

**ENERGY CHARTER
SECRETARIAT**

CCDEC 2015

26 NOT

Brussels, 3 December 2015

Related documents: CC 534

DECISION OF THE ENERGY CHARTER CONFERENCE

Subject: Secretary General's Report of the year 2015

The Energy Charter Conference at its 26th Meeting held on 3 December 2015 **took note** of the Secretary General's Report of the year 2015 as contained in document CC 534 (attached hereto).

Keywords: Report, 2015, Secretary General

Secretary General's Report of the year 2015

This Report provides an overview of the activities of the Energy Charter in 2015. The information on activities planned for 2016 is available in CC 531, the Secretariat's Programme of Work for 2016.

1. Each year in the Report of the Secretary General to the Meeting of the Conference, I set out the achievements and challenges of the year. This year is no different. In fact the achievements of 2015 have been exceptional in their scale, while the challenges of the year have been quite unprecedented in their difficulty.
2. There has been a troubled international political situation ongoing since 2014 which again had major repercussions in 2015, not least in the energy area. The political consequences of the conflict in the South East of Ukraine continued to impact negatively on energy co-operation. Nonetheless the Energy Charter pursued its mission to focus on co-operation and dialogue in the energy sphere.
3. The primary example of such co-operation in 2015 has been the Chairmanship of the Energy Charter Conference by Georgia. Georgia assumed the Chair of the Conference at the beginning of the year taking over from the Republic of Kazakhstan. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy, Mr. Kakha Kaladze, was the individual who has personified Georgia's Chairmanship of the Energy Charter Conference. I thank Mr. Kaladze and his staff for their commitment to Chairmanship and for their excellent spirit of co-operation throughout the year.
4. I must also particularly thank Minister Henk Kamp, the Minister of Economic Affairs of the Netherlands and his team for their tremendous input, support and encouragement with the organisation of the Ministerial Conference on the International Energy Charter in The Hague on May 20/21. Great appreciation is due to the Government of Netherlands for their enduring support for the Energy Charter over the last quarter of a century.
5. The adoption of the International Energy Charter in The Hague by seventy five parties was the outstanding result of 2015. This was the outcome of many years of planning, discussion, negotiations and diplomatic effort. The adoption of the new Charter was the first major political development in the process since the Energy Charter Treaty itself was signed in 1994. Most encouraging was the engagement for the first time of eighteen new countries, many from outside the Eurasian continent. This was a clear demonstration that the principles of the Energy Charter have an appeal to countries outside the existing constituency, and a relevance for the twenty first century.

6. In The Hague, each of Jordan, Morocco, and Serbia expressed their intention to accede to the Energy Charter Treaty. The Head of the National Energy Administration of China in his speech, before signing the new Charter, gave a clear indication of his country's intention to further deepen the relationship with the Energy Charter, to enter into partnerships with foreign partners, and to participate in the modernisation of the Energy Charter.
7. The months following the adoption of the International Energy Charter saw interest from a number of further countries from the African continent and from Latin America. Four countries signed the new Charter at a signing ceremony in the Secretariat on October 19.
8. Furthermore, Montenegro acceded to the Treaty; and so will become a Contracting Party on December 7.
9. As Secretary General, I have always given particular attention to the Consolidation aspect of the CONEXO policy. Those efforts yielded the first major result in 2015 when Iceland one of the original signatories of the Energy Charter Treaty, finally completed the ratification process. Following its internal ratification procedure, Iceland deposited its instrument of ratification to the Depository of the Treaty, the Government of Portugal, on July 20. Then as stipulated in Article 44 (2), the Energy Charter Treaty came into force on the ninetieth day after the deposit of the instrument of ratification, October 18 2015.
10. 2015 was also the first time that the Energy Charter was invited to contribute with other international organisations at the G20 Energy Sustainability Working Group meetings and reports. As Secretary General, I participated in the G20 Ministers of Energy Meeting in Istanbul in early October. I addressed the G20 Ministers, reiterating the importance of investment as the main tool to alleviate energy poverty, ensure energy access for all, scale up renewables and energy efficiency deployment worldwide. I emphasised the potential contribution of the Energy Charter Process and its principles to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
11. Throughout the year I continued my endeavours to promote the principles of the Energy Charter. I met with Ministers, Ambassadors, Head of Delegations, and representatives of the energy industry to outline the essential role and future potential of the Energy Charter Treaty and now the International Energy Charter. I spoke at many conferences and events to explain the specifics of the Energy Charter in the areas of transit, trade, investments, dispute resolution and energy efficiency. Some details of those activities are set out in the Annex to this report.
12. All of this, particularly the adoption of the International Energy Charter, generated a belief that a unique opportunity had been arrived at to share the values

