

ENERGY CHARTER SECRETARIAT

CCDEC 1997

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Brussels, 8 July 1997

Related documents:

CC 85, CC 88, CC 89, CC 90,
CC 93, RD 1 (ECC of 08-09 07
1997), RD 5 (ECC of 08-09 07
1997), RD 6 (ECC of 08-09 07
1997), RD 7 (ECC of 08-09 07
1997), RD 8 (ECC of 08-09 07
1997), RD 9 (ECC of 08-09 07
1997), BC 36, BC 37, RD 6 (BC
of 07-08 07 1997), RD 8 Corr.
(BC of 07-08 07 1997)

DECISION OF THE ENERGY CHARTER CONFERENCE

Subject: Reports and Notes considered by the 7th Meeting of the Provisional Energy Charter Conference

- National Contributions to the Budget: Update of contributions received (Room Document 1)

The Conference noted the statement of contributions as set out in RD 1. The Chairman urged those Signatories with outstanding contributions to pay as promptly as possible. The Italian delegation announced that Italy's contribution would be paid following completion of its ratification process.

- [The Conference took note of the Secretariat's report from the First Round of Survey of Exceptions to National Treatment (CC 85 – Blue Book).]
- Report from Working Group II (Room Document 8)

The Conference noted that the approach of the Chairman of the Working Group for a legally binding tariff standstill was welcomed by the Working Group although some delegations could accept it only if they were listed in Annex BR.

Keywords: Budget Contributions, National Treatment Exceptions, Working Group Reports, Danish Energy Agency, Conciliation Rules, Mongolia, Ratification Progress, Blue Book, IEA, International Energy Agency, Staff Rules

The Conference recognised that the Working Group had agreed to base its work on the Chairman's proposal on references to GATT 1994 and Related Instruments.

The Conference considered that the Working Group Chairman's compromise text, as amended in the light of technical work and, if appropriate, legal consideration, should be submitted to the Conference.

The Conference will consider the content of Annex BR as the key political issue to be resolved with a view to achieving agreement on a tariff standstill amendment prior to 1 January 1998, as stipulated in the Treaty.

The Conference noted that the introduction of any service-related trade rules of the GATS in any amendment of the Interim Provisions on Trade-Related Matters of the Energy Charter Treaty would require months of further study and discussion.

- Report from Working Group III (Room Document 9)

The Conference invited the Working Group Chairman to submit a draft text providing for the inclusion of energy-related equipment in the trade provisions of the ECT to the Conference based on the discussions in the Working Group and consultations with delegations.

The Conference stressed the importance of continued consultations among delegations in order to reach agreement on the list of equipment to be covered.

The Conference noted the importance of the timely submission of applicable tariffs and other charges concerning equipment.

- Energy Efficiency: 1998 Ministerial Conference in Denmark (CC 89)

The Conference welcomed the invitation of the Danish Energy Agency (DEA) to the Secretariat to contribute to a common project which, together with the DEA and the IEA, will produce a report on energy efficiency topics involving all ECT/IEA countries. The Conference recognised that this is an important opportunity to launch the Protocol on Energy Efficiency and Related Environmental Aspects, that may have entered into force before the 1998 Conference of the Environment Ministers in Aarhus, Denmark.

The Conference also welcomed the voluntary contribution of the Danish government to the Secretariat's budget and, as required by the Financial Rules, approved the contribution.

- Transit Conciliation Rules (Article 7): Progress report (CC 90)

The Conference welcomed the progress made in developing the Transit Conciliation Rules, a subject of major importance to the future of the Treaty.

- [The Conference welcomed the development as stated in document CC 88 on Mongolia's Signature of the European Energy Charter and the Progress in its Accession to the Energy Charter Treaty (CC 88).]

- Results of the Budget Committee Meetings on 7/8 July 1997

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The Conference noted the results of the Budget Committee.

a) National Contributions to the Budget (BC 37)

The Conference endorsed the recommendation that the Secretariat prepare a report on methods used by other international organizations to encourage member states to pay contributions promptly.

b) Staff Rules (BC 36)

The recommendation of the Budget Committee for acceptance of WCO Staff Rules as amended in BC 36/CC 91 and BC Room Documents 6 and 8corr. was dealt with under item 15 of the Agenda. In making the recommendation, the Chairman of the Budget Committee noted that one delegation had requested further time to study the Staff Rules and that this should be taken into account by the Conference.

- Progress on Ratification (Room Document 5)

The Conference welcomed the progress made in the ratification process.

24 Signatories have completed their national ratification procedures, of which 9 have deposited their instruments of ratification with the Depositary. France, Italy and Finland informed the Conference that ratification procedures are likely to be completed in the near future. The Conference agreed to the Chairman's conclusion that it is important not to delay the process of depositing and to take appropriate measures to accelerate national procedures.

- Enquiry Points (Room Document 6)

The Conference noted the list of notified Enquiry Points as required by Article 20(3) of the Treaty and the report by the Secretariat that almost all Signatories have designated Enquiry Points, including several of those not yet obliged to do so.

The Chairman stressed that, for transparency purposes and importance of communication, Signatories which have not yet designated their Enquiry Points should endeavour to supply the Secretariat with the required information.

- Mediterranean Countries

The Chairman informed the Conference that the Proceedings of the Briefing Session on the Energy Charter Treaty for Mediterranean Countries, organised by the Secretariat together with DG XVII of the European Commission in November 1996, had been distributed to all delegations.

- Central Asia/IEA activities (Room Document 7)

The Conference welcomed the Secretariat's cooperation with the International Energy Agency on a review regarding the oil and gas sectors in several Central Asian countries and took note of IEA activities presented by its representative (observer) who underlined the good cooperation with the Secretariat.

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