Secretary General’s Foreword

Georgia assumed the Chairmanship of the Energy Charter Conference on the first day of 2015, succeeding Kazakhstan, and so became the second Contracting Party to do so under a practice first introduced in 2014. Throughout 2015, I, with the staff of the Secretariat, worked closely with the Chairmanship of Georgia, not least on the preparations for the 26th Meeting of the Conference. I thank Vice-Prime Minister Kaladze and all his team for the great efforts, which were put into the 2015 Chairmanship and to the holding of the Meeting of the Conference in Tbilisi on 3-4 December.

On these occasions one finds oneself writing of the achievements and challenges of the year. 2015 was no different, and indeed, I can say without exaggeration that the achievements of the year were exceptional in their scale, while the challenges were unprecedented in their difficulty.

The adoption of the International Energy Charter in The Hague on 20 May by seventy-five parties was the outstanding result of 2015 and was the outcome of many years of planning, discussion, negotiations and diplomatic effort. On the day, I described it as the “culmination of so much effort by so many. Much has been achieved that should be celebrated”. The adoption of the new Charter was the first major political development in the Charter 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 are of relevance for the twenty-first century.

In The Hague, 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 International Energy Charter gave a clear indication of his country’s intention to further deepen the relationship with the Energy Charter, to work with foreign partners, and to participate in the Charter modernisation process. The months following the adoption of the International Energy Charter saw interest in a number of further countries from the African continent and from Latin America. Moreover, in 2015, Iceland, one of the original signatories of the Energy Charter Treaty, completed its ratification of the Energy Charter Treaty, while Montenegro acceded to the Treaty. By doing so, both countries became Contracting Parties in late October.

2015 was also the first time that the Energy Charter was invited to participate and to contribute together with other international organisations to the work of the G20 Energy Sustainability Working Group. 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.

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I thank Vice-Prime Minister Kaladze and all his team for the great efforts which were put into the 2015 Chairmanship and to the holding of the Meeting of the Conference in Tbilisi on 3-4 December.

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Foreword

All of these developments uniquely allowed to share the values of the Energy Charter with a much broader global constituency, including many 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 of the 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.

The great challenge, indeed, great disappointment of 2015, was that the success of the International Energy Charter and the enthusiasm outside the existing constituency for the values of the Energy Charter, somehow were negated by a loss of confidence from within. This was illustrated by the fact that on 31 December Italy formally withdrew from the Energy Charter Treaty. While this step was entirely in accordance with Article 47 of the Treaty, it was unprecedented. The withdrawal was a serious reversal to the efforts to spread and share the Energy Charter values with that broader constituency. The second illustration was 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 Conference. Moreover, the Russian Federation did not participate in the conference in The Hague on the International Energy Charter.

There is now the paradox between the positive way forward as mapped out in The Hague, and the reduced motivation and engine from within the Energy Charter. There is a chasm between the expectations generated in The Hague and the resources available to meet those expectations. The Conference convened in Tbilisi for its 26th Meeting with some difficult questions and issues to confront. As a result, 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 uncertainties. It would be a tragedy if the principles of the Energy Charter, the experience accumulated were now left to wither, particularly at a time where their relevance has been so well appreciated.

However, the main purpose of this Annual Report is to summarise for the member countries and a broader readership the activities of the Energy Charter for the year 2015. In the midst of all the achievements and difficulties that I have described, the day-to-day work of the Secretariat and the Conference Subsidiary Bodies, which the Secretariat serves, continued. 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. I thank all those involved, particularly those who take part in the deliberations of the Charter Groups, those who gave their time and efforts to act as Chairs and Vice-Chairs, and above all to the staff of the Energy Charter Secretariat for their continuing and unfailing loyalty and dedication to the Energy Charter.

Japan has assumed the Chairmanship of the Energy Charter Conference for 2016 at a time when the country will also be the G7 Chair. Japan has indicated that its Chairmanship of the Energy Charter will address major energy issues of global concern, namely enhancement of energy security, improvement of energy access and measures against climate change, including the promotion of clean energy. I look forward to working with Mr. Fumio Kishida, the Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs, as Chair of the Conference and with Mr. Keiichi Katakami, the Ambassador of Japan to the European Union, as Vice-Chair of the Conference on these issues in 2016.

Urban Rusnák
Secretary General
February 2016
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## Energy Charter Constituency

### Contracting Parties / Signatories

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**Observers to the Energy Charter Conference**

- Burundi
- Jordan
- Pakistan
- United States
- Canada
- Mauritania
- Palestine
- Yemen
- Chad
- Morocco
- Serbia
- Indonesia
- Niger
- Syria

**Observers to the Energy Charter Conference by virtue of signing the 2015 International Energy Charter**

- Bangladesh
- Chile
- Economic Community of West African States
- Benin
- China
- Korea
- Tanzania
- Cambodia
- Colombia
- Swaziland
- Uganda

**Observers to the Energy Charter Conference by invitation**

- Algeria
- Iran
- Oman
- Tunisia
- Bahrain
- Kuwait
- Qatar
- United Arab Emirates
- Egypt
- Nigeria
- Saudi Arabia
- Venezuela

**International Organisations with Observer Status**

ASEAN, BASREC, BSEC, CIS Electric Power Council, EBRD, ECOWAS, IEA, IRENA, OECD, UN-ECE, World Bank, WTO
Energy Charter Conference

The Energy Charter Conference is the governing and decision-making body for the Energy Charter Process. All states who have signed or acceded to the Energy Charter Treaty are members of the Conference, which meets on a regular basis to discuss issues affecting energy cooperation among the Treaty’s signatories, to review the implementation of the provisions of the Energy Charter Treaty and the Protocol on Energy Efficiency and Related Environmental Aspects, and to consider possible new instruments and joint activities within the Energy Charter framework.

Chairing State in 2015: Georgia
Chair: Mr. Kakha Kaladze, Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Energy of Georgia
Conference Vice-Chairs:
Since January 2015, the Vice-Chairs of the Energy Charter Conference are Ms. Mariam Valishvili, Deputy Minister of Energy of Georgia; Mr. Uzakbay Karabalin, First Deputy Minister of Energy, Kazakhstan; Mr. Keiichi Katakami, Ambassador of Japan to the European Union; and Mr. Odd Sverre Haraldsen, Director General at the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy of Norway.

Strategy Group
Chair: Mr. Odd Sverre Haraldsen (Norway)
Vice-Chair: Ms. Carmen Sofia Sanz Estébanez (Spain)

Trade and Transit Group
Chair: Ms. Leila Stieger (Switzerland)

As of January 2016:
Chair: Dr. Klara Rakhmetova (Kazakhstan)
Vice-Chair: Mr. Mykhailo Bno-Airian (Ukraine)
Vice-Chair: Ms. Tamar Tsurtsumia (Georgia)

Working Group on Energy Efficiency and Related Environmental Aspects
Chair: Mr. Sergey Katsyshiev (Kazakhstan)
Vice-Chair: Mr. Johan Vetlesen (Norway)

Investment Group
Chair: Mr. Parviz Garibzade (Azerbaijan)
Vice-Chair: Dr. Klara Rakhmetova (Kazakhstan)
Vice-Chair: Mr. Tomáš Pavlík (Czech Republic)

Working Group on Procedural Issues
Chair: Mr. Quentin Perret (France)
Vice-Chair: Mr. Dzimitry Nikolaenya (Belarus)

Legal Advisory Committee
Chair: Mr. Colin Brown (European Commission)

Budget Committee
Chair: Vacant position

Industry Advisory Panel
Chair: Mr. Howard Chase (Dow Europe GmbH)
The 26th Meeting of the Energy Charter Conference was held on 3-4 December 2015 in Tbilisi under the Chairmanship of Georgia and by kind invitation of the Chairman of the Energy Charter Conference, Mr. Kakha Kaladze, the Vice-Prime Minister and the Minister of Energy of Georgia. Georgia assumed the 2015 Chairmanship on 1 January after the successful first Chairmanship of Kazakhstan in 2014.

The Meeting of the Conference was organised in two Sessions over one and half days. The half-day Statutory Session was open only to delegates of the Energy Charter (both members and observers), and the full-day Ministerial Session was also open to other international organisations and the business sector.

The Statutory Session was opened by the Vice-Chair of the Energy Charter Conference, Ms. Mariam Valishvili. During the first part of the Session, open only to the Contracting Parties and Signatories of the Energy Charter Treaty, the activities and priorities for the coming years as well as the internal operational mode of the Energy Charter were discussed. The Conference approved the Budget and the Programme of Work of the Secretariat for 2016-2017. Moreover, it also agreed on the proposed future Chairmanships for 2016-2018 to be held by Japan, Turkmenistan and Romania respectively while also designating Conference officers for each Chairmanship.

The Conference also adopted the decision on the designation of the proposed Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and other officers of the Conference’s Subsidiary Bodies.

In the second part of the Statutory Session, also open to observers, the report on 2015 and future outlook by the Secretary General, by the Chairpersons of Energy Charter Groups and the Industry Advisory Panel were deliberated, and the Conference took note of them. In his report, the Secretary General underlined that the year 2016 would be a year of change and transition for the Secretariat. Under the Organisation’s
Consolidation, Expansion and Outreach Policy

the Conference unanimously approved the request of Yemen to accede to the Energy Charter Treaty. The European Union delivered a presentation on the future EU Regional Energy Cooperation Programme with Eastern Partnership and Central Asian Countries, in relation to which the partner countries called on a stronger involvement and full use of the potential of the Energy Charter framework to trigger progress towards strengthening long-term energy policies in the region.