of the Energy Charter with a much broader global constituency, including many countries who are important energy producing countries. There was the hope that the tried and proven Energy Charter, could further develop into an important tool of international energy governance to tackle many contemporary problems such as energy poverty in the less developed regions, and essentially to promote the rule of law, the principles of non-discrimination and sovereignty over natural resources.

13. The great challenge, indeed great disappointment of 2015, has been that the success of the International Energy Charter and the enthusiasm outside the existing constituency for the values of the Energy Charter, somehow have been negated by a loss of confidence from within.
14. This apparent lost of confidence was first illustrated by the announcement by Italy that it intends to withdraw from the Energy Charter Treaty at the end of this year. While this step is entirely in accordance with Article 47 of the Treaty, it is one that is unprecedented. The withdrawal is a serious reversal to the efforts to spread and share the Energy Charter values with that broader constituency.
15. The second illustration of the loss of confidence in the Energy Charter Process is the fact that the Russian Federation, in the course of 2015, seemed to have ceased participation at the meetings of the subsidiary groups of the Charter. Moreover the Russian Federation did not participate at The Hague conference on the International Energy Charter.
16. There is now the paradox between the positive way forward as mapped out in The Hague compared with the lack of motivation and engine from within the Energy Charter. There is a clear chasm between the expectations generated in The Hague, and the resources available to meet those expectations. In essence, as the Secretariat approaches 2016, there is a situation of severe budgetary constraints arising from these factors, which will greatly impede the activities that the Secretariat can undertake in the year to come.
17. Some critical decisions must now be taken with regard to the Secretariat. 2016 can be envisaged as a year of transition, so that in 2017 the Energy Charter Process and Secretariat can face the future better equipped to deal with the undoubted further challenges and uncertain future ahead. It would be a great tragedy if the principles of the Energy Charter, and the experience accumulated, were left to wither, particularly at a time where their relevance is so well appreciated internationally.
18. The Secretariat's efforts towards greater transparency and accountability continued throughout the year as exemplified through the Secretary General's monthly updates on operational and financial developments. As from March the

Secretariat has been communicating on the social network Twitter under two accounts @Energy_Charter, for the Secretariat; and @SecGenEnCharter for the Secretary General. There is also use of the Facebook and LinkedIn social networks. A new website for the Energy Charter www.energycharter.org was launched to which the content of the former website is being migrated. Some work is still underway particularly with regard to the Delegates Section. Delegates will be informed by the Secretariat once this has been completed.

