

IMEO Board Meeting

12 May 2026

13:00-14:30 CET

Minutes

Agenda

- **Opening by the Chair**
- **The second independent Board member, Stephanie Saunier, Managing Director at Carbon Limits, was approved by silent procedure and welcomed to the Board.**
- **IMEO provided a clarification on the approval procedure for methane science studies.** Members discussed ways to improve visibility of IMEO's science work and strengthen collaboration between the Board and IMEO's Scientific Oversight Committee (SOC), including through joint meetings and regular updates (Individual opinion of one of the independent Board members: No consensus was reached on the matter).
- **The Board approved the IMEO Donor Engagement Strategy and offered support in its implementation.** Plans for a donor conference were discussed. IMEO provided an update on the latest donor engagements.
- **AOB:** Members shared updates on upcoming methane events, including at the June London Climate Week.

IMEO Board Meeting

5 February 2026

13:00-14:30 CET

Minutes

Agenda

- **Welcome by the Chair, Andris Piebalgs**

Giulia Ferrini has been serving as the Head of IMEO since June 2025. To ensure continuity during her maternity leave starting in February 2026, Andreea Calcan, Science Studies Manager, will act as the Officer in Charge, actively supported by Ruth Coutto, Deputy Director of UNEP's Climate Change Division, who directly oversees IMEO's work.

- **Opening remarks from Ruth Coutto, Deputy Director of UNEP's Climate Change Division**

Deputy Director thanked members for their invaluable political and financial support to IMEO and updated the Board about the ongoing UNEP and UN methane developments.

- **Overview of the implementation of the governance reform**

Board Composition and Appointments

Prof. Andris Piebalgs has been confirmed as the Chair of the Board, in line with the process outlined in its ToR. Formal nominations have been received from 4 out of 5 government members:

1. **Cristina Lobillo**, Director, Energy Security and International Relations, European Commission, DG Energy
2. **Shinichi Kihara**, Director General for Energy and Environmental Policy, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Japan
3. **Martha Ekkert**, Head of Department, International Climate Protection and Global Energy Transition, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Germany
4. **Alannah Pentony**, Branch Head, National Inventory Systems and International Reporting Branch, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Australia
5. **Canada** - pending nomination

IMEO Board Meeting

11 September 2025

13:00-14:30 CET

Minutes

Agenda

- **Welcome Japan as new member**

The Committee welcomed Mr. Shinichi Kihara, Director-General for Energy and Environmental Policy, METI Japan as its newest member. In his introductory remarks, Mr. Kihara stressed the importance of collaboration between importers and exporters in reducing methane emissions.

- **Review of IMEO Governance Proposal**

The Implementation Committee approved the reform of IMEO governance, transforming it into a Board with immediate effect. IMEO will share a Roadmap for the further implementation of the reform to be discussed at the next meeting.

- **IMEO Project Updates**

UNEP's IMEO presented key progress highlights, including from the Oil and Gas Methane Partnership 2.0, Steel Methane Programme, Methane Alert and Response System, Science Studies and the Eye on Methane Data Platform that will be featured in the 2025 An Eye on Methane Report to be launched on October 22nd.

- **Outreach Plans**

IMEO also presented its external engagement plans, including:

- Methane Solutions Dialogues at the UN General Assembly, September 24
- OGMP 2.0-OGDC CEO Roundtable at ADIPEC, November 5
- 2nd IMEO Ministerial at COP30 hosted by Japan

- **Overview of Funding Status**

IMEO thanked its donor governments for their financial contributions and presented an overview of its funding status and requirements.

- **IMEO Mid-term Review Conclusions**

In 2024, UNEP commissioned a mid-term review of IMEO to capture lessons learnt in the implementation of its mission and provide recommendations for the next phase. The overall rating was assessed as “highly satisfactory.” The implementation of the recommendations has started and will be tracked as part of IMEO project reporting.

- **AOB**

The IC discussed **Eye on Methane public data platform users**, the **Metcoal Emissions Database** and the **science study factsheets** providing policy relevant insights.