During the Ministerial Session titled “Fostering Regional Cooperation through Cross-Border Energy Trade”, Ministers and Heads of Delegations from the Energy Charter constituency as well as high-level representatives of international organisations and the energy industry exchanged views on how to provide for a global forum for discussion of the issues related to the promotion of regional cooperation through cross-border energy trade, power market integration and investment into clean and sustainable energy.

The role of regional energy cooperation within the Energy Charter Process as an important element of energy policy formulation and the development and sharing of resources at a regional scale was restated. This had been reaffirmed earlier in the year by the adoption and signing of the International Energy Charter. Various speakers stressed the need for promoting political dialogue, establishing a legal and technical framework for a secure and sustainable regional cross-border electricity trade and attracting the investments needed to develop this trade. Transit corridors have a key role to play in this regard.

The Meeting of the Energy Charter Conference concluded with the reiteration that the Energy Charter Process and the Energy Charter Treaty remained one of the cornerstones of global energy architecture.

New Logo for the Energy Charter

The Conference at its 26th Meeting adopted a new logo for the Energy Charter, which had been commissioned and provided by The Netherlands.

As explained by the Minister of Economic Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands Mr. Henk Kamp at the opening of the Ministerial Conference on the International Energy Charter in May, the new logo is made up of five honeycombs, which symbolise the five continents working together to create a powerful energy partnership. The logo’s colours show the transition from traditional energy sources, in blue, by way of sustainable energy sources, in green, to the energy sources of the future, in yellow. The opening between the honeycombs symbolises the open market in energy that the Energy Charter promotes. The logo leaves the former East-West context behind and sets out the tasks that lie ahead.

Amb. Johannes Douma of The Netherlands Receives the 2015 Energy Charter Award on behalf of Minister of Economic Affairs Mr. Henk Kamp

Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Energy of Georgia Mr. Kakha Kaladze
Without doubt, the highlight of 2015 was the adoption of the International Energy Charter, which took place at the Ministerial Conference hosted by the Government of The Netherlands in The Hague on 20-21 May. The Secretariat had worked closely with the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Trade and Development for many months to ensure the success of this milestone event in the Energy Charter modernisation process. Mr. Henk Kamp, the Minister of Economic Affairs, chaired the Ministerial Conference jointly with the Secretary General Rusnák.

In The Hague, the International Energy Charter was adopted by consensus by the seventy-three countries present, by the European Commission (on behalf of the European Union and Euratom) and by ECOWAS. Sixty-two of the countries signed the International Energy Charter, as did the European Commission and ECOWAS. The result was that eighteen countries and ECOWAS engaged for the first time with the Energy Charter. The greater geographic reach of the new Charter will strengthen the Process. This was the objective of the first phase of modernisation. The Hague Conference was a clear demonstration that the Energy Charter Process is inclusive, that it is non-discriminatory, that it is open to any country willing to share the Charter principles.

The adoption of the International Energy Charter is the latest contribution of the Energy Charter to multilateral energy cooperation. The new Charter reflects the importance of energy security for energy-consuming, energy-producing and energy transit countries. The main principles of the European Energy Charter of 1991 have been maintained: the efficient functioning of energy markets, investment promotion and protection, and freedom of transit. Some contemporary challenges, such as access to energy and the need to invest in renewable energy, have been addressed in the new Charter.

Most significantly, the International Energy Charter takes the Energy Charter from its original European context and brings it to a global level. This was best illustrated by the fact that China was one of the signatories to the new Charter in The Hague. Moreover, the Chinese delegation led by Mr. Nuer Baikeli expressed the country’s intention to further develop the relationship with the Energy Charter and to continue to modernise the Charter. The countries who engaged with the Energy Charter for the first time in The Hague were Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Iran, Israel, Lebanon, Niger, Nigeria, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Tanzania, and Uganda. Jordan, Morocco and Serbia indicated in The Hague that they intended to accede to the Energy Charter Treaty.

The adoption of the International Energy Charter is the first major political development since the Energy Charter Treaty was signed in 1994. In his speech to
the Ministerial Conference, the Secretary General called on the existing constituency to welcome the new signatories into the family. He asked for their concrete suggestions as the Energy Charter entered its second phase of modernisation. He welcomed the new signatories who for the first time were involving themselves with the Energy Charter Process. The presence and participation of countries from Africa, from Asia, and from the Americas was impressive and encouraging for all. The input of those new countries was much needed and would be greatly valued.

Each of the new signatories to the International Energy Charter has by that fact become an observer to the Energy Charter Conference and will be able to take part in the discussions on shaping global energy governance.

The Secretary General called on all to participate in the second phase of modernisation, stating his view that the issues should include:

i) Improving the procedures of the Energy Charter Process so that they become more effective

ii) Developing the transparency of all aspects of the Energy Charter, in particular in the area of dispute resolution

iii) Focusing on the alleviation of energy poverty through the transfer of knowledge and technology.

Since the Ministerial Conference in The Hague interest in the International Energy Charter continued. Three signing ceremonies were organised by the Secretariat later in the year.

On 19 October, four countries signed the new Charter in Brussels: Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, and a new Contracting Party, Montenegro. As existing Contracting Parties, Liechtenstein and Kyrgyzstan were confirming their commitment to the Energy Charter and its principles. On 17 November, the Republic of Korea signed the International Energy Charter at a ceremony in the margins of the IEA Ministerial Conference in Paris. There the ECS Deputy Secretary General Selim Küneralp also presented the report produced by the Energy Charter Secretariat in cooperation with the Republic of Korea on “Northeast Asia Energy Cooperation and Interconnected Grids”. Then on 15 December again in Brussels, Swaziland became the first country in Southern Africa to sign the International Energy Charter.

In a public statement in May, the Industry Advisory Panel of the Energy Charter (IAP) welcomed the adoption of the International Energy Charter, the broadening of the Charter constituency and the promotion of the principles of the Charter on a global scale.

The statement highlighted that like policymakers, industry was desirous of developing sustainable energy, improving energy security and maximising efficiency along the energy value chain, enhancing safety in a manner that would be socially acceptable, economically viable, and environmentally sound.

The Panel welcomed the desire by governments to create a climate favourable to the operation of enterprises and to the flow of investments and technologies to achieve the Charter’s objectives. The IAP was of the view that the enlargement of the constituency of the Energy Charter and of the Energy Charter Treaty would play an important role in generating the investments needed to build a resilient and sustainable global energy system.
Strategy

The Strategy Group serves as a forum for discussion on such issues as fostering the acceptance and implementation of the Energy Charter Treaty and the development of the entire Energy Charter Process, identifying ways to improve their effectiveness and examining possible options as to how the Energy Charter Process could be modernised.

Forum for Energy Dialogue

During the year, delegations continued to make use of the Forum for Energy Dialogue, a policy forum within the Strategy Group to exchange information on important recent developments, e.g., national or multilateral energy strategies, developments with regard to the structure of domestic markets, and the creation of new institutions dealing with energy issues. Delegations also welcomed many new observers who had signed the 2015 International Energy Charter.

There were a number of presentations to the Group, including from Energy Charter Fellow Dr. Yufeng Yang (Energy Research Institute, National Development and Reform Commission, China) on the relevance of the International Energy Charter and the Energy Charter Treaty to China’s Silk Road Economic Belt. Energy Charter Secondees Mr. Salifou Gado (from Niger), Mr. Towfick Sufian (from Yemen) and Mr. Aloys Ndugaritse (from Burundi) spoke on the energy sector, investment opportunities and relevance of the Energy Charter Process to their countries. There was a presentation of the “Pre-Assessment Report of the Tanzanian Energy Sector in line with the Principles of the International Energy Charter and the Energy Charter Treaty”. Finally, the Turkish delegation did a presentation on the importance of energy in the G20 agenda for 2015.

Comprehensive Review of the Consolidation, Expansion and Outreach Policy

The Strategy Group has always been instrumental as a forum for discussing the basis for a comprehensive Policy on Consolidation, Expansion and Outreach. Such a policy was considered a priority in the 2010 Road Map for Modernisation in order to react to drastic changes that had occurred in global energy relations since the 1990s; it was finally approved by the Conference in 2012. The revitalisation of the Energy Charter Process and the adoption of the International Energy Charter are some of the outcomes of the successful implementation of the Consolidation, Expansion and Outreach Policy. The policy has been reviewed further by the Strategy Group in 2015 in view of the goals to be achieved in the future and the current financial constraints for the Energy Charter Secretariat.
G20 Energy Sustainability Working Group

For the first time, the Energy Charter was invited by the Turkish G20 Presidency to participate in discussions and to contribute with other international organisations to the reports, being considered by the Energy Sustainability Working Group. In line with Turkey’s G20 Presidency’s overall priorities of Inclusiveness, Investment and Implementation, the Energy Charter Secretariat provided input for a document on the “G20 Energy Access Action Plan: Voluntary Collaboration on Energy Access” and the “G20 Toolkit of Voluntary Options on Renewable Energy Deployment”. Experts from the Secretariat also followed closely the progress in the implementation of the G20 Energy Efficiency Action Plan, particularly the development of “Energy Efficiency Investment Principles”.

Secretary General Rusnák participated in the debate on Energy Access in Sub-Saharan Africa, which was the topic of the Ministerial Conference, organised by the Turkish Presidency of the G20 on 1 October in Istanbul. The highlight of the conference was the presentation of the G20 Energy Access Action plan for Sub-Saharan Africa, prepared by the UN Sustainable Energy for All Global Facilitation team in cooperation with international organisations, including the Energy Charter. Ministers and high-level delegations from African and G20 countries discussed the challenges and opportunities for investments in power infrastructure projects, and the role of governments and the international community in ensuring access to affordable, reliable, viable, sustainable and modern energy for all, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 7 agreed by the United Nations General Assembly.

