

ENERGY CHARTER SECRETARIAT

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Brussels, 23-24 April 1998

Related documents: CC 124, RD 5 (ECC of 23- 24 04 1998)

DECISION OF THE ENERGY CHARTER CONFERENCE

Subject: Reports submitted to the 1st Meeting of the Energy Charter Conference held on 23-24 April 1998

- Report on the Budget Committee meeting held on 22 April 1998 and Proposal to discharge the Secretary General, in accordance with Financial Rule 32(4), from his management and administrative responsibilities in respect of 1996 Budget

The Conference noted the oral report of the Chairman of the Budget Committee. Following the recommendation of BC, the Conference decided to discharge the Secretary-General from his management and administrative responsibilities in respect of the 1996 Budget and also to approve the continuation of Coopers & Lybrand as its External Auditors for a period of 3 years starting in 1998.

- G-8 Energy Ministerial Meeting in Moscow

The Conference welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the Energy Charter Secretariat's participation in the Moscow G8 Ministerial Meeting, which marked an important political milestone for the Energy Charter process. The Conference invited the Secretariat to continue working along the lines and objectives developed in both the investment and the transit paper.

- Co-operation with other International Institutions

The Conference noted the positive results of the cooperation with the Danish Government and international organisations, such as the EU and IEA, in the preparation of the Energy Conservation Initiative for the Aarhus Ministerial in June.

Keywords: External Auditor, Coopers & Lybrand, G8, Energy Conservation Initiative, WTO, Roster of Panellists

The Conference invited the Secretariat to continue its efforts for international cooperation and appealed to international institutions' readiness to cooperate with the Secretariat. The Conference underlined that this cooperation should continue even in times of budgetary restrictions in the interests of increased efficiency and to avoid overlapping activities.

- Progress on Ratification and on Accession

Based on an oral information by the Secretary-General and RD 5, the Conference welcomed the progress concerning ratification of the Energy Charter Treaty and the Energy Efficiency Protocol and their entry into force, invited those Signatories which have not yet completed the ratification procedure to do so as soon as possible and welcomed progress on the accession by Mongolia which may be accomplished before the end of 1998.

The Conference also underlined the relevance of the Energy Charter process for countries around the Mediterranean and in Asia, in particular China and S. Korea, and took positive note of the Secretariat's activities aiming at opening dialogue with these countries.

It also noted the Secretary-General's intention to submit the 1999 Work Programme of the Secretariat by September 1998, which will include a review of the institutional set-up and the Secretariat's structure.