



ASHGABAT INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CHARTER FORUM

“Towards a Multilateral Framework Agreement on Transit of Energy Resources”

Jointly organised by the
Government of Turkmenistan
and the
International Energy Charter

Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

30-31 May 2017

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

Turkmenistan, as the Chair of the Energy Charter Conference in 2017, is eager to contribute to the global dialogue on energy security and to strengthen international energy cooperation. Ensuring energy security and diversifying supply sources and routes in the context of climate change is identified as one of the main priorities in accordance with the approved Concept of the Chairmanship. In 2013 Turkmenistan sponsored the UN General Assembly's Resolution No. 67/263 on “Reliable and stable transit of energy and its role in ensuring sustainable development and international cooperation” which recognizes the need for extensive international cooperation for promoting the reliable transportation of energy to international markets through pipelines and other transportation systems.

In line with this resolution, the Government of Turkmenistan and the Energy Charter Secretariat have agreed to pursue the development of a multilateral legal instrument in the field of transit of energy resources. Since then there

have been four International meetings of experts on reliable and stable transit of energy jointly organised by the partners - in Ashgabat (December 2014), Brussels (April 2015), Beijing (November 2015) and Tirana (July 2016). These meetings allowed for an exchange of best practices and lessons on energy transit in broad geographical and institutional context and stressed the need of common rules and cooperation mechanisms in order to balance the interests of producing, transit and consuming countries. In 2016 the Energy Charter Conference decided to continue the consultation process and mandated the Secretariat to identify specific needs and difficulties related to transit of oil, gas and electricity.

Scope of the Forum

Against this background, the Government of Turkmenistan and the International Energy Charter jointly organise this Forum on 30-31 May 2017 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. It will be followed by the International Energy Media Forum to brief representatives of diplomatic corps in Turkmenistan and mass media on the Energy Charter Process and priorities of Turkmen Chairmanship in 2017.

This event will provide a platform for a policy dialogue on energy transit in order to promote open energy markets, diversification of supply sources and routes, and sustainable development. The Forum will address operational, regulatory and legal aspects of energy transit, including natural gas, oil and electricity. It will bring together government officials, representatives of international organisations, industry and academic institutions to discuss existing challenges and opportunities stemming from cross-border energy flows.

Preliminary Programme

Day I - Tuesday 30 May 2017	
09.00 – 09.30	Registration / Welcome coffee
09.30 – 10.45	Opening Session – Setting the scene
<p>Welcoming remarks by Mr. Yagshygeldy Kakayev, Chairman of the Energy Charter Conference, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan; Dr. Urban Rusnák, Secretary General of the International Energy Charter.</p> <p>Keynote speeches Addresses by the Heads of delegations</p>	

10.45 – 11.00 - Family Photo**11:00 – 12:30****Main Session I - Natural Gas Markets: Cross-border Transport and Transit****Discussion topics**

- The role of gas in the global energy security
- Diversifying supply options and routes for the EU
- Central Asia-China pipeline – operational and legal aspects of transit
- New infrastructure projects - TAPI pipeline.

12:30 - 14:00**Lunch****14.00 – 15.30****Main session II – Increasing Role of LNG in global energy security****Discussion topics**

- Developing flexible LNG market – challenges and opportunities
- Perspectives of global LNG trade
- Outlook for LNG trade in Asia
- Alternative transportation options across the Caspian – CNG and LNG

15:30 – 16:00**Coffee-break****16:00 – 17:30****Main session III – Bringing oil to market****Discussion topics**

- Global trends in international oil market
- Cross-border crude oil pipelines - BTC
- Physical security of oil infrastructure
- Construction and expansion of oil transportation infrastructure

17:30**End of Day I**

Day II – Wednesday 31 May 2017

9.00 – 10.30

Main session IV – Cross-border Electricity Trade and Sustainable Development

Discussion topics

- Integration of regional electricity markets
- Regional cooperation – diversifying transportation routes
- Framework agreements to facilitate power trade
- Challenges and opportunities for power trade between Central and South Asia

10:30 – 11:00

Coffee-break

11:00 – 12:30

Panel discussion – Towards a Multilateral Framework Agreement on Transit of Energy

Discussion topics

- Operational, regulatory and legal aspects of transit
- Specificities of gas, oil and electricity markets
- Common rules and principles on transit

12:30 – 13:00

Concluding session

Concluding Remarks by

Dr. Urban Rusnák

Secretary General of the International Energy Charter

Mr. Yagshygeldy Kakayev, Chairman of the Energy Charter Conference,
Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan

13.00

End of the Forum