In his address to the conference, Secretary General Rusnák referred to the role of the Energy Charter Treaty as an instrument to ensure a favourable investment climate and a fair regulatory framework for scaling up energy investments in Sub-Saharan Africa. In the margins of the Conference, Dr. Rusnák met with H.E. Ali Riza Alaboyun, Minister of Energy of Turkey, ministers and heads of delegation of participating African and G20 countries and international organisations.

On 2 October, the G20 energy ministers met for the first time as mandated by the 2014 Brisbane G20 Summit. The ministers welcomed the progress made on the implementation of G20 principles on energy cooperation in addressing energy access, energy efficiency, renewable energy, market transparency and the phasing out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies. The ministers once again stressed the need to create an environment conducive to fostering the necessary investments in sustainable energy, building public-private partnerships, regional integration and strengthening international cooperation. All ministers and heads of delegations reiterated frequently the importance of investment as the main instrument for alleviating energy poverty, ensuring energy access for all, scaling up renewables and energy efficiency deployment worldwide. Secretary General Rusnák underlined the role of the International Energy Charter as a framework for mutually beneficial energy cooperation among nations and for promoting international flows of investment in the energy sector. In his address to Ministers, Dr. Rusnák outlined the main objective of the Energy Charter as providing for a stable transparent legal framework at national and regional level for attracting investments in the energy sector. He also spoke of the potential contribution of the Energy Charter Process and its principles to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
Consolidation, Expansion and Outreach

Consolidation

The Secretary General continued his efforts with regard to Charter consolidation. The success of 2015 was that Iceland finally ratified the Energy Charter Treaty on 7 July. Following its internal ratification procedure, Iceland deposited its instrument of ratification to the Depository of the Treaty, the Government of Portugal, on 20 July. 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, 18 October 2015.

Expansion


Jordan confirmed at The Hague Conference its decision to ratify the Energy Charter Treaty once internal administrative procedures were finalised. During its Meeting in Tbilisi, the Conference invited Yemen to accede to the Treaty. Ratification of the Treaty by both countries is anticipated in the course of 2016.

Morocco and Mauritania prepared their respective Energy Charter Treaty accession reports in the course of the year. The Secretariat will continue providing support to both countries for finalising and subsequently submitting those reports for approval by the Conference.

During the year, several African countries expressed interest in signing the 1991 European Energy Charter. The Secretariat and the Dutch Ministry of Economy organised two signing ceremonies: for Niger and Chad in The Hague on 22 April, and for Burundi in Brussels on 11 August.

Outreach

Most of the outreach activities of 2015 were centred on the International Energy Charter, where the Consolidation, Expansion and Outreach Policy achieved concrete results with seventy-five parties adopting the new political declaration at The Hague Conference. Eighteen of those were new countries who were engaging with the Energy Charter for the first time. The support of ECT Contracting Parties combined with the work of the Secretariat and the internal political environment in targeted countries produced tangible results. China was a clear example of this approach.

There was valuable support from The Netherlands, Turkey, Poland and Hungary in outreach countries targeted through Energy Charter Liaison Embassies, and with the backing of the European External Action Service.

Those countries who have for the first time engaged with the Charter Process by signing the International Energy Charter have now achieved the status of observer to the Energy Charter Conference. In The Hague, it was impressive to see countries from Africa, Asia and the Americas joining the Energy Charter Process, it can be anticipated that their input will bring a new perspective on global energy matters. The new observers will take part in the discussion on shaping global energy governance, the achievement of a system of global rules for cooperation
in energy. The participation of so many new countries confirms the view that broader energy cooperation is required for economic progress, for social development and for the alleviation of energy poverty.

The International Energy Charter remains open for signing by any country willing to share the values and the principles contained in the Charter.

**Introducing the Energy Charter to Africa**

The Energy Charter Secretariat, in cooperation with the European Commission, DG Development and Cooperation, developed a capacity-building programme with African countries to introduce them to the universal market-based principles enshrined in the International Energy Charter and the Energy Charter Treaty, and to assess their energy sectors against these universal principles. The selected countries were Mauritania, Mozambique, Nigeria and Tanzania. The objective of the programme was to promote an investment-friendly regulatory environment to address the significant energy challenges facing the African continent. The project was funded under the EU Technical Assistance Facility for the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) Initiative – Western and Central Africa. Under the resulting capacity-building programme, national experts from targeted African countries are seconded to the Energy Charter Secretariat for three-month periods. The first report to be released was the “Tanzanian Energy Sector under the Universal Principles of the Energy Charter”. Three more reports are being prepared for publication. The secondment of civil servants designated by national energy ministries and the preparation of assessment reports are part of a broader strategy to engage countries in further energy policy reform in line with international standards. Tanzania and Mauritania signed the International Energy Charter in May in The Hague, and the new government in Maputo is considering Mozambique’s signature. These developments encourage other African countries to adopt and sign the International Energy Charter and join the Energy Charter Process.

In April and in the context of the programme, the ECS Deputy Secretary General, Mr. Selim Küneralp, met with the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy of Mozambique Mr. Pedro Couto in Maputo. They discussed the relevance and benefits for Mozambique of the International Energy Charter. Not yet an observer, Mozambique is considering involvement in the Energy Charter Process. Energy has become a topical and important priority for the country and the new government is ready to consider all relevant international initiatives that will help developing Mozambique’s potential. The Head of the EU Delegation in Maputo Mr. Sven Kühn von Burgsdorff also took part in the meeting.

Prior to that, an expert from the Secretariat delivered a presentation on the International Energy Charter at the 7th East African Petroleum Conference and Exhibition in March in Kigali, Rwanda. The presentation highlighted the importance that East African countries give to their national and regional concerns, such as consistency of energy policies, economic and social development, environmental protection and access to sustainable and affordable energy for all. In the margins of the conference, the Secretariat expert together with a senior engineer from the Ministry of Energy of Tanzania previously seconded to the ECS, held high-level meetings with delegations of the five countries of the East Africa Community: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.
Consolidation, Expansion and Outreach

International Seminar Organised by OPEC

To strengthen further the dialogue with oil exporting countries, Secretary General Rusnák participated in the OPEC International Seminar held in Vienna in June. In the margins of the event, the Secretary General met with Ministers of Energy from Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Iraq, as well as CEOs of BP, ENI, Chevron and high-level officials from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

IRENA General Assembly

The Energy Charter being an official observer organisation, Secretary General Rusnák was invited to take part in the 5th IRENA General Assembly in January in Abu Dhabi. On the eve of that event, Secretary General Rusnák met with IRENA Director General Mr. Adnan Amin. The parties agreed to strengthen the cooperation between the two organisations on issues related to investment climate improvement and building market confidence for a wider deployment of renewable energy. The ECS delegation also took part in the Ministerial Roundtable on the Role of Renewable Energy in Energy Security, held within the framework of the General Assembly.

While in Abu Dhabi, Secretary General Rusnák held a series of high-level meetings in preparation for The Hague II Conference. He met with ministers and other high-level officials from Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ghana, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Namibia, Niger, Pakistan, Swaziland, Uganda, UAE, US and Yemen. As a result, most of these countries attended The Hague II Conference, and adopted and signed the International Energy Charter.

Union for the Mediterranean

Secretary General Rusnák took part in the Senior Officials meeting of the Union for the Mediterranean (UFM) in July to explore more concrete ways of cooperation with the organisation and the countries in the region. The Secretary General met with Amb. Teresa Ribeiro, Deputy Secretary General of the UFM in charge of energy. An agreement was reached to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the Energy Charter and the UFM; organisations such as the EBRD and IEA may also be invited to sign the Memorandum.

List of Energy Charter Liaison Embassies

The concept of the Energy Charter Liaison Embassies was further developed and new countries expressed their readiness to participate in these diplomatic activities. Eight Embassies have been established and three more are currently under consideration.

(as of November 2015)

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<tr>
<th>Host Country</th>
<th>Liaison Embassy</th>
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<td><strong>Existing</strong></td>
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<td>Montenegro</td>
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<td>Morocco</td>
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<td><strong>Under consideration</strong></td>
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<td>Korea</td>
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<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>EU Delegation in Beirut</td>
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Secretary General Rusnák’s Speech at the OPEC International Seminar, 3 June 2015, Vienna, Austria
Trade and Transit

The Trade and Transit Group is responsible for discussion of all issues related to cross-border energy flows that are covered by the Treaty. Its main tasks are:

- Monitoring and assistance in the implementation of the ECT and related instruments on trade and transit;
- Promoting and securing cross-border energy flows based on the Energy Charter Treaty;
- Facilitating the development of open, competitive and sustainable energy markets, and energy flows across the Charter constituency.

Transit Issues

Resolution of Transit Disputes

One of the main priorities of the Road Map for Modernisation of the Energy Charter Process of 2010 was to have effective and useful rules for conciliation of transit disputes. At its last meeting in 2014, the Trade and Transit Group generally agreed on the amendments to the Rules Concerning the Conduct of Conciliation of Transit Disputes with some reservations by some countries. Throughout 2015, the Secretariat conducted a series of bilateral consultations for parties to agree on the proposed amendments. After discussion by the Trade and Transit Group, the amended version of the Rules Concerning the Conduct of Conciliation of Transit Disputes was approved by the Conference.

