

Conference Opening Statement

The Role of Governments and International Organizations in Promoting Energy Security
Palais d'Egmont 25th of October 2006 Brussels.



Ambassador William C. Ramsay Deputy Executive Director IEA

Dear Mr. Minister, Mr. Chairman and distinguished guests it's a pleasure for IEA to co host this annual Conference with the Energy Charter Secretariat this time together with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium Mr. Karel de Gucht in his capacity as chair of the Organization for security and cooperation in Europe OSCE.

I would like to thank him for making Palais d'Egmont available and the Energy Charter Secretariat and OSCE for their much appreciated efforts in organizing this timely Conference.

That we are gathered here today in such high numbers from a wide range of countries, companies and organizations illustrates the importance and timeliness of discussing energy market security. As we focus on the role governments and international organizations in promoting energy security Institutional cooperation between the IEA and the Energy Charter Secretariat next to other policy platforms and international organizations is certainly part of the answer to allow markets to work and respond to the energy sector challenges we face today.

I will touch on these challenges in my presentation in great detail. I would like to say here that IEA very much welcomes the opportunity to meet with all of you at our Conference here today. The Energy Charter provides an excellent opportunity to sharpen our focus on the questions that need to be resolved, to coordinate our policy efforts and share responsibility for a sustainable and secure energy future.