleen

ANNEX 1: ETSAP EXCO MEETING - CONTRACTING PARTIES REPRESENTATIVES

N.	Country	Contracting Party	Delegate	Yes	Alternate	Yes	Nominate	Yes
1	Australia	CSIRO	Mr. Luke Reedman	√ o	Mr. Thomas Brinsmead		Mr. James Foster Mr. Stephen Craig	
2	Belgium	VITO/SPW/Brussels	Mr. Frank Meinke-Hubeny Ms. Martha Cadena Barros Ms. Camille Romain		Mr. Pieter Lodewijks Mr. Wouter Nijs Ms. Nathalie Arnould	√ o	Tinne Mast	
3	Canada	CanmetENERGY	Mr. Serge Bédard	√ o	Ms. Kathleen Vaillancourt		Mr. Etienne Bernier	
4	Denmark	ENS	Mr. Steffen Dockweiler		Mr. Lars B. Termansen			
5	Finland	VTT/Business Finland	Mr. Jussi Mäkelä		Ms. Tiina Koljonen, Vice chair	√ o	Mr. Antti Lehtila	
6	France	ADEME	Ms. Alma Monserand		Ms Nadia Maïzi		Ms. Sandrine Selosse	
7	Germany	IER	Mr. Markus Blesl, Vice chair	√ p	Mr. Christoph Jessen			
8	Greece	CRES	Mr. Philip Siakkis					
9	Ireland	SEAI	Mr. Brian Ó Gallachoir, Chair	√ p	Padraig Daly			
10	Italy	ENEA	Ms. Maria Gaeta		Mr. Fabio Lanati	√ o		
11	Japan	IEEJ	Mr. Yuhji MATSUO		Mr. Seiya Endo		Prof. Koji Tokimatsu	√ p
12	Korea	KEA	Mr. Yeon Sang Lee		Hye Bin Jan			
13	Netherlands	TNO	Mr. Bob van der Zwaan				Steven Salim	
14	New Zealand	EECA	Mr. Vincent Smart		Garett Gretton		Dr Will Catton	
15	Norway	IFE	Ms. Pernille Seljom	√ o				
16	Russia							
17	Singapore	A*STAR	Ms. Ng Jia Yi	√ o	Mr. Victor Nian		Mr. Aloisius Rabata Purnama Mr. Muhamad Azfar Ramli	
18	Spain	CIEMAT	Ms. Yolanda Lechón					
19	Sweden	STEM	Mr. Erik Sandberg		Mr. Erik Ahlgren			
					Ms. Anna Krook-Riekkola	√ p		
20	Switzerland	PSI	Ms. Anne-Kathrin Faust		Mr. Evangelos Panos	√ o	Mr. Kannan Ramachandran	
21	UK	BEIS	Mr. Todd Davidson		Mr. Paul Dodds Mr. Steve Pye	√ o	Ms. Hannah Reid	
22	US	DOE	Mr. Sauleh Siddiqui		Ms. Angelina LaRose		Ms. Anna D. Cororaton	

Quorum count √ o = online √ p = in-person √ l = came late

ANNEX 2: OFFICERS AND GUESTS

N.	Name	Organisation	Role	Yes
1	Uwe Remme	IEA Secretariat	IEA Representative	√ o
2	George Giannakidis	Freelance	ETSAP Project Head	√ p
3	Kathleen Vaillancourt	ESMIA	ETSAP Operating Agent Alternate delegate for Canada	√ o
4	Anna Cybulsky	ESMIA	ETSAP Operating Agent	√ p
5	Gary Goldstein	DecisionWare	Liaison Officer	√ o
6	James Glynn	ESMA	Expert	√ o
7	Antti Lehtilä	VTT	TIMES maintenance	√ o
8	Amit Kanudia	KanORS	VEDA provider	√ p
9	Roman Podelets	National Academy of Sciences in Ukraine	Expert	√ o

Quorum count √ o = online √ p = in-person √ l = came late