International Meeting of Experts on Transit

The second International Meeting of Experts on Reliable and Stable Transit of Energy was jointly organised by the Government of Turkmenistan and the Energy Charter Secretariat on 22 April in Brussels. The initial meeting was convened by Turkmenistan and supported by the Secretariat in accordance with the mandate from United Nations General Assembly Resolution 67/263 on “Reliable and stable transit of energy and its role in ensuring sustainable development and international cooperation”.

The objective of the 2015 meeting was to analyse shared benefits of energy cooperation and develop joint responses to the contemporary challenges facing reliable and stable transit of energy. Four sessions of the meeting focused respectively on the role of governments in providing a favourable environment for major energy infrastructure projects, commercial aspects of infrastructure projects, means of attracting financing in current market conditions, and ways of ensuring infrastructure security.

It was agreed that common rules for energy transit were important in ensuring global energy security. On this basis, parties also agreed to organise another meeting in 2015 to discuss the main elements of such rules.

The third International Meeting of the Experts jointly organised by the National Energy Administration of China, the Energy Charter Secretariat and the Government of Turkmenistan took place on 27 November in Beijing. The Meeting brought together over sixty participants representing governments, industry and academic institutions. The discussions on energy transit were grouped into separate sessions to address transit-specific issues related to natural gas, oil and electricity. Experts from respective industries addressed issues related to access to infrastructure, capacity allocation mechanisms, construction and expansion of infrastructure, as well as tariffs and fees. The meeting highlighted the increasing
importance of international legal mechanisms in managing energy transit risks, physical protection of energy infrastructure and enhancement of multilateral energy cooperation towards securing international energy security. The conclusions and recommendations of the meeting contributed to the scope and main elements of a multilateral framework agreement on energy transit. The Energy Charter Secretariat and the Government of Turkmenistan will continue their joint work towards common rules and principles to ensure secure, reliable and stable transit of energy materials and products.

Implementation of ECT Transit Provisions

Following the Conclusions of the Energy Charter Review under 34(7) ECT in 2014 and the Astana Declaration of the Energy Charter Process 2015-2019, the Contracting Parties tasked the Secretariat to undertake a review of the implementation of ECT transit provisions. Based on the outcomes of the review, the Trade and Transit Group should discuss the possibility to resume negotiations on the Transit Protocol.

Due to the complexity of the issue, the review was based on the information collected with the help of a questionnaire and supplementary research to reflect main global and regional trends related to energy transport and trade. The main findings of the draft report on the implementation of ECT transit provisions revealed that there were divergences in regulatory and institutional approaches regarding energy transit, trade and cross-border transport throughout the constituency. The draft report concluded that there was a need for the highest possible denominator on transit issues. This has become even more prominent in light of the recent significant developments in international and regional energy markets. A new instrument might reflect these developments in energy markets and become a reliable framework for attracting investments, facilitating cross-border trade and balancing the interests of producing, consuming, and transit countries.

Based on the recommendations of the draft report, the Trade and Transit Group concluded that it should explore further the basis for negotiations of a Multilateral Framework Agreement on Transit of Energy Resources, which could address various aspects of oil, gas and electricity transportation and transit. For this purpose, in 2016 the Secretariat will prepare the ground work to consider policy objectives, country positions and substantial issues to be addressed, as well as the anticipated timeline towards the start of negotiations.

Regional Electricity Cooperation in South Caucasus

Following Georgia’s Flagship Initiative under its Energy Charter Chairmanship, the Energy Charter Secretariat and the Ministry of Energy of Georgia organised a meeting on regional electricity cooperation in Tbilisi on 1 July. This meeting brought together the representatives of governments and energy companies from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran, Russia and Turkey, as well as representatives of various international organisations. The discussion focused on opportunities for establishing an additional
regulatory framework within the scope of the ECT for 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 cooperation 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.

Regional Energy Cooperation in Central and South Asia

The Energy Charter Secretariat in cooperation with the Ministry of Energy and Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic organised the 11th meeting of the Task Force on Regional Energy Cooperation in Central and South Asia (RECA) on 25 September at Issyk-Kul Lake in Kyrgyzstan. This Task Force brought together the energy authorities of Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, as well as regional and international organisations.

The participants of the 11th RECA meeting discussed the prospects of energy trade in the region, shared information on recent developments in their respective national energy systems and addressed current challenges. The delegates adopted a Declaration, which, among other things, supported the second phase of the Energy Charter Modernisation Process and welcomed the possibility to negotiate a regional transit instrument to foster trade and attract investments.

In December, the Secretary General undertook a visit to Turkmenistan where he participated in the official ceremony to mark the start of the construction of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline. This was a remarkable occasion where the Vice-President of India and the Prime Minister of Pakistan both made opening remarks. The TAPI pipeline has the potential to become an excellent example of regional cooperation, connecting the energy resources of Central Asia with the energy-deficient countries of South Asia. It is envisaged that the 1,800 km-long TAPI pipeline will supply up to 33 bcm of gas from Turkmenistan’s Galkynysh field through Afghanistan and Pakistan to India. In its first phase it will supply gas to northern Afghanistan, and the intention is to complete all construction by 2019. This project will be accompanied by an electricity line to provide power to Afghanistan and Pakistan.
Trade Issues

Tariff Binding Commitment

In 2015, the activities of the Trade and Transit Group continued to focus on the implementation of the Trade Amendment provisions. This included, first, the discussion on the possibility to move from best endeavours to binding commitments with respect to import and export duties on items covered by Annexes EM I and EQ I of the ECT. The Secretariat proposed to conduct a review of the possibility to move to a legally binding tariff commitment in the light of developments taking place in the WTO, namely, the Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA) negotiations. The objective is to eliminate tariffs on a broad list of environmental goods. The Secretariat suggested an analysis of the tariffs standstill for those goods that are included in the EGA.

Delegates recommended the continuation of the Energy Charter’s cooperation with the WTO and the postponement of the initial discussion on moving to binding commitments until the completion of the EGA negotiations expected before the end of 2015.

Workshop on Energy Efficiency Goods at the WTO Premises

In January, the Energy Charter Secretariat and the US Association of Electrical Equipment Manufacturers (NEMA) organised a joint workshop on energy efficiency goods at the WTO premises in Geneva. The workshop focused on goods and technologies used for improving energy efficiency, and aimed at providing technical assistance to the negotiating parties of the EGA. The speakers included representatives of some of the largest industries and industry associations from all over the world: Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association (Japan); Honeywell (The Netherlands); Danfoss (Denmark); Svenska Kyl & Värmepegpfoerlingen (Sweden); ABB (Finland) and GE (US).

Cooperation with the WTO

“The Evolving Landscape of Clean Energy Governance: Implications for International Trade” was the topic of the event organised by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development and the Energy Charter Secretariat in April in Geneva. In his speech, the WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo acknowledged that “the Energy Charter is the only energy-specific agreement that covers all major aspects of international energy” and welcomed the ‘updated’ Energy Charter. He said that there were numerous areas where the WTO and the Energy Charter “can work more closely together to improve governance”. This would help to address the need for greater access to energy and for a greater emphasis on sustainability.

Conference in Santiago de Chile

The Energy Charter was invited by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, the Ministry of Energy of Chile and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to the one-day dialogue of representatives of governments, industry, think tanks and academia in Santiago de Chile on 17 June. The aim of the dialogue was to explore the opportunities for Latin America and the Caribbean region to scale up clean energy through trade reform. The event in Santiago focused on the positive role regional trade integration could play in contributing to enhancing clean energy uptake.

In that context, the principles and rules of the Energy Charter Treaty can play an important role, as it is the only energy-specific agreement that covers all major aspects of international energy – from trade and transit to investment and energy efficiency. The Energy Charter can enhance promising trade reform on a regional or national scale according to international standards.
Energy Efficiency

The Working Group on Energy Efficiency and Related Environmental Aspects is the institutional body in the Energy Charter Process for the discussion of all matters related to energy efficiency. The Working Group has developed into a valuable forum for policy debate and exchange of experience, and many of the transition economies have used this cooperative process to develop policies, legislation and other measures supporting improvements in energy efficiency.

Implementing the Conclusions from the 2014 Energy Charter Review under Article 34(7) ECT

PEEREA Reviews: Assessment Report and Conclusions

Following the conclusions of the 2014 Energy Charter Review under 34(7) ECT, high priority within the PEEREA WG activities in 2015 was given to the development of a comprehensive review of the content, process and objectives of In-depth Energy Efficiency Reviews. The main objectives of the assessment were to identify options to offer better value from the energy efficiency reviews for all member countries, to adapt the reports to the new challenges of energy markets restructuring in non-OECD countries, and to discuss and agree on priority activities and way of operation of the Group for the near future. The assessment was conducted via questionnaires distributed to member countries and phone interviews with selected countries and various stakeholders (including international organisations, investors, donors and international finance institutions).

The assessment report and conclusions were discussed by delegations during PEEREA meetings in June and October. There was a recommendation that the PEEREA WG should continue to develop in-depth energy efficiency peer review reports, based on their unique characteristics, effectiveness and reliability. The current objectives of the review process were found relevant both by member countries and external stakeholders. It was concluded that reviews should continue to serve as a tool of information exchange between member countries and to encourage national policy makers to consider energy efficiency as an important priority and instrument for achieving energy security within the overall national energy policy.
To improve the review process, there was a recommendation to develop an annual review schedule in order to better plan resources in both the ECS and the reviewed country, and to organise in-depth reviews once every five years for priority countries. Further PEEREA WG activities should continue to include follow-up reviews in order to identify policy support activities for reviewed countries, and should consider the preparation of a template of energy efficiency recommendations. To avoid any future overlapping with similar reviews done by other international organisations, there was a proposal to make some structural changes to the Charter review content, putting even more emphasis on energy efficiency policies and providing detailed information on the countries’ existing energy efficiency potential at national and sectoral level (power generation, industry, transport, buildings, public sector, energy using products, etc.).