19. In a further demonstration of transparency, and because of the severe budgetary situation which was developing, I held numerous consultations during the preparation of the Budget Proposal for 2016 with the Budget Committee, with the Staff Committee, and informally with member states and their representatives. My endeavours were directed at securing appropriate financial means to fund the activities of the Secretariat in 2016 and to ensure future sustainability.
20. Among the activities conducted with the Georgian Chairmanship in 2015 was the meeting on Regional Electricity Co-operation in South Caucasus in Tbilisi on 1 July. This followed on the Flagship Initiative of Georgia and was organised jointly by the Ministry of Energy of Georgia and the Secretariat. The meeting brought together the representatives of the governments and energy companies from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran, Russia and Turkey, as well as representatives of various international organisations. They discussed opportunities for the establishment a legal and technical framework for a secure and sustainable regional cross-border electricity trade and for attracting investments needed to develop this trade. This event was an important step towards enhancing regional co-operation on electricity trade in the South Caucasus. Countries agreed that the creation of a forum within the Energy Charter framework would facilitate the exchange of information on best practices and lessons learnt for developing cross-border energy markets and transport corridors.
21. The 11th meeting of the Task Force on Regional Energy Co-operation in Central and South Asia was held on 25 September at Issyk-Kul Lake in Kyrgyzstan. This forum which was organised with the Ministry of Energy and Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic brought together energy authorities of Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, as well as regional and international organisations. There were discussions on the perspectives of energy trade in the region and on recent developments in national energy systems. A declaration was adopted as the outcome of the meeting, which among other things, supported the second phase of the Energy Charter Modernisation Process and welcomed the possibility to negotiate regional transit instrument to foster trade and attract investments.

22. Two meetings were also co-organised by the Secretariat (one in Brussels and the other in Beijing) of high-level experts on Reliable and Stable Transit of Energy under the UN General Assembly Resolution 67/263 "Reliable and Stable Transit of Energy". The aim of the meetings was to facilitate policy debate within the expert community on setting up a multilateral legal instrument on oil, gas and electricity transit with the aim of creating a balanced framework among energy exporting, transit and importing countries.
23. The Energy Charter Forums were designed to replace the Energy Charter Policy Conference, and as a consequence to reduce the burden on the Energy Charter Secretariat, especially in terms of logistics and financial participation. The Forums are organised as part of the modernisation of the Energy Charter Process. The main goal is to reinforce the substance of the Energy Charter as an essential instrument for clarity in energy trade, investment and transit. Two successful Energy Forums were held in 2015. The objective has been to raise awareness amongst Members and non-Members of the Energy Charter's core businesses and of governments' increased involvement in the Charter's visibility.
24. The first was the Rabat Energy Charter Forum in February, an information session to promote the adoption of the International Energy Charter in Africa and the Middle East by showing participants the added value of the new political declaration. Participants were also informed of Energy Charter activities, the organisation's strengths and potential for the regions, while increasing its visibility in the Middle East and Africa. Both regions are considered among the most interesting areas when it comes to mitigating risk stemming from energy markets.
25. The second Energy Charter Forum was organised in October in Budapest with the Ministry of National Development of Hungary. The wider impact of the Forum well beyond the region of Central and Eastern Europe was reflected in the eighty participants from the energy industry, governments, law firms, regulators, consultancies, think tanks, academia and others. The topic of the Budapest Forum was "*Securing Energy Flows – Energy Union and Beyond*". The Budapest Energy Charter Forum provided a useful platform to promote a reliable and secure cross-border transit of energy through various legal frameworks and instruments to address the most salient challenges stemming from cross-border energy flows.
26. In the important area of dispute settlement the Permanent Court of Arbitration hosted The Hague Energy Charter Legal Forum on the "Resolution of International Energy Disputes: Peace Stability and Security, organised with the Secretariat. This was on the day following the adoption of the International Energy Charter. In my address there I outlined '*dialogue is the first step towards*

solving problems and the Energy Charter is the global forum for such dialogue in the energy sector?

