



**Executive Training Programme for Young Energy Leaders:
Rising to the Energy Security Challenges of Tomorrow by applying Effective
Investment Protection Strategies Today**

Energy Charter Secretariat

*56 Boulevard de la Woluwe
1200 Brussels*

Autumn Session

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Participants interviewed

Ms. Oum Keltoum Bouhelal, *Professor, Head of the Energy Team/Lab Mines-Energy Environment* (Morocco)

Mr. David Tsitsishvili, *Expert Oil and Gas, Georgian Oil and Gas Corporation JSC*, (Georgia)

Mr. Diego Santacruz Descartin, *Lawyer of the State, Ministry of Justice of Spain* (Spain)

Ms. Maria Rafique, *Business Process/Procedure Specialist, ADMA-OPCO* (United Arab Emirates)

Mr. Askar Mirsaidov, *First Secretary, Embassy of Uzbekistan in Brussels* (Uzbekistan – Belgium)

Ms. C. Sofia Sanz, *International Energy Affairs Officer, Ministry of Industry, Energy and Tourism* (Spain)

Ms. Sara Al Abdawani, *Legal Researcher, Ministry of Legal Affairs* (Oman)

Ms. Anastasia Mikhaylova, *Postgraduate Student, Gubkin University of Oil and Gas* (Russian Federation)

Mr. Tharwat Talhouni, *Supervisor Business Control – Finance Division, Aramco Overseas Company B.V.* (The Netherlands – Saudi Arabia)

Responses

Ms. Oum Keltoum Bouhelal, *Professor, Head of the Energy Team/Lab Mines-Energy Environment (Morocco)*

How did you learn about the Training Programme?

The Moroccan Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEMEE) invited me to the 2012 Energy Charter Forum held in Rabat. I had the opportunity to meet high-level Energy Charter Staff and representatives of energy companies and utilities and government institutions. Following this event, I received an invitation to participate to the Executive Training Programme from the Energy Charter Knowledge Centre and had the opportunity to attend it as a representative of the MEMEE.

Has this Training helped you better understand the Energy Charter Treaty and its core activities?

The past Energy Charter Forum in Rabat focused on the contribution of the Energy Charter to create a competitive integrated regional energy market in the MENA region. The programme highlighted the key issues of the energy sector in MENA countries and conditions of the Charter to give response. The Concluding Declaration of the Moroccan government recommends **strengthening energy security in the MENA region and promoting cooperation**. The Treaty provides an important legal basis for international energy trade and other activities; therefore, **the content of the Executive Training Programme of the three days was dense and the parallel between presentation-confrontation-discussion – games dispute settlement helped better understand the framework of the Treaty, its objectives and key issues**. I did not acquire an advanced understanding of the treaty, however, I understand the framework implementation better and got knowledge concerning its core activities: to this end **the approach used to present five Knowledge Streams turns out to be wise and the combination of an audience of young and senior leaders was a good way to stimulate discussions, enhancing the knowledge of the one and other's ideas**.

What could we improve and do you have any suggestion about the Training?

I recommend organising such workshop sessions regularly, with a programme that better reflects the structure of the Treaty, develop case studies encountered with the signatory countries, analyses the challenges for countries in the MENA region. We may consider a summer school that could be organised at ENIM [Ecole Nationale de L'Industrie Minerale] which has a good relationship with the industry/energy sector and which is affiliated to the MEMEE.

Would you recommend the Training Programme?

Without a doubt. There remains the issue of registration fees which could limit access to good recruits among participants. I also suggest considering the nuclear option in the implementation of an international electricity market, as this option is seriously considered and even adopted by some countries in the MENA region.

Mr. David Tsitsishvili, *Expert Oil and Gas, Georgian Oil and Gas Corporation JSC, (Georgia)*

How did you learn about the Training Programme?

I learnt about the training programme from my colleague, who is a member of the Strategy Group and Industry Advisory Panel.