Delegations agreed that energy efficiency required significant investments, and at the same time opened significant business opportunities for industries and manufacturers of renewable energy equipment, lighting, building efficiency components, smart appliances, etc. In addition to the in-depth energy efficiency reviews, the PEEREA WG would consider the benefits of developing country profiles on renewable energy and energy efficiency market opportunities for manufacturers, importers and energy service companies. The profiles would consist of information on the countries’ energy market policy and institutional framework, highlighting the main challenges and barriers to investment in the renewable energy and energy efficiency markets, providing an assessment of the current opportunities for companies to do business in different sectors. The country profiles might also serve as a good tool within the Charter’s expansion and outreach policy and would provide a good opportunity for cooperation with businesses (closer ties with IAP members and attracting new members).

Regarding PEEREA activities and its operation mode, the Group would continue to serve as a forum for identifying options for specific energy efficiency policies and programmes, best suited to the circumstances of individual countries. Ways will be sought to better associate donor organisations in the country review and monitoring process, and to identify together with them the policy support activities to assist countries in the effective implementation of the recommended measures.

The review further concluded that for observer countries the WG should explore ways to pursue synergies in policies to improve energy access and energy efficiency as a tool to increase the level of energy services that can be provided by the existing infrastructure, reducing energy costs, and avoiding the use of inefficient technologies and practices.

**PEEREA Review Process**

**In-depth Energy Efficiency Review of Moldova**

The second in-depth energy efficiency review of Moldova was completed in 2015 by a team of experts from Slovakia (review team Leader) and Portugal, supported by the Energy Charter Secretariat and a local energy efficiency expert.

The review report noted that improving energy efficiency and energy security were among the main priorities of the National Development Strategy ‘Moldova 2020’ and the Energy Strategy of Moldova until 2030.
Moldova had also adopted a National Energy Efficiency Programme 2011-2020 and Action Plan 2013-2015 to provide the necessary set of measures for an overall reduction in final energy consumption in all sectors. An Energy Efficiency Law was adopted in 2010 to provide the general legislative framework for energy efficiency improvements, including establishing and supporting the institutional activity in the development and implementation of programmes, plans, energy services and other energy consumption efficiency measures.

The conclusion of the review report was that the government needed to prioritise and develop in a timely manner all necessary secondary legislation and regulations to facilitate the implementation and attain the objectives of the adopted energy efficiency strategies, plans and programmes. Furthermore, the government should develop enforcement and implementation mechanisms for its policies, and to provide incentives for attracting necessary private investments in the energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors.

The review recommended strengthening the institutional, human and financial capacity of the Energy Efficiency Agency, which is charged with the enforcement of the state policy on efficiency and renewable energy, and for taking measures for achieving national targets. This would enable the Agency to take a leading role in implementing energy efficiency and renewable energy policies and regulations within the country.

The report commended the Moldovan Government for giving high consideration to the potential contribution of energy efficiency towards decreasing fuel imports and supporting economic growth and the environment, and recommended that further attention was to be given to the stability of the legislative framework as an important precondition for attracting investments in the energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors. In addition, future energy policies should be supported by a detailed analysis of economic energy efficiency potentials in all sectors of the economy and the barriers impeding the realisation of these potentials should be mitigated.

The final report on the in-depth energy efficiency review of Moldova was published in November.

**Follow-up on Member Countries Reviews**

In 2015, the Energy Charter Secretariat continued to follow up on the recent In-Depth Energy Efficiency Reviews. The aim was to assess the effectiveness and the implementation of the recommended measures in practice, and identify support activities for the implementation of recommended measures. This assessment is developed in close cooperation with the reviewed countries through a questionnaire and meetings with relevant national and international stakeholders.
The Investment Group is the institutional body for the discussion of all investment-related issues covered by the Treaty. Its main tasks are:
- Providing a policy forum for all investment-related matters under the Treaty;
- Preparing reports concerning the investment climate and the issue of market restructuring/privatisation;
- Exercising peer pressure with regard to the reduction of remaining energy investment restrictions;
- Giving recommendations to specific member states concerning their investment-related energy policies;
- Informing of recent developments in the investment-related energy policies of member countries.

The implementation of the Energy Charter Treaty provisions on investment promotion and protection was again a high priority in 2015 for the Energy Charter, in accordance with the Conclusions of the 2014 Energy Charter Review under Art. 34(7) ECT. The Investment Group provided a policy forum for all investment-related matters and in particular on country investment reports, investment dispute settlement, and discriminatory barriers to investments. In addition, five thematic reports and one occasional paper in the field of investment promotion and protection were published during the year.

In-Depth Investment Climate and Markets Structure Reports

In 2015, the Investment Group carried out a comprehensive assessment of the content, process, objectives and targets of in-depth Investment Climate and Market Structure country reviews. This assessment was based on interviews with delegates and with industry representatives, and on a comparison with similar investment reports prepared by other international organisations (APEC, IEA, IRENA, UNCTAD, OECD, World Bank, ADB, WTO, African Union, IMF, UNECE Financial Stability Board). It was concluded that the objectives, the scope and the geographic coverage of the Energy Charter energy investment country reports were unique; therefore, the Charter should continue producing its reports on a regular basis, with some improvements to its approach.

In addition, the Secretariat suggested complementing energy investment reviews with a flagship publication on Energy Investment Risk Assessment. The publication should present a comparative analysis of investment risks in the pre- and post-investment phase across all energy sectors in Contracting Parties, observer and outreach countries. By comparing country investment risk profiles, the publication will aim at disseminating transparent information, promoting investment opportunities, identifying barriers to investment, improving the domestic investment climate, stimulating regional cooperation. The publication of the assessment could build upon the experience of the Energy Charter country investment reviews and complement the World Bank annual publication Readiness for Investment in Sustainable Energy (RISE).

The ICMS review of the energy sector of Latvia was completed with the support of the Ministry of Economics of Latvia and the peer

Mr. Parviz Garibzade
Chair, Investment Group
review by Denmark and Kazakhstan after a field mission in February 2015. The report was launched by Secretary General Rusnák in Riga in June, under the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the EU at the First Innovative Enterprise Week, which focused on the promotion of investments at various levels. Among Contracting Parties to the Energy Charter Treaty, Latvia has a favourable and strategic location for investments: it straddles the EU and its eastern neighbours, and is well positioned to benefit from multilateral and regional energy cooperation to increase its energy security.

The ICMS review of the energy sector of Armenia (completed in 2014) was presented in Yerevan in July 2015 by the Secretariat and the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of the Republic of Armenia, after a peer review by Albania and Lithuania. Armenia has a significant potential in electricity, which could be developed further by improving interconnections with other countries in the region.

Together with the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Secretariat prepared an ICMS review of Tajikistan’s energy sector; the resulting report is nearing completion. For the first time, the preparation of an Energy Charter country investment report was expressly coordinated and cross-referenced with an UNCTAD Investment Policy Review. Tajikistan is making big steps towards improving its business climate and will continue to prioritise the development of its energy sector. Reforms may include the management of state utilities and transmission system operators as well as stabilising conditions for independent producers. The review is currently being discussed by the Investment Group.

An Energy Charter ICMS review of the energy sector of Cyprus prepared at the end of 2015 is also being discussed by the Investment Group.

**Discriminatory Barriers to Investment**

The Investment Group continued monitoring the exceptions to the ECT’s investor treatment standards. A comprehensive review of the ‘Blue Book’ had been launched in 2014. Taking into account the large number of existing exceptions, the Conference tasked the Secretariat to analyse and prepare for a discussion on the conditions to negotiate a new legal instrument providing for non-discriminatory treatment in the establishment of investments. The analysis of a new legal instrument should identify its added value (e.g. less obvious and more complex non-discriminatory barriers specific to the establishment of energy investments) and should not be limited to the existing draft Supplementary Treaty.
Industry Advisory Panel

The Industry Advisory Panel was set up by the Energy Charter Conference in 2004 as a means to build on existing contacts with industry, and to strengthen the dialogue with the private sector on the main directions of the Charter Process, with a particular focus on risk mitigation and improvement of the business climate. The Panel is intended as a consultative board to the Energy Charter Conference and to its various Groups, to provide advice on relevant issues related to energy investments, cross-border flows and energy efficiency.

The Industry Advisory Panel (IAP) held three meetings in 2015: one in Beijing, hosted by the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), and two in Brussels, hosted by the Secretariat. At these meetings, IAP members presented case studies, and invited guests addressed topics of specific interest to the Panel and the Energy Charter.

The Industry Advisory Panel is a valuable source of business advice, which serves the Energy Charter Conference and the constituency. The IAP has members from forty-three energy companies, international associations and institutions from twenty-three countries, and covers the full scope of energy supply, distribution and financing activities. In 2015, the IAP accepted members from two new companies: CNPC from China and NIS from Serbia. The IAP also received a request for membership from the Iranian Research Institute of Petroleum Industry.

During the year, there were extensive discussions in the Panel on the modernisation of its mission and of its activities, to include interaction with outreach countries beyond the Energy Charter Conference on matters related to energy investment, securing energy transit and investment dispute settlement.

In addition to the Panel’s regular meetings, IAP members supported and contributed to the High-Level Business Event “Investing in Energy” held along the Ministerial Conference on the International Energy Charter in The Hague on 21 May. A public statement supporting the adoption of the International Energy Charter was released by the Panel.

