

**ENERGY CHARTER
SECRETARIAT**

CCDEC 1996

6 WPR

Brussels, 5 June 1996

Related documents: CC 61, CC 65 Corr. 1, RD 5 (ECC of 05 06 1996)

DECISION OF THE ENERGY CHARTER CONFERENCE

Subject: Secretariat's Work Programme for 1996: Update

The Conference approved the 1996 Working Programme as proposed in CC 61 and Room Document 5 and took note of SG's indication, that, following today's decisions, transfers between different budget items in 1996 might be necessary as well as the engagement of additional staff for possible future new Working Groups.

[Attached is the update of the Work Programme for 1996 as contained in doc. CC 61.]

Keywords: Secretariat's Work Programme

1996 SECRETARIAT WORK PROGRAMME - UPDATE

At its fourth meeting in November 1995, the Provisional Energy Charter Conference approved in principle the proposed 1996 Secretariat Work Programme (CC 44) with a request to adapt it in the light of the revised budget for 1996. Taking this into account, the main activities of the Secretariat in 1996 are as follows, subject to amendments which may become necessary.

1. Since as of mid-May there were only 3 Energy Charter Treaty Signatories which have deposited their instruments of ratification, the Secretariat focuses on facilitating the ratification process in the countries which indicated their interest in such support. This assistance as much as possible will be done in close cooperation with other international organisations and includes, among other activities:
 - consulting at political level with Signatories and activating work of designated "inquiry points", giving advice on matters of the Treaty and related documents, briefing relevant institutions in capitals;
 - organising and/or participating in relevant seminars or conferences, e.g seminar in Moscow for Russian Parliamentarians, regional authorities and industry;
 - reviewing Charter related legislation in CIS-states.
2. Facilitating negotiations on terms of accession to the Treaty.
3. Communicating with potential new parties to the Charter process.
4. Given the provisional nature of the Treaty's application, fulfil major tasks assigned to the Secretariat by the Treaty, including:
 - Trade. Monitoring tariff levels as required by Article 29, and TRIMs under Article 5 and Annex TRM.
 - Transitional Measures. The Secretariat is monitoring the progress as required by Article 32 of the Treaty.
5. Analysing what the operational implications for the trade provisions are regarding the application of GATT rules to non-members of GATT/WTO. It is also foreseen to determine the need for briefing of non-GATT members on these implications. There will be close co-operation with the WTO secretariat. Trade expertise available within the Secretariat will define the work and steer its progress. External assistance is foreseen and under discussion.
6. Facilitating negotiations in three Working Groups which were established by the Conference:

- Working Group I Supplementary Investment Treaty
- Working Group II Trade (tariff standstill and possible amendments in the light of the Uruguay Round results)
- Working Group III Energy Related Equipment

Sixteen sessions have been scheduled for 1996 for these Working Groups totalling 27 meeting days (9 days each for WG I and WG II, 7 ½ day for WG III and 1 ½ day (tentative) for WG IV). Further meetings may be necessary to conclude negotiations on the Nuclear Instrument.

For the moment the Working Group IV negotiations are put on hold.

7. Facilitating of a review process to establish the facts of countries exceptions to national treatment called for in the Treaty and started by Working Group I for the benefit of the supplementary Treaty. The result of the review process would be a list of exceptions to national treatment in such a form that it could be made legally binding. For the review process, the list of exceptions shall be accompanied by an explanatory note setting the economic context for those exceptions. The lists shall be prepared by the countries concerned in co-operation with the Secretariat. After the review the country reports would, as appropriate, be amended and circulated in preparation for any future stage of negotiations. Thirty six countries are scheduled for review in 1996. For the countries very active in the development of legislation there may be a need for additional reviews.
8. The Secretariat, in consultation with signatories and other international organisations, will start to make the preparations for the implementation of the Energy Efficiency Protocol.
9. Subject to the decision by the Conference on 5 June 1996, preparatory work might have to be undertaken on negotiations on two new Protocols: a Protocol on co-operation in dealing with the effects of major accidents or other events in the energy sector with transfrontier consequences and a Protocol on issues in the electric power sector.
10. Setting up internal procedures and external relations in accordance with the Financial Rules, the Implementing Instructions to the Financial Rules and the Staff Regulations.
11. Preparation of the meetings of the Budget Committee and the Conference.
12. Given the provisional nature of application of the Headquarter Agreement, establishing operational modalities with the Belgian Authorities.