

**ENERGY CHARTER
SECRETARIAT**

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Brussels, 17 December 2001

Related documents: CC 199, CC 207, RD 2 (ECC of 17 12 2001)

DECISION OF THE ENERGY CHARTER CONFERENCE

Subject: Reports submitted to the 9th Meeting of the Energy Charter Conference held on 17 December 2001

- *The Conference approved* the recommendation of the Budget Committee contained in document CC 199 to discharge the Secretary General from her management and administrative responsibility in respect of the 2000 Budget, in accordance with Article 32(4) of the Secretariat's Financial Rules.
- [The Conference *took note* of the report by the Chairman of the Transit Working Group on the latest status of the negotiations on a Protocol on Transit.]

[The Conference Chairman noted that] the list of outstanding issues to be resolved in the negotiations appeared to have been finalized. As a result, he shared the hope that, without setting any formal deadline, the next meeting of the Transit Working Group in March 2002 might lead to a conclusion of the negotiation process. To this end, he repeated the appeal of the Chairman of the Transit Working Group for all delegations to resolve as many of the outstanding issues as possible through bilateral contacts in advance of the next formal round of negotiations.

- [The Conference *took note* of the report by the Chairman of the Investment Group.]
Concerning the Supplementary Treaty, the Investment Group Chairman reported that the Group had reaffirmed the broadly-shared view that the 1998 "package" should remain the backbone of future negotiations, with any possible changes to be kept to a minimum. It was noted that four international trade union organizations had submitted a statement to the Conference concerning the treatment of social and environmental issues within the Supplementary Treaty. *The Conference approved* the proposal of the Investment Group Chairman that the Secretary General be asked to send a reply to the organizations

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concerned, confirming that their statement would be discussed at the next meeting of the Investment Group in May 2002.

- [The Conference *took note* of the report by the Chairman of the Trade Group.]

[Concerning the possibility for moving to a legally-binding commitment on customs duties under the ECT, the Group Chairman indicated that there was no unanimity of views among delegations on this issue. Accordingly, the Group Chairman] proposed that the Conference should invite the Trade Group to discuss the possibility of moving to a legally-binding tariff commitment again at its next meeting in 2002, and to report on the outcome of this discussion to the next meeting of the Conference. In the meantime, the Group Chairman hoped that other delegations would submit their written comments on this subject to the Secretariat. *The Conference approved* this proposal.

The Trade Group Chairman also informed the Conference that a training seminar on the application of the ECT's trade notification system had been successfully held in Bern in November [under a voluntary contribution from Switzerland.] The Conference Chairman thanked the Swiss authorities for their support, and expressed the hope that further voluntary contributions for this purpose might be forthcoming in 2002.

- [The Conference *took note* of the report by the Chairman of the Working Group on Energy Efficiency and Related Environmental Aspects.]

The Working Group Chairman [...] noted that Turkey and Romania had expressed an interest in hosting In-Depth Energy Efficiency Reviews in 2002, and that in addition there was a possibility for conducting an In-Depth Review in Estonia in cooperation with BASREC. [The Working Group Chairman] expressed appreciation for the voluntary contributions provided by Sweden and Norway in support of other activities to be undertaken in 2002 within the framework of the Group's activities.

The Conference Chairman welcomed the report, and called on delegations to consider making further voluntary contributions in support of the Working Group's activities in 2002.