IAP members also contributed to the activities of the Secretariat, and in particular provided a peer review of ICMS review of the energy sector of Cyprus. The Panel Chair and members regularly promoted the Energy Charter at high-profile external events. For example, the Chair, Mr. Howard Chase, reported to the B20 Working Group in Istanbul in October.

Communication between the Secretariat and IAP members and other industry representatives was increased with the dissemination of a quarterly newsletter with an update on meetings and other Energy Charter activities, events and publications, and with the addition of new information on the Charter website.

IAP Modernisation

Membership in the Industry Advisory Panel until now has been limited to the energy industry from Contracting Parties, signatories and observer countries. There is a proposal to open membership to include industry from outreach countries, so that a wider IAP constituency would reflect globalised and interconnected energy markets and would contribute to the promotion of the Energy Charter. The procedure for IAP membership will be simplified and made more dynamic,
to welcome representatives of any company that shares the values of the Energy Charter.

In addition to the Panel meetings, IAP members drive and sponsor other activities. Panel members are called on to contribute to various Energy Charter events, seminars, training programmes, the preparation of Charter publications, occasional papers and thematic reports. Short-term assignments of experts and the involvement of corporate legal departments are welcome in order for the industry’s perspective and experience to be accounted for in the work produced by the Secretariat.

The Industry Advisory Panel confirmed in 2015 its role as a platform for dialogue, providing advice to the Conference and to the Contracting Parties on issues of investment climate, energy transit and investment disputes.

**Global Energy Prospects and Oil Prices**

The IAP recognises that the global energy system is adapting to a changing world with lower energy prices. Among fossil fuels, gas use is growing the fastest; gas is also being used increasingly as a cleaner alternative to coal for power generation, as well as in other sectors. The recent discoveries of gas and increased LNG exports demonstrate how the world’s demand for energy can be met through competitive industries and smart government policies.

There is also an awareness that volatility of oil prices has been present continuously from the 1970s. New volumes of oil and gas are coming to the market. Many unconventional producers are hedged for months ahead. Low prices affect energy-dependent countries, energy policies for renewables and multinational energy companies.

That is why the Industry Advisory Panel believes that a closer association between the Energy Charter and African countries, such as Mauritania, Tanzania and Uganda, would improve cooperation and the investment climate in the region, enhancing the prospects of much needed projects related to energy production, infrastructure and interconnection.

Over the course of 2015, the IAP called on the member countries of the Energy Charter to cooperate and seek predictability and stability of energy markets in members and outreach countries. This would improve the required competitive and policy conditions for supporting large-scale investment and technological progress in developing energy reserves and infrastructure.

**Energy Transit**

The IAP welcomed the Secretariat’s proposals on mediation and the Energy Charter Early Warning Mechanism, in view of their potential to prevent energy transit disputes. The Panel also appreciated the Secretariat’s initiatives and active engagement in addressing gas disputes and emergency situations through its good offices.

The Industry Advisory Panel was of the view that the transit provisions of the ECT, the negotiations on the Transit Protocol, the model agreements for cross-border gas pipelines and for electricity projects, the mechanisms for the conciliation of energy transit disputes, and the examples of regional energy cooperation (Central and Southern Asia, South Caucasus) were all a good model for energy relations between China and Central Asian countries.

In addition, the IAP believes that the legal regime of the ECT would be beneficial to stable energy transit between Tanzania and East Africa, as well as Zambia, guaranteeing oil, gas and electricity transit within the Southern African Power Pool.

The Panel recognises the importance of international transit agreements to secure safe and uninterrupted energy transit and to facilitate energy investments, and recommends the opening of negotiations on a multilateral transit protocol or, in the alternative, a regional transit protocol in East Africa, Central Asia-South Asia, China-Central Asia, the South Caucasus and neighbouring countries, and Northeast Asia.
Dispute Settlement

The Energy Charter Treaty contains a comprehensive and effective system for settling disputes on matters covered by the Treaty; this system is considered as one of the Treaty’s core areas. The last resort mechanism of dispute settlement is binding and final arbitration either between Contracting Parties (on the interpretation or application of almost all aspects of the Treaty) or between investors and Contracting Parties (for investment disputes).

Nevertheless, the main aim of the ECT is to find an amicable solution to energy disputes. The Treaty provides for negotiation, mediation or conciliation before entering into arbitration. In fact, parties reached an amicable agreement on at least seven occasions out of the thirty cases already concluded. Furthermore, there is an increased tendency for investors to seek the Secretariat’s facilitating role (good offices), both at an early stage or even after the start of arbitration.

Among the most relevant projects in 2015, the Energy Charter Secretariat worked with the International Mediation Institute (IMI) and several dispute resolution institutions (ICSID, PCA, SCC, ICC) to produce a clear and effective framework for investment mediation/conciliation within the energy sector. The Secretariat also provided further clarifications on the effective implementation of the denial of benefit clause under Art. 17 ECT.

As part of the efforts to raise awareness and capacity building in investment dispute resolution, the Secretariat provides updated statistics, as well as information on the known arbitration cases under the Energy Charter Treaty, and is currently finalising the summaries of the published ECT awards. In addition, the Secretariat cooperates and coordinates closely with UNCTAD, UNCITRAL and several dispute resolution institutions (ICSID, PCA, SCC) for discussion and development of issues regarding investment protection and dispute resolution. As examples: participation in UNCTAD’s training programme on international investment agreements in January; the expert meeting on international investment agreements in Geneva in February; participation in the UNCITRAL expert meeting on international investment agreements in Paris in February and in the 48th Session in Vienna in July; participation at the ICSID 50th anniversary conference in Xi’an in November.

In 2015, the Secretariat organised several events. There were two roundtables between governments and energy companies in The Netherlands (hosted by the Permanent Court of Arbitration) and in Kazakhstan (hosted by Kazenergy) to facilitate an understanding of the opinion and experience of the different stakeholders involved in dispute resolution in the energy sector. An intensive legal training was held on investment mediation-conciliation, including a simulation (with the support of IMI and CEDR). In addition, the Secretariat held some information sessions with government officials on dispute resolution under the ECT and provided relevant information to investors considering the dispute resolution mechanisms of the Treaty. Finally, at the request of the Slovak Republic, a seminar was organised with external experts on the modernisation of investment dispute settlement under the Energy Charter Treaty.

The Secretariat also contributed to the following events:

- seminar organised by the EU Commission on the investment climate in the EU single market
- annual conference of the European Federation for Investment Law and Arbitration (EFILA) in London in January
- conference of the University of Eastern Finland (UEF) in Joensuu in February
- Eurelectric conference in May
Dispute Settlement

• UK Energy Law and Policy Association (UKELPA) annual conference in Oxford in September
• Energy Law Group (ELG) annual conference in Brussels in September
• CEPMLP energy arbitration conference in Edinburgh in October
• conference of the International Arbitration Institute (IAI) in Washington in November.

The Industry Advisory Panel reaffirmed in 2015 the importance of investment dispute settlement under the ECT and welcomed the ongoing discussion to facilitate/promote investment mediation and conciliation, aiming at facilitating the resolution of investment conflicts at an early stage and at improving the investment climate in the energy sector. The IAP restated the essential role of the Energy Charter Treaty to secure energy projects, offering a broader investment protection and a platform for global energy governance.

**Outcome of 86 Publicly Known Investor-State Arbitration Cases under the ECT, as of November 2015**

**Known Investor-State Arbitration Cases under the ECT: Number of Cases Registered per Year, as of November 2015**

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NB: There is no requirement that investor-state disputes be notified to the Secretariat, nor is the Secretariat involved in the administration of the investor-state dispute settlement procedure. This information was compiled by the Secretariat from various public sources.
Over the course of 2015, the Energy Charter Secretariat Knowledge Centre took substantial steps to develop further its already well-established track record of activity. The most evident deliverables provided by the Centre were two executive training programmes for young energy professionals. The programmes represent a substantial value-added service provided by the Energy Charter Secretariat. 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”. It was organised in Brussels with the support of the International Visegrad Fund. The November session of the training, also held in Brussels, focused on “Settling Investment Disputes through Mediation – How to Reach an Agreement”. 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.

All training programmes were oversubscribed by participants as demand for this new brand of service from the Secretariat continued to grow from across the Energy Charter constituency and beyond. The programmes are also becoming an increasingly relevant tool for the advancement of some of the Energy Charter’s policy objectives, particularly in relation to expansion and outreach.

Participants in the training sessions 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 graduated from the training programmes since their inception in May 2013 is more than 200. Furthermore, as has now become a well-established practice, the Knowledge Centre hosted a range of highly qualified Research Fellows, whose work and expertise strengthened the implementation of the Secretariat’s 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, regional cooperation and many more.

Publications Produced by Energy Charter Fellows and Secondees

There were several reports produced by Energy Charter Fellows and Secondees in 2015 relevant to different core areas of the Energy Charter Treaty:

“Securing Energy Flows from Central Asia to China and the Relevance of the Energy Charter Treaty for China”: this work aims to draw insights from current cooperation between China and Central Asian countries in the energy sector. A substantive part of the text describes the benefits and relevance of the Energy Charter Treaty for China. This publication is indispensable material for policy makers formulating China’s engagement in the field of international cooperation.

