DECISION OF THE ENERGY CHARTER CONFERENCE

Subject: Review under Article 34(7) of the Energy Charter Treaty

The Conference approved the Chairman’s proposals on the conduct of the review required in accordance with Article 34 (7) of the Charter Treaty. The Secretariat was accordingly tasked with preparing a comprehensive report on the past and future implementation of the ECT and PEEREA for submission to the 4th Meeting of the Charter Conference in December 1999. The Chairman noted that Contracting Parties/Signatories would be invited to be represented at expert level at a meeting which should be convened in late September to discuss the first draft of the report together with the Secretariat’s draft Work Programme for 2000.

In addition, the Chairman invited all Contracting Parties/Signatories to submit to the Secretariat by 1 September a written assessment of their own implementation of the Treaty and Protocol. A Message from the Chairman to all delegations outlining the precise nature of the requested assessment will be sent out shortly.

[Attached is doc. CC 140 containing the Chairman’s proposal.]

Article 34 (7) states that “in 1999 and thereafter at intervals (of not more than five years) to be determined by the Charter Conference, the Charter Conference shall thoroughly review the functions provided for in this Treaty in the light of the extent to which the provisions of the Treaty and Protocols have been implemented. At the conclusion of each review the Charter Conference may amend or abolish the functions specified in paragraph (3) (of Article 34) and may discharge the Secretariat.”

This clause provides the Conference with a timely opportunity to examine all aspects of the implementation to date of the ECT and PEEREA and of the current activities carried out under their auspices. The review process should allow the Conference to conduct a thorough and fruitful discussion on the achievements of the Treaty and Protocol to date, the scope for further improvement of their implementation, and the additional tasks and activities which can be foreseen for the next stage of the Charter process’s development as a mechanism for energy cooperation.

I therefore propose to task the Secretariat with preparing a comprehensive report on the past and future implementation of the ECT and PEEREA for submission to the 4th Meeting of the Charter Conference in December 1999. In compiling this report, the Secretariat will be asked to consult widely with Contracting Parties/Signatories to establish their assessment of both implementation and all other relevant aspects of the Charter process. As part of this exercise, the Secretariat will invite Contracting Parties/Signatories to be represented at expert level at a meeting which should be convened in late September to discuss the first draft of the report together with the Secretariat’s draft Work Programme for 2000. Contracting Parties/Signatories are of course welcome to submit their views on these matters to the Secretariat in writing.

On the basis of the above report, I will make a recommendation to the Charter Conference at its 4th Meeting concerning the completion of the review process in accordance with Article 34 (7) of the Treaty.

The Conference is invited to approve this procedure.