27. Then in September Kazenergy hosted a roundtable on the ‘Settlement of Investment Disputes’, organised in co-operation with the Secretariat at the Kazenergy Eurasian Forum. The roundtable was an exercise to understand the opinion and experience of the different stakeholders involved in dispute resolution in the energy sector regarding amicable settlement mechanisms. The Secretariat is working with the International Mediation Institute and several dispute resolution institutions (ICSID, PCA, ICC and SCC) to produce a clear and effective framework for the amicable resolution of investment disputes within the energy sector (good offices and mediation).
28. During the year the Energy Charter Knowledge Centre conducted two executive energy training programmes. In May, the programme focused on “*Strengthening Energy Transition in Ukraine and Europe’s Eastern Neighbourhood – Addressing the Region’s Challenges through Good Governance Practices*” was organised with the support of the International Visegrad Fund. The second session of the training held in November focused on “*Settling Investment Disputes through Mediation – How to Reach an Agreement*”.
29. Working in conjunction with the Legal Affairs department of the Secretariat, the Knowledge Centre also organised a workshop on “*Complex Contract Negotiations in the Energy Sector*” specifically for government officials during the week of the legal training session in November.
30. All training programmes were oversubscribed by participants as demand for this service from the Secretariat continued to grow from across the Energy Charter constituency and beyond. The programmes are also becoming a useful instrument for the advancement of some of the Energy Charter’s policy objectives, particularly in relation to expansion and outreach. Participants in the training session mostly came from countries interested in deeper engagement with the Energy Charter, including those from Asia, Latin America and Africa. The total number of young professionals who have now collectively graduated from the training programmes since their inception in May 2013 is more than 200.
31. As has now become well established practice, the Knowledge Centre hosted a range of highly qualified Research Fellows whose work and expertise strengthened the Secretariat’s implementation of the Programme of Work. Research Fellows provide additional research capacity at the academic and practical levels and support the Secretariat’s policy work in different areas, such as transit, legal affairs, electricity, regional co-operation and many more.

32. Throughout 2015 the Secretariat continued to provide support and assistance to the Strategy Group, the Investment Group, the Trade and Transit Group, the PEEREA Working Group, and the Budget Committee. There was also the new Working Group on Procedural Issues. The details of the activities of these Standing Groups, Working Group and Committee are set out in their respective Reports. An important development took place in the Trade and Transit Group when at the October meeting, the Group welcomed the adoption by the Conference of the amendments to the '*Rules Concerning the Conduct of Conciliation of Transit Disputes*'. This was a major achievement since discussions had been ongoing since the early 2000s and should now result in a more effective framework for the resolution of transit disputes.
33. The Industry Advisory Panel whose deliberations the Secretariat also supports deserves special mention. The Panel met three times in 2015; once in Beijing and twice in Brussels. The Panel continues to be a source of business advice which is of immense value to the Conference and also to the member states of the Charter. I would like to thank the Chairman and the members of the Panel for their contributions to the work of the Secretariat which is set out in more detail in the Panel's own report.
34. I thank all those involved with the Standing Groups, the Working Groups and the Budget Committee, particularly those delegates who take part in the deliberations, those who gave of their time and efforts to act as Chairs and Vice Chairs. Their input is essential to the work of the Energy Charter.
35. Despite the immense effort required for the conclusion of the International Energy Charter and its adoption in The Hague, the Secretariat largely completed the tasks set out in the 2015 Programme of Work. The achievements of 2015 are in great part due to the professional commitment and performance of the staff of the Secretariat. The staff is the most valuable asset of the Secretariat. Regardless of the length of their engagement, each member of the staff is strongly devoted to the goals of the Charter. The efforts of experienced core staff members were again very effectively complemented by research fellows, young energy professionals and trainees. These individuals were engaged on the basis of short-term assignments, mainly working on Expansion and Outreach, the training courses for young energy professionals and the Knowledge Centre.

HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS AND ENGAGEMENTS OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL IN 2015

January and February

In Abu-Dhabi, the Secretary General met with IRENA Director General Mr. Adnan Amin and discussed the ECT as the only existing legal framework for the promotion and protection of investments for renewable energy and agreed to strengthen the co-operation between the two organisations. In Muscat, the Secretary General met with H.E. Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah, Oman's Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Salim bin Nasser Al Aufi, Undersecretary of the Oil and Gas Ministry, H.E. Mohammed Bin Abdullah Al Mahrouqi, Chairman of the Public Authority for Electricity and Water. They discussed the relevance of the Energy Charter Process for the MENA region's electricity sector and about the PEEREA and its role in formulating clear national policy aims for improving energy efficiency and reducing the negative environmental impact of the energy cycle.