“The Role of the Energy Charter Treaty in Fostering Regional Electricity Market Integration: Lessons Learnt from the EU and Implications for Northeast Asia”: this study shows that the Energy Charter Treaty and the International Energy Charter are suitable legal and political foundations for energy cooperation in Northeast Asia. The active participation of new partner countries like the Republic of Korea and China in the Energy Charter Process allows for the sharing of lessons learnt in the realisation of the EU internal electricity market and its pragmatic solutions. The study confirms that the broad concept of national sovereignty under the Energy Charter Treaty and the
International Energy Charter makes it possible that Northeast Asian countries benefit from pragmatic solutions experienced in other regions, such as the EU, and may start cooperating on cross-border issues while keeping full autonomy of their national energy strategies, targets and regulation.

“Towards Secure and Sustainable Energy Supply in Central Asia: Electricity Market Reform and Investment Protection”: the report focuses on the modernisation of the electricity infrastructure in Central Asia, in particular energy efficiency improvements and clean energy development. It looks at regional energy cooperation and the export of electricity to neighbouring countries as a way to facilitate investments in the modernisation of electricity supply and to improve energy efficiency in the region.

“Taxation of Foreign Investments under International Law: Article 21 of the Energy Charter Treaty in Context”: this work discusses the relationship between investment protection and taxation under international investment agreements. It is common practice that taxation is a sovereign and legitimate regulatory exercise, which usually remains excluded from international standards of investment protection. In this respect, Article 21 of the Energy Charter Treaty provides a complex mechanism preserving sovereign taxation power, unless it is equivalent to expropriation or arbitrary discrimination against energy materials.

“Non-Pecuniary Remedies under the Energy Charter Treaty”: this Occasional Paper looks at the specific regime set up by the ECT in comparison with general international law, taking into account the travaux préparatoires and the two cases under the ECT, in which specific performance is discussed (Mohamad Ammar Al-Bahloul vs. Tajikistan, and Nykomb Synergetics Technology Holding AB vs. Latvia).
Energy Charter Forums

Rabat Energy Forum

Following the successful first Rabat Forum in 2012 and the commitment to organise a regional forum in Rabat every two years, the Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment of the Kingdom of Morocco hosted the II Rabat Energy Charter Forum at the end of February. This regional event was co-organised by Morocco, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of The Netherlands and the Energy Charter Secretariat. The topic of the Forum was “Strengthening Partnership and Cooperation for Sustainable Energy Development in Africa: The Role of the International Energy Charter.”

The Rabat Energy Charter Forum promoted the adoption of the International Energy Charter in Africa and the Middle East by showing participants the added value of this new political declaration. At the same time, the objective was to inform participants of Energy Charter activities, the organisation’s strengths and potential for the region, while increasing its visibility in the Middle East and Africa. Both regions are in fact considered among the most interesting areas when it comes to mitigating risk, stemming from energy markets and from investing in them.

Among other objectives of this Forum was the promotion of intergovernmental energy cooperation and of a holistic understanding of the legal framework offered by the Energy Charter Treaty. The day before the Forum, the Energy Charter organised an informative session on the International Energy Charter in order to give participants some background information on the organisation.

Discussions during the Forum, which gathered around 100 participants, revolved around the general topic of energy governance and sustainable energy development, with special focus on energy efficiency, investment promotion and protection, regional energy cooperation, energy poverty alleviation and sustainable energy development.

The Hague Energy Charter Legal Forum

On 22 May, the Permanent Court of Arbitration hosted The Hague Energy Charter Legal Forum on the ‘Resolution of International Energy Disputes: Peace, Stability and Security’. This was organised...
in cooperation with the Energy Charter Secretariat. The Forum followed on the day after the signing of the International Energy Charter.

At this first global dialogue on the resolution of international energy disputes, representatives of governments, companies and international organisations discussed the need and benefits of mediation and other alternative resolution mechanisms. The common message from the speakers was the importance of dialogue and mediation for the amicable resolution of international energy disputes, before problems escalate into full claims. Dr. Rusnák, Secretary General of the Energy Charter, outlined in his opening remarks, ‘dialogue is the first step towards solving problems, and the Energy Charter is the global forum for such dialogue in the energy sector.’

**Budapest Energy Charter Forum**

In October, the Energy Charter Secretariat and the Ministry of National Development of Hungary held a successful Energy Charter Forum in Budapest on the topic of “Securing Energy Flows – Energy Union and Beyond”. The wider impact of the Forum well beyond the region of Central and Eastern Europe was reflected in the scale of the event: there were eighty participants from the energy industry, governments, law firms, regulators, consultancies, think tanks, academia and others.

The discussions were organised in three sessions revolving around the issues of:

1. the proposed EU’s Energy Union and its impact on EU Member States, on the EU’s external partners, as well as on the energy industry

2. natural gas markets and cross-border transport and transit addressing interconnections and reverse flows as building blocks for energy security, the evolution of natural gas hub trading and future supply options for Europe

3. legal frameworks in regional electricity cooperation, highlighting the case studies of regional electricity cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe, the development of regional electricity markets in the Energy Charter Treaty area, and prospects for a common energy market within the Eurasian Economic Union.

The Budapest Energy Charter Forum provided a useful platform for promoting a reliable and secure cross-border transit of energy with the help of various legal frameworks and instruments, addressing the most salient challenges stemming from cross-border energy flows.
Publications Released in 2015

IAP Insights 2014
IAP Insights is an annual publication, which summarises the Industry Advisory Panel’s activities throughout the course of the year.

Securing Energy Flows from Central Asia to China and the Relevance of the Energy Charter Treaty to China
This report analyses the current state of cooperation between China and Central Asian countries in the energy sector. Special attention is given to the benefits and relevance of the Energy Charter Treaty to China. The report is intended for use by China’s policy makers defining the country’s engagement in international cooperation.

Annual Report 2014
The Annual Report provides a comprehensive overview of all activities of the Secretariat and the organisation for 2014.

Energy security has been high on policy agendas from the 2000s onwards. This report introduces varied meanings of energy security among energy exporting, transit, and importing countries. It looks at the different views on energy security, in particular between exporters and importers, and their prospects of evolving into a common comprehensive concept, which would be applicable to any country.

Energy Transit Activities: Collection of Intergovernmental Agreements on Oil and Gas Transit Pipelines and Commentary
The report focuses on common principles and regional specificities that can be derived from selected Intergovernmental Agreements on oil and gas transit pipelines, which were analysed. The report evaluates these common norms against the Energy Charter Model Agreements on Cross-Border Pipelines and the provisions of the draft Transit Protocol. Recommendations are made in view of a possible agreement on common principles or rules on transit and cross-border energy flows in the Energy Charter context.

By Mr. Zhuwei Wang for the Energy Charter Secretariat
ISBN: 978-905948-166-4 (English, pdf)
ISBN: 978-905948-165-7 (English, paperback)

By Dr. Rafael Leal-Arcas for the Energy Charter Secretariat
Taxation of Foreign Investments under International Law: Article 21 of the Energy Charter Treaty in Context

This work discusses the relationship between investment protection and taxation under international investment agreements. It is common practice that taxation is a sovereign and legitimate regulatory exercise, which usually remains excluded from international standards of investment protection. In this respect, Article 21 of the Energy Charter Treaty provides a complex mechanism preserving sovereign taxation power, unless it is equivalent to expropriation or arbitrary discrimination against energy materials.

By Mr. Uğur Erman Özgür for the Energy Charter Secretariat
ISBN: 978-905948-174-9 (Russian, pdf)

The Role of the Energy Charter Treaty in Fostering Regional Electricity Market Integration: Lessons Learnt from the EU and Implications for Northeast Asia

This study, funded by the Korea Energy Economics Institute, was prepared by the Energy Charter Secretariat to evaluate the role of the ECT in fostering regional electricity market integration and reviews the lessons learnt from the liberalisation of the EU energy markets. It also assesses the relevant implications for Northeast Asia and concludes that the Energy Charter Treaty and the International Energy Charter are suitable legal and political foundations for energy cooperation in Northeast Asia. Active participation in the Charter Process of new partner countries, such as the Republic of Korea, and China, allows to share the lessons learnt in the realisation of the EU internal electricity market and its pragmatic solutions. The study confirms that the broad concept of national sovereignty under the Energy Charter Treaty and the International Energy Charter would allow Northeast Asian countries to benefit from practical solutions implemented in other world regions, such as the EU. It would also improve cooperation on cross-border issues, while keeping the full autonomy of national energy strategies, targets and regulation.

Energy Charter Secretariat
ISBN: 978-905948-155-8 (English, PDF)
Publications

Tanzanian Energy Sector under the Universal Principles of the Energy Charter

A report on the energy sector in Tanzania, published by the Energy Charter and funded by the European Union.

By Mr. John F. Kitonga for the Energy Charter Secretariat

Intergovernmental Agreements and Host Government Agreements on Oil and Gas Pipelines: a Comparison

This report aims to present a comprehensive overview of existing legal practices in cross-border pipeline projects in several parts of the world. To this end, the report first identifies nineteen core topics of cross-border pipeline agreements. It then evaluates how these topics are incorporated in seventeen different cross-border oil and gas pipeline projects, as well in the Energy Charter Model Agreements on Cross-Border Pipelines and in the provisions of the draft Transit Protocol.

By Ms. Barbara v. Gayling-Westphal for the Energy Charter Secretariat

ISBN: 978-905948-175-6 (English, pdf)

Moldova: In-Depth Energy Efficiency Review

The second in-depth energy efficiency review of Moldova was completed in 2015 by a team of experts from Slovakia (review team Leader) and Portugal, supported by the Energy Charter Secretariat and a local energy efficiency expert. The report commended the Moldovan Government for giving high consideration to the potential contribution of energy efficiency towards decreasing fuel imports and supporting economic growth and the environment, and recommended that further attention was to be given to the stability of the legislative framework as an important precondition for attracting investments in the energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors. In addition, future energy policies should be supported by a detailed analysis of economic energy efficiency potentials in all sectors of the economy and the barriers impeding the realisation of these potentials should be mitigated.

