

ENERGY CHARTER SECRETARIAT

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Related documents: CC 65 Corr. 1, RD 1 (ECC of 05 06 1996), RD 2 (ECC of 05 06 1996), RD 8 (ECC of 05 06 1996), RD 14 (ECC of 05 06 1996)
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DECISION OF THE ENERGY CHARTER CONFERENCE

Subject: Reports and Notes considered by the 5th Meeting of the Provisional Energy Charter Conference

- Implementation of the 1995 Budget

The Chairman of the Budget Committee (BC) informed the Conference on the implementation of the 1995 budget and underlined that expenditure in 1995, as presented in Room Document 1, was significantly lower than budgeted due to the late establishment of the Secretariat. This resulted in an amount of uncommitted appropriations of ECU 536,707, which BC, at its meeting on 18 March 1996, had approved to be transferred to the General Reserve Fund.

The external audit of the Statement of Expenditure for 1995 will be completed after receipt of some missing information, e.g. on the EU-Commission's charges for 1995 regarding support staff and accommodation.

The auditor's report, including a Statement of Income and a Balance Sheet, should be available to delegations before the summer break.

- Financial Situation

The Chairman of BC presented the results of the discussions in the BC meeting on 3-4 June 1996, and drew attention to the fact that, taking into account the existing contractual commitments, appropriations on a normal full year basis would amount to 142.8 million BEF. Furthermore he advised of the intention of SG to request an increase of three

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additional Establishment Table posts for secretaries in the 1997 Budget and to reduce the costs of “Professional and Special Services” (sub-item Project Staff).

SG confirmed, in replying to a question from one delegation, that the Secretariat had followed Instruction 15 iii of the Implementing Instructions to the Financial Rules, as approved by BC at its meeting on 3-4 June 1996, with regard to certain expenditure, related to the establishment of the Secretariat, which had to be completed urgently.

- Reports from the Working Groups

The Conference took note of the reports circulated in Room Documents 8 and 14.

It was concluded that at the next meeting of the Conference there should be a complete overview of the Working Groups for discussion and a possible decision on the procedure for negotiations in 1997, bearing in mind that the Treaty stipulates 1 January 1998 as the date for the conclusion of the negotiations on the supplementary treaty and on tariff standstill.

- Progress on Ratification

The Secretary-General reported to the Conference that the Czech Republic and Uzbekistan had recently deposited their instruments of ratification with the Government of Portugal. Six Contracting Parties have completed their national procedure but have not yet deposited in Lisbon, while another eight countries might reach that point before the Summer recess. It seemed therefore not unrealistic that the Treaty will come into force by the end of 1996.

Delegations’ attention was drawn to Message ID 1/96 listing the co-ordinates and functions of the Depository.