In Beijing, the Secretary General met with Mr. Zou Yiqiao of the International Co-operation Department of the National Energy Administration of China and with Prof. Han Wenke, Director General of China's Energy Research Institute, with whom there were discussions on further ways of strengthening Co-operation between China and the Energy Charter.

In Vienna, the Secretary General met with Mr. Abdalla Salem El-Badri, Secretary General of OPEC, Mr. Mohinder Gulati, Chief Operating Officer of UN SE4ALL, and Mr. Janez Kopač, Director of the Energy Community Secretariat. The meetings focused on strengthening Co-operation and the impact the IEC would have on the global energy sector.

In Rabat, the Secretary General met with Dr. Abdelkader Amara, Minister of Energy, Mines, Environment and Water of Morocco, who expressed the country's intention to accede to the Energy Charter Treaty. With the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Bert Koenders the Secretary General discussed the ongoing preparations for the Ministerial Conference in The Hague. With Mr. Ali Oumarous, the Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum of Niger, he had discussions on the country's intention to join the Charter Process and sign the International Energy Charter. Also in Rabat, he met with Dr. Tarek Emtairah, the Executive Director of the Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE), and Dr. Hafez Salmawy, President of MEDREG.

In the area of co-operation with the international community: the Secretary General spoke at the Second Euro-Mediterranean Rendezvous on Energy organised at the European Parliament by MEDGRID, where he argued that the principles and rules of the Energy

Charter should be placed at the centre of the Mediterranean energy landscape, providing a stable framework for intensive and high-risk energy investments and trade.

At the Ministerial Roundtable during the 5th IRENA General Assembly in Abu Dhabi, the role of the ECT was highlighted as an instrument to ensure a favourable investment climate and a fair regulatory framework for renewable energy investment.

At the Conference of EU Ministers in Riga, held under the Latvian Presidency of the Council, the Secretary General highlighted the importance and relevance of the Energy Charter to the foundation of EU's external policy.

March

In March the Secretary General held consultations with the Vice-President of the European Commission for the Energy Union, Maroš Šefčovič in Brussels. They discussed the external dimension of EU's Energy Union and the situation in gas supplies between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Shortly afterwards, the Secretary General also met with the European Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy, Miguel Arias Cañete. They discussed current Energy Charter activities as well as ongoing Co-operation in the areas of mutual interest.

The Secretary General also met with the Minister of Industry and Energy of Azerbaijan Natig Aliyev in Brussels, who, inter alia, underlined the importance of international Co-operation in the energy sector for realising large-scale cross-border infrastructure projects.

In Egypt, the Secretary General held a bilateral meeting with Sherif Ismail, the Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources of the Arab Republic of Egypt in the framework of the high-level Egypt Economic Development Conference in Sharm El-Sheikh. There were discussions on the importance of large-scale investment by international energy companies into Egypt's oil and gas industry and the role the Energy Charter could play in facilitating the investment promotion and protection.

In Brussels the Secretary General also met with the European Commissioner responsible for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement, Johannes Hahn.

There was a meeting with the Ghanaian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration Hanna Tetteh to outline the benefits of the International Energy Charter and an eventual accession of Ghana to the Energy Charter Treaty.

Later in March, the Secretary General met with the Vice Prime-Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic Valeriy Dil in Brussels when inter-alia they discussed full Kyrgyz support to the Energy Charter Process as well as the role of the Energy Charter in promoting regional energy Co-operation in Central and South Asia.