Has this Training helped you better understand the Energy Charter Treaty and its core activities?

I can say this training was brilliantly designed to better understand the ECT, to really **'look inside' and know how, when and why to use it**. Many important clauses were explored, especially with regard to state-investor relations.

What could we improve and do you have any suggestion about the Training?

I participated in many training programmes and relevant events throughout several years. **In my opinion, this training is one of the greatest programmes**. The only suggestion would be making it last longer, in order to have more time to interact with such high level professionals in the field, as well as have more time for such a new (at least, for me) and interesting practical simulation of arbitration.

Would you recommend the Training Programme?

Without any doubt I would recommend the programme to my colleagues and to all young people involved in the energy field. The programme was well designed, issues to the spot, current practitioner working for key player companies, organisations and agencies as well as speakers and really interesting and involved peers, from many different countries. It was also a great opportunity to network with other professionals.

Mr. Diego Santacruz Descartin, *Lawyer of the State, Ministry of Justice of Spain (Spain)*

How did you learn about the Training Programme?

I am a formal lawyer of the Spanish state involved in some arbitrations regarding the ECT so the Spanish Ministry of Industry invited me to participate in this training programme.

Has this Training helped you better understand the Energy Charter Treaty and its core activities?

Yes, it has. The training programme has helped me understand the **inside working of the Energy Charter** and the philosophy behind this international institution.

What could we improve and do you have any suggestion about the Training?

An idea would be **separate the contents according to specialisation and direct some of the activities to senior lawyers**.

Would you recommend the Training Programme?

Of course I would. I think it is a very useful way to learn and understand the meaning of the ECT.

Ms. Maria Rafique, *Business Process/Procedure Specialist, ADMA-OPCO (United Arab Emirates)*

How did you learn about the Training Programme?

The programme was indeed a **great opportunity for young energy professionals to learn new aspects, concepts and challenges involved in the energy sector**. Speakers were highly knowledgeable and open to answer questions. They were a great source of inspiration and motivation to excel in the energy sector. Besides learning, it was a great opportunity for networking with professionals from the sector. **The course was indeed an investment and not an expense.**

Has this Training helped you better understand the Energy Charter Treaty and its core activities?

Yes, it did. However, I would recommend having only one presentation on the scope, overview, objective and key provisions of the treaty. **This will help participants promote the ECT in their countries in general and in companies in particular.**

What could we improve and do you have any suggestion about the Training?

Participants should be given the option of selecting the sessions they would like to attend, depending on their background. In this way, they will further enhance their knowledge in their respective [field] while staying focused during the training programme.

Would you recommend the Training Programme?

I would surely recommend the programme. I am planning to give a talk about the programme in Pakistani institutions. In addition, I extend all my support in the promotion of the programme and I am available to provide any assistance in this regard. Thank you!

Mr. Askar Mirsaidov, *First Secretary, Embassy of Uzbekistan in Brussels (Uzbekistan – Belgium)*

How did you learn about the Training Programme?

By e-mail, through the EnCharter newsletter and also through Marat Terterov.

Has this Training helped you better understand the Energy Charter Treaty and its core activities?

Yes, of course. It helped very much.

What could we improve and do you have any suggestion about the Training?

So far so good but themes for discussion and presentation should be a bit more focused on the main themes of the Energy Charter.

Would you recommend the Training Programme?

I would recommend arranging similar programmes also in member countries, including in Uzbekistan.

Ms. C. Sofia Sanz, *International Energy Affairs Officer, Ministry of Industry, Energy and Tourism (Spain)*

How did you learn about the Training Programme?

I'm the Spanish delegate for Strategy, Investment and Trade and Transit groups, so I knew about the Training Programme. On the other hand, the Secretary General informed about this specific Programme related to Investment protection on the occasion of his visit to Madrid last July.

Has this Training helped you better understand the Energy Charter Treaty and its core activities?

