

**ENERGY CHARTER
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Related documents: CC 368, RD 2 (ECC of 28 11 2008)

DECISION OF THE ENERGY CHARTER CONFERENCE

Subject: Recommendations of the 2008 Policy Conference

[The Energy Charter Conference at its 19th Meeting held on 28 November 2008 accepted the annual Policy Conference recommendations] as presented in the summary report made available to delegations in June 2008 and also circulated as Room Document 2 [Annex.]

Keywords: Policy Conference, Energy Efficiency, Low-carbon Economy

**Recommendations from the 2008 Policy Conference
“International Cooperation on Energy Efficiency:
Working Together for a Low-carbon Economy”
held on 28 May in Geneva Switzerland**

Conference participants reiterated that energy efficiency is a top priority for energy, environmental and social policy. It can deliver parallel benefits for:

- Low-cost greenhouse gas abatement
- Enhanced productivity and competitiveness
- Improved energy security
- Social benefits through reallocation of investments from energy to other social needs

Despite recognition of these benefits, and the considerable efforts of many governments, regional organisations and other bodies to improve energy efficiency, progress has generally not been as could have been achieved, based on estimates of potential. Moreover, improvements in energy intensity have been greatly exceeded by increases in the magnitude of energy services demanded. Much greater investment in energy efficiency, in all countries, will be required for decades to come.

In order to progress further with improving energy efficiency:

- Governments should adopt and implement national energy efficiency strategies with ambitious short and long-term policies and measures and transparent assessment of progress.
- Industry should ensure energy efficiency is a key consideration in business decision-making; at a minimum, investments should be on the basis of whole-of-life costs.
- International organisations working on energy efficiency must ensure they act effectively in promoting energy efficiency, while avoiding unnecessary overlap and duplication.

International cooperation has an important role to play through sharing of information on policies, activities and good practices. International organisations should ensure this work is well coordinated to maximise synergies. Where appropriate, attention should be given to more consistent regulatory and market regimes, the need for global-scale R&D, competitiveness concerns in international markets, effective government/industry partnerships, supportive national and international investment frameworks, insufficient international finance, capacity building, awareness raising, and interactions through interconnected energy and climate systems.

Through discussions, the conference identified a number of barriers to energy efficiency that can only be resolved through effective international cooperation. Addressing these barriers could lead to significant improvements in energy efficiency globally.