

**ENERGY CHARTER
SECRETARIAT**

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Brussels, 10 December 2003

Related documents: CC 251, CC 266, RD 1 (ECC of 10 12 2003), Mess 512/03

DECISION OF THE ENERGY CHARTER CONFERENCE

Subject: Conclusion of Negotiations on and Adoption of the Energy Charter Protocol on Transit

[At the 13th Meeting of the Energy Charter Conference held on 10 December 2003] the Chairman *concluded* that the remaining work on the finalization of the Transit Protocol should be suspended for the time being. The Chairman issued an appeal to all delegations to contribute to achieving a situation in which it would be possible for the Transit Protocol to be signed and adopted at the earliest possible stage [Annex].

[The Conference also took note of Room Document 1 to the Preparatory Conference meeting on 9 December, containing proposals from the delegation of Switzerland concerning Understandings with respect to Article 20 (2) and 10 (4) of the draft Protocol.]

Keywords: Transit Protocol, Final Text

Conference Chairman's Statement
on the results of the 13th Meeting of the Energy Charter Conference
on 10 December 2003 concerning the Energy Charter Protocol on Transit

I have listened very carefully to our debate during the 13th Meeting of the Charter Conference regarding the Transit Protocol negotiations. I am encouraged by the strong desire expressed by Contracting Parties and Signatories to complete the Energy Charter Protocol on Transit as soon as is practically possible.

I note that delegations have reached wide agreement on most of the provisions of the draft Energy Charter Protocol on Transit as contained in document CC 251 of 31 October 2003. I am therefore of the view that this draft represents the best possible compromise.

I also take note of the views expressed by delegates regarding the importance of the provisions of the draft Energy Charter Protocol on Transit for their economies, in particular for access to energy transport facilities and markets, thereby enhancing energy security interests of producers, consumers and transmitters.

In recognition of the above, the Energy Charter Conference will continue to work actively towards achieving a situation in which the Transit Protocol can be adopted and signed by all Contracting Parties and Signatories of the Energy Charter Treaty at the earliest possible stage. I would like to invite all participants to contribute actively and constructively to this process.

In addition, I would strongly recommend that the draft Energy Charter Protocol on Transit should guide Contracting Parties and Signatories when formulating policies concerning Transit of Energy Materials and Products.

Finally, I invite the Energy Charter Secretariat to review the application of this statement and to report to the Energy Charter Conference, recommending any measure necessary to reach its objectives.