Absolutely. The Programme was an excellent opportunity to improve my knowledge of many aspect of the Treaty, including the interpretation of relevant articles. **I particularly benefitted from the EC expertise in order to better understand how the ECT works in arbitral procedures, what kind of relevant things should be taken into account, etc.**

What could we improve and do you have any suggestion about the Training?

It would be very useful to have some sort of control over speakers' presentation and speeches, because it is important to adapt their instructions to the training programme's main topic. Some speeches were interesting as a matter of general information, energy matters, but they were not focused on investment protection. I would like to highlight the excellent presentations-speeches offered by Ana Stanic, Alejandro Carballo, Filippo Gamba or Adnan Amkhan, among others.

Would you recommend the Training Programme?

I would strongly recommend attending the Training Programme and I would definitely encourage Secretary General and the Knowledge Centre to continue with this initiative, because it constitutes a unique-great opportunity to share experiences, learning new skills and, of course, to create good and useful contacts with other energy professionals.

Ms. Sara Al Abdawani, *Legal Researcher, Ministry of Legal Affairs (Oman)*

How did you learn about the Training Programme?

I learnt about the training programme through the officials of the Ministry of Legal Affairs.

Has this Training helped you better understand the Energy Charter Treaty and its core activities?

The topics discussed during the knowledge stream sessions focussed on topics directly related to the ECT. Furthermore, the simulation game gave me first hand experience at practicing the investment section of the ECT.

What could we improve and do you have any suggestion about the Training?

Allow more time for the simulation game. Apart from that, the training programme has been a **great experience.**

Would you recommend the Training Programme?

I would highly recommend this programme to my colleagues back at the ministry and to officials in the Ministry of Oil and Gas.

Ms. Anastasia Mikhaylova, *Postgraduate Student, Gubkin University of Oil and Gas (Russian Federation)*

How did you learn about the Training Programme?

The Vice-Chancellor of my university (Gubkin University of Oil and Gas) participated in the previous edition of the Executive Training Programme, so he recommended this Programme.

Has this Training helped you better understand the Energy Charter Treaty and its core activities?

Yes, absolutely. **I've learned a lot about ECT and about all aspects the ECT covers, trade, investments and energy efficiency, in particular.**

What could we improve and do you have any suggestion about the Training?

In my humble opinion, you can add some lecturer connected with energy balance and some more macroeconomics.

Would you recommend the Training Programme?

Certainly, I would recommend the programme to my colleagues.

Mr. Tharwat Talhouni, *Supervisor Business Control – Finance Division, Aramco Overseas Company B.V. (The Netherlands – Saudi Arabia)*

How did you learn about the Training Programme?

Through a colleague who put my name forward. This was approved by our CEO due to the nature of the training programme and the benefits it can bring to our company, including networking opportunities.

Has this Training helped you better understand the Energy Charter Treaty and its core activities?

It has enabled me to understand the Energy Charter Treaty but also took the trainees on a journey beyond the Energy Charter, allowing us to gain an understanding of the oil and gas industry from all aspects covering the global issues and topics with regard to the energy sector.

What could we improve and do you have any suggestion about the Training?

This training was exceptional, including the calibre and profile of all speakers, the diversity and cultural backgrounds, together with their experience. The trip to the European Parliament was a

highlight of the programme. The networking opportunities presented throughout the course, including the lunches and dinners were fantastic. The diversity of all trainees including the mix in terms of culture, corporate and government background have allowed me to learn a lot during these three days. **I would like to say that this is the best training programme I have attended to date and have managed not only to learn more about the energy sector, but also to build new networks and relationships with all involved participants. A family-like atmosphere that I really appreciated.**

Would you recommend the Training Programme?

I would definitely recommend the training programme and will discuss it with my company management. I look forward to continuing on this journey and to take it to the next steps, and assisting the Energy Charter with any future developments they work on. Once again, thank you for the opportunity. Contacts have been established and I will do my best to assist with anything.