On the last day of March, the Secretary General participated in the 2nd edition of the annual panel of the ELSA Dispute Resolution Academy on the occasion of the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration.

April and May

The activities of these months were dominated by the adoption and the signing of the International Energy Charter on May 20/21 in The Hague.

Prior to that, on April 10, the Secretary General attended a meeting of the African Union Group of Ambassadors in Brussels where he updated the delegates on the International Energy Charter. Two weeks later the Ambassadors of Chad and Niger signed the 1991 Energy Charter at a special ceremony in The Hague.

On April 13, the Secretary General participated as a speaker at the Valdai Discussion Club in Berlin on the topic “Europe and Eurasia: towards a new model of energy security”. He emphasised that the Energy Charter remains one of the few multilateral energy governance institutions where genuine trust might be developed. One of the participants was the Russian Minister for Energy of the Russian Federation, Mr. Alexander Novak, with whom the Secretary General had bilateral talks. On May 18th just before the Ministerial Conference in The Hague, the Secretary General also met with a delegation of officials from the Russian Federation led by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Vassily Nebenzya. They discussed the context for the modernisation of the Energy Charter Process and the imminent adoption of the International Energy Charter.

On April 24 the Secretary General met with a high-level Serbian delegation led by Mr Aleksandar Antic, Minister of Energy and Mining to discuss the next important steps for accession to the Energy Charter Treaty by Serbia. Serbia later signed the International Energy Charter in The Hague.

In Berlin on May 7, the Secretary General participated in the 3rd Energy Security Summit organised by the Frankfurter Allgemeine and the Munich Security Conference. In his contribution to the debate he addressed the implications of the proposed Energy Union and how best to engage with Russia. In that context he also outlined the potential of the International Energy Charter.

This was also something the Secretary General discussed with the State Secretary of the Ministry of the Economy of the Slovak Republic, Mr. Miroslav Obert while in Bratislava on May 13. There he outlined how the Energy Charter can be an instrument to reach out to countries around the world, especially those energy producing countries which should be taken into account in the external dimension of the Energy Union.

June

The Secretary General participated at OPEC International Seminar on the topic of 'Petroleum: An Engine for Global Development' in Vienna where he called on countries to share common rules for energy Co-operation enshrined in the International Energy Charter. There he met with Dr. Mohammed Bin Saleh Al-Sada, the Minister of Energy and Industry of Qatar, Dr Adil Abd Al-Mahdi, the Minister of Oil of Iraq, Dr Ali Saleh Al-Omair, the Minister of Oil of Kuwait, Dr. Abdul Hussain bin Ali Mirza, the Minister of Energy of Bahrain. He outlined the benefits of the Energy Charter Process for these countries and their closer engagement in the Energy Charter Process by adopting and signing the International Energy Charter.

While in Vienna the Secretary General had bilateral meetings with Dr. Aldo Flores-Quiroga, the Secretary General of the International Energy Forum, and discussed the International Energy Charter and the areas of mutual Co-operation between the two organisations. He also met with Mr. Bob Dudley, the Group Chief Executive of BP Group to discuss a closer engagement by BP in the Industry Advisory Panel. There was a meeting with officials from the World Bank to discuss mutual Co-operation in the area of investment risk mitigation. Finally he also held consultations with Austrian officials and discussed further modernisation of the Energy Charter Process and closer engagement of Austria in it.

On 11 June 2015 the Secretary General delivered a speech at a Conference organised by the OME (Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Énergie) in Brussels dedicated to the Euro Mediterranean Natural Gas Market: Prospects, Challenges and Opportunities, where he presented the Energy Charter as an effective international tool for mitigating political and regulatory risk, and as a booster of regional Co-operation.

In Riga on 17 June 2015 the Secretary General held a bilateral meeting with Mr. Jurijs Spiridonovs, Latvian Deputy Minister of Economics and discussed possible directions for the modernisation of the Energy Charter following the adoption of the International Energy Charter. He also launched the publication of the Energy Charter Review of the Investment Climate and Market Structure in the energy sector of the Republic of Latvia.