Energy Charter Secretariat

ISBN: 978-905948-177-0 (English, pdf)
ISBN: 978-905948-176-3 (English, paperback)


As another step in the deepening of the relations between China and the Energy Charter, a report on the compatibility of Chinese laws and regulations with the Energy Charter Treaty was prepared by Prof. Wenhua Shan (Dean and Chair, Xi’an Jiaotong University), during his stay in Brussels as a Fellow at the Secretariat. The report concluded that the Chinese domestic legal framework and its international commitments were generally compatible with the ECT and that accession to the Treaty should help improve the investment and trade conditions for Chinese investors in existing ECT member countries.

By Prof. Wenhua Shan for the Energy Charter Secretariat with the assistance of Peng Wang

ISBN: 978-905948-180-0 (English, pdf)

These publications as well as various other Energy Charter Secretariat materials are freely accessible on the Energy Charter website www.energycharter.org
### Timeline of Activities in 2015

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Regional Training Course on International Investment Agreements, in cooperation with UNCTAD and the Islamic Development Bank, Casablanca, Morocco</td>
<td>Industry Advisory Panel</td>
<td>Strategy Group</td>
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<tr>
<th>JULY</th>
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<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional Electricity Cooperation in South Caucasus, Tbilisi, Georgia</td>
<td>Group on Procedural Issues</td>
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<td>Industry Advisory Panel, hosted by CNPC, Beijing, China</td>
<td>Ad Hoc Budget Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Energy Charter Roundtable: Settlement of Investment Disputes, within the framework of the 10th Kazenergy Forum, hosted and sponsored by Kazenergy, Astana, Kazakhstan</td>
<td>Energy Charter Roundtable: Settlement of Investment Disputes, within the framework of the 10th Kazenergy Forum, hosted and sponsored by Kazenergy, Astana, Kazakhstan</td>
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## Timeline of Activities

### APRIL

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<td>Policy Dialogue in the WTO on clean energy governance, in cooperation with ICTSD, Geneva, Switzerland</td>
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<td>Group on Procedural Issues</td>
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<td>Expert Meeting on Transit Issues, in cooperation with the government of Turkmenistan</td>
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### MAY

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<tr>
<td>5-8</td>
<td>Knowledge Centre Training Programme</td>
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### JUNE

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<td>Group on Procedural Issues</td>
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<td>9</td>
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### OCTOBER

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<td>Budapest Energy Charter Forum, hosted by the Hungarian Ministry of National Development, Budapest, Hungary</td>
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<td>Industry Advisory Panel</td>
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<td>Signing Ceremony for the International Energy Charter: Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Montenegro</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Energy Efficiency Group</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Budget Committee</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Ad Hoc Group on the Programme of Work</td>
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### NOVEMBER

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<td>3</td>
<td>Seminar on Complex Contract Negotiations in the Energy Sector</td>
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<td>3-6</td>
<td>Knowledge Centre Training Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>International Meeting of Experts on Transit, in cooperation with the Turkmen government and China’s National Energy Administration, Beijing, China</td>
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### DECEMBER

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<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>26th Meeting of Energy Charter Conference, Tbilisi, Georgia</td>
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High-Level Bilaterals, Missions, Speeches and Published Material

Energy Charter Secretariat Missions in 2015

- Secretary General: Members (128), Observers (6), Total: 134
- Secretariat Staff: Members (45), Observers (45), Third Countries (12), Total: 102
- Total: 236

Bilateral Meetings of the Secretary General in 2015

- Members: Heads of State and Government (33), Ministers (8), Deputy Ministers and Other High-Level Officials (17), Total: 68
- Observers and 3rd Countries: Ministers (12), Deputy Ministers and Other High-Level Officials (21), Total: 33
- Other: Heads of International Organisations (6), Senior Industry Representatives (2), Academia and Experts Community, NGOs (8), Total: 16
- Total: 107

ECS Speeches and Published Material in 2015

- Secretary General: Oral Reports (4), Published Material (26), Total: 30
- Secretariat Staff: Oral Reports (10), Published Material (25), Total: 35
- Energy Charter Secretariat: Secretariat Publications (38), Knowledge Centre Publications (25), Total: 63
- Total: 140
Energy Charter Website Statistics

Website Sessions, 2015 Compared to 2014

Year-on-year change: +3.79%

Website Users, 2015 Compared to 2014

Year-on-year change: +7.95%

Top Visits from International Energy Charter Signatories, 2015 Compared to 2014
# Worked at the Secretariat in 2015

**Secretary General: Urban Rusnák**

**Deputy Secretary General: Selim Küneralp**

**Director for Implementation: Steivan Defilla**

**Head of Administration and Finance: Denis Westerhof**

By work field:

## Administration and Finance
- Vlatka Anić
- Margaret Bolan
- Lesley Johnstone
- Yves Rayeur
- Luis Segura Hechavarria

## Energy Efficiency
- Bilyana Chobanova
- Anna Aslanidze^
- Jack Ellis*
- Kana Murai*
- Stella Oberle*
- Zoia Pavlenko*

## Expansion and Outreach
- Patrice Dreiski
- Kingsley Leung
- Can Öğütçü
- Nidal Tayeh
- Eduardo Arias Manrique*
- Uwakwe Ukuta Azikiwe (Devco Secondee, Nigeria)
- Ernesto Beltran Nishizaki*
- Anucêncio Bouene (Secondee, Mozambique)
- Karim Choukri (Secondee, Morocco)
- Salifou Gado (Secondee, Niger)
- Zelio Guirrugo*
- Karim Hegazy^
- Augusto Hernandez Vidal*
- John Kitonga (Devco Secondee, Tanzania)
- Khroumbaly Lehbib (Secondee, Mauritania)
- Sid’Ahmed Cheikna Mohamed Lemine (Devco Secondee, Mauritania)
- Elisiana Malle*
- Munir Maniruzzaman^*  
- Francisco Merino*
- Victoria Nalule*
- Aloys Ndugaritse (Secondee, Burundi)
- Juan Felipe Neira Castro^  
- Anas Pradipta*
- Guilherme Schwartsman*  
- Apolonio Senobua*
- Adriana Viloria Severiche*
- Towfick Sufian (Secondee, Yemen)
- Crystal Svanikier*
- Darya Varasteh*
- Han Wang (Secondee, China)
Energy Charter Secretariat

Zhuwei Wang (Secondee, China)
Yufeng Yang
Andrés Zamorano*

Investment
Matteo Barra
Zafar Samadov
Anna Aslanidze*
Jenya Grigorova^
Eduards Jelizarovs (Young Professional, Latvia)
Patricia Martin*
Jaloliddin Nazirov (Secondee, Tajikistan)
Martin Svec*
Andreas Xenofontos^

Knowledge Centre
Ben McPherson
Martin Minárik
Claudia Nocente
Marat Terterov
Ulrik Lorck*

Legal Affairs
Alejandro Carballo Leyda
Cristina Baldemor*
Theo Genicot*
Rafael Lang Silva*
Toshiki Mori*
Wenhua Shan^
Olga Shaposhnikova*
Jodie Trocellier*
Peng Wang*

Linguistic Support
Galina Romanova

Secretarial Support
Julia Boegaeva
Anna Nosichenko
Mara Novello

Strategy
Alejandro Carballo Leyda

Support to the Chairmanship of Georgia
Tamar Tsurtsumia (Secondee, Georgia)

Support to the Secretary General
Patrick Larkin
Olga Sorokina
Rinat Mukhoryapov (Secondee, Kazakhstan)
Dmitry Nikolaenya (Secondee, Belarus)
Inna Shcherban (Secondee, Ukraine)

Trade
Ernesto Bonafé
Iryna De Meyer

Transit
Kanat Botbaev
Florian Encke
Irina Kustova*
Gokce Mete^
Eleni Papanikolaou*

Short-term staff: * Trainee  ^ Fellow
The work of the Energy Charter Conference and its subsidiary groups is supported by a small multinational Secretariat, based in Brussels. The staff of the Secretariat is drawn from across the Energy Charter constituency, and it is led by a Secretary General appointed by the Conference. The Secretariat’s activities are included in an annual Work Programme, which is subject to approval by the Energy Charter Conference.
On 11 August 2015, the death occurred of the former Secretary General, Ambassador André Mernier. Ambassador Mernier had served as Secretary General from 2006 to 2011.

The contribution of Ambassador Mernier to the Energy Charter Process during his six years as Secretary General was greatly appreciated by the constituency. As Secretary General, Ambassador Mernier was deeply committed to the principles of the Energy Charter and guided the Process through some difficult years. His most notable achievement was the 2010 Roadmap for Modernisation. Ambassador Mernier pursued the need to spread the message of the Charter and very much promoted it as a binding legal framework of essential importance to a globalised energy world.
Further Information


The Secretariat also publishes an electronic newsletter with details of Energy Charter meetings, activities and developments. If you are interested in receiving this newsletter, please subscribe by visiting the Charter's website.

You may also follow Energy Charter activities on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

For any other queries, please contact the Secretariat at the address below, or send an email to [info@encharter.org](mailto:info@encharter.org).

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[www.twitter.com/SecGenEnCharter](http://www.twitter.com/SecGenEnCharter)
[www.linkedin.com/company/energy-charter](http://www.linkedin.com/company/energy-charter)