

ENERGY CHARTER SECRETARIAT

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DECISION OF THE ENERGY CHARTER CONFERENCE

*adopted by the Energy Charter Conference
at its 2nd Meeting held on 3–4 December 1998*

PROCEDURES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROTOCOL ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS

1. INTRODUCTION

1. The Energy Charter Treaty and the Energy Charter Protocol on Energy Efficiency and related Environmental Aspects (“the Protocol”) entered into force on 16 April 1998.
2. The Energy Charter Treaty (Article 19) requires Contracting Parties to strive to minimise in an economically efficient manner harmful Environmental Impacts from all operations within the Energy Cycle in their Area.
3. According to Article 10 of the Protocol “The Charter Conference shall endeavour to adopt, within 180 days after the entry into force of this Protocol, procedures for keeping under review and facilitating the implementation of its provisions, including reporting requirements, as well as for identifying areas of cooperation in accordance with Article 9”.
4. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and, in particular, the Kyoto Protocol concluded in December 1997 stress the importance of improving energy efficiency in addressing environmental issues.
5. At the 4th Pan-European Conference of Environment Ministers (Aarhus 1998), Ministers urged those Governments having ratified the Protocol to implement its provisions fully. Specific potential areas of activities in the context of the Protocol have been indicated in “Guidelines on Energy Conservation in Europe”.

Keywords: PEEREA, Implementation Procedures

6. In order to achieve objectives set out in Article 1(2) of the Protocol, the Contracting Parties shall formulate strategies and policy aims as appropriate in relation to their own specific energy conditions. These strategies and policy aims shall be transparent to all interested parties. In order to achieve the policy aims, Contracting Parties shall implement and update domestic programmes.
7. The main focus of the Protocol is thus related to cooperation between and to development of policies, strategies and programmes in the Contracting Parties.

2. GROUP ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS

1. In order to support the implementation of the provisions of the Protocol regarding energy efficiency and environmental-related policies, strategies and programmes in the Contracting Parties, there shall be a Group on Energy Efficiency and Related Environmental Aspects.
2. The Group shall also work to encourage exchange and dissemination of information and cooperation among the participating countries. The Group shall keep under review the implementation of the Protocol by the Contracting Parties, make recommendations and report to the Charter Conference.
3. The relation between energy efficiency and environmental aspects should be considered in all specific activities. Based on the results of periodic reviews, areas for activity considered to be priorities for the Group should be defined by the Group. Initially priorities will include :
 - a) Development and implementation of energy efficiency policies, strategies and programmes, including collecting relevant data on energy consumption and development of energy efficiency indicators;
 - b) Implementation of market based pricing mechanisms;
 - c) Facilitate new approaches and methods for financing energy efficiency investments;
 - d) Energy efficient technology. There is a need to encourage co-operation on technology-related legal and regulatory aspects as well as on voluntary agreements, e.g. on standards to facilitate promotion of energy efficient technology. Legal and regulatory aspects regarding access to technology and preparation of energy efficient technologies should be considered.
4. The Group will cooperate with relevant national and international organisations such as EU, IEA, UN/FCCC, UN/ECE in order to benefit from their experience, reports and know-how and to avoid duplication of work.

3. ROLE OF THE ENERGY CHARTER CONFERENCE

The Energy Charter Conference, in accordance with its Rules of Procedure, shall review progress on implementation of the provisions of the Protocol based on reports from the Group on Energy Efficiency and Related Environmental Aspects.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

Keywords: PEEREA, Implementation Procedures

1. Article 11(1) of the Protocol requires that the Energy Charter Secretariat established under Article 35 of the Treaty provide the Charter Conference with all necessary assistance for the performance of its duties under the Protocol and provide such other services in support of the Protocol as may be required from time to time, subject to approval by the Charter Conference.
2. The costs arising from the Protocol will be met by Contracting Parties to the Protocol (Article 11(2) of the Protocol) and through other resources of the Energy Charter Secretariat in particular through voluntary contributions (in accordance with the Financial Rules).