In Prague on 22 June 2015 he addressed the International Conference on 'Energy Security in Central and Eastern Europe and the Operations of Russian State-Owned Energy Enterprises' where he underlined the importance of the Energy Charter Process in attaining regional and global energy security. While in Prague he held consultations with representatives from Directorate-General for International Co-operation and Development of the European Commission on further Co-operation.

July and August

In Barcelona, the Secretary General participated at the Senior Officials Meeting organised by the Union for the Mediterranean (UFM) Energy Division which addressed the UFM energy platforms on gas, renewable energy and energy efficiency and regional electricity market. There he met with Amb. Teresa Ribeiro, the Deputy Secretary General of the UFM having explored the work synergies and possible ways of Co-operation between the Secretariat and the UFM Secretariat.

In Seoul the Secretary General delivered a speech at the 14th International Conference on Northeast Asian Natural Gas and Pipeline. There he met with Mr. Moon Jaedo, the Vice Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy of the Republic of Korea and Mr Lee Taeho, the Deputy Minister for Economic Affairs of the Republic of Korea and discussed current developments in the Energy Charter Process and possible accession of the Republic of Korea to Energy Charter Treaty. He also held consultations with Mr. Seung-Hoon Lee, the President and CEO of the Korean Gas Corporation KOGAS, who expressed the interest of KOGAS to join the Energy Charter Industry Advisory Panel.

September

At the beginning of September the Secretary General received a delegation from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) led by the Director General Mr. Li Ping. There were discussions on various Co-operation opportunities, especially the role of the Energy Charter Treaty in the “One Belt, One Road” strategy and to regional Co-operation in North-East and South-East Asia.

At the end of September the Secretary General spoke at the 11th Meeting of the Task Force on Regional Energy Co-operation in Central and South Asia (RECA) at Issyk Kul Lake, which adopted a declaration supporting the second phase of the Energy Charter Modernisation Process and welcoming the resumption of the multilateral transit agreement. There he met with the Vice-Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic Mr Valeriy Dil and Minister of Energy and Industry Mr Kubanychbek Turdubaev having discussed the Modernisation Process of the Energy Charter and its ongoing activities.

In Astana, the Secretary General also spoke at the Kazenergy Forum and met with the acting Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan R. Zhoshibayev to discuss the participation of the Energy Charter at Astana Expo 2017 "Future of Energy", Mr Salim bin Nasser Al Afi, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Oil and Gas of Oman and Mr Igor Martynenkov, the First Deputy Minister of Energy and Coal Industry of Ukraine to discuss current issues in the Energy Charter Process. He also met with Mr Nuer Baikeli, the Director of the National Energy Administration and the Vice Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China and discussed enhanced Co-operation between the Energy Charter and China.

In Berlin he held consultations with Energy Charter delegates in continuance of his efforts to secure appropriate financial means for the Secretariat's activities.

In Istanbul the Secretary General addressed Energy Ministers during G20 Conference on Energy Access in Sub-Saharan Africa and outlined the role of the Energy Charter Treaty as an instrument to ensure favourable investment climate and a fair regulatory framework for scaling up energy investments in Sub-Saharan Africa. There he met with H.E. Ali Riza Alaboyun, the Minister of Energy of Turkey, Ministers and Heads of Delegation of participating African and G20 countries and International organisations. Finally, he also welcomed the formal adoption by the UN General Assembly of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), replacing the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDG) dating from the year 2000, especially the inclusion of the new Goal 7, "Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all".

As part of Secretariat's core activities, the Secretary General delivered a speech at the Roundtable on the settlement of investment disputes hosted by Kazenergy during the 10th Kazenergy Eurasian Forum in Astana, which falls under the scope of amicable dispute settlement and the implementation of 2014 Astana Declaration.

October

On 1-2 October 2015, G20 Ministers of Energy met for the first time as mandated by the Brisbane G20 Summit in 2014. The highlight of the first day Conference on Energy Access in sub-Saharan Africa was the presentation of a G20 Energy Access Action plan for Sub-Saharan Africa, prepared by the UN Sustainable Energy For All Global Facilitation team in cooperation with other International Organisations, including the Energy Charter Secretariat. The Secretary General addressed the Conference participants underlying the role of the Energy Charter Treaty as an instrument to ensure favourable investment climate and a fair regulatory framework for scaling up energy investments in Sub-Saharan Africa. On the margins of the Conference and G20 Ministerial meeting, the Secretary General met with H.E. Ali Riza Alaboyun, Minister of Energy of Turkey, Ministers and Head of Delegation of participating African and G20 countries and International organisations.

In Bucharest on 5 October 2015 the Secretary General delivered a keynote address at the 14th Energy Investment Regulation Conference organised by the Energy Regulators Regional Association (ERRA). The Romanian Minister for Energy, SME and Business Environment, Mr. Andrei Dominic Gereu was another of the keynote speakers. In his address to the conference, the Secretary General, encouraged delegates to consider how the recently adopted International Energy Charter might assist the ERRA in its mission.

Later in Bucharest the Secretary General had separate meetings with Minister Gereu, with his cabinet colleague, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Bogdan Lucian Aurescu and

then with Mr. Julian Iancu, Chairman of the Committee for Industries and Services, Chamber of Deputies, Parliament of Romania. In his discussions with each of the ministers, the Secretary General took the opportunity to update them on the achievement of the adoption of the International Energy Charter and also on the current challenges facing the Secretariat.

In Budapest on the margins of the Budapest Energy Charter Forum on October 7 the Secretary General held a bilateral meeting with Dr. András Aradszki, the Minister of State for Energy Affairs of the Ministry of National Development of Hungary. They discussed, inter alia, current activities and future challenges in the Energy Charter Process as well as areas of mutual cooperation. The Secretary also briefed the Minister on the 2nd Phase of Modernisation of the Energy Charter, the relations of the Energy Charter with Vietnam through the already established Energy Charter Liaison Embassy at the Embassy of Hungary in Hanoi and potential expansion to China.

The Secretary General went to the IEA offices in Paris on October 13 for a bilateral meeting with Executive Director Dr. Fatih Birol on 13 October 2015. He briefed Dr. Birol on the Modernisation Process of the Energy Charter. The two officials then discussed, inter alia, current activities and future challenges in the Energy Charter Process as well as areas of future mutual cooperation. Dr. Birol expressed his great appreciation of the Energy Charter Secretariat and referred to its activities as “specific, but crucial for global energy markets”. Both agreed to intensify the cooperation between the two organisations in light of the shared guiding principles of improving energy security and promoting investment in the energy sector.

November

In Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on November 6 the Secretary General spoke at the International Investment Forum in first session entitled "Prospective projects for oil, gas and chemical industries". In his speech, he addressed investment protection and dispute settlement under the Energy Charter Treaty which help create a favourable investment climate for Member Countries, including Uzbekistan. While in Tashkent the Secretary General also held bilateral meetings with high-level Uzbek officials. At the meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Gulomjon Ibragimov, the Secretary General updated him on the Modernisation process of the Energy Charter, including the Chairmanship practice and geographical expansion of the Energy Charter Process. Regional energy cooperation in Central and Southern Asia was also discussed, including a possibility for the next meeting of the Regional Energy Task Force (RECA) Project to be hosted by Uzbekistan.

The Secretary General also held meetings with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Dilyor Khakimov and the Chairman of the Board of SJSC Uzbekenergo Mr. Iskandar Basidov. They discussed cooperation potential, both on national and regional levels. As an outcome of these meetings, there was a general understanding of the need for concrete measures to achieve improved cooperation.