



UNITED NATIONS
Economic Commission for Europe

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Executive Secretary

International Cooperation on Energy Efficiency: Working Together for a Low-carbon Economy

10:00 a.m. Wednesday 28 May 2008, Salle de Conseil, Palais des Nations

Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure for me to welcome you to Geneva, to the Palais des Nations and to this conference on International Cooperation on Energy Efficiency.

This conference has been organised through the close cooperation between the Economic Commission for Europe, the Energy Charter Secretariat and the International Energy Agency.

We appreciate greatly the contribution the Energy Charter secretariat has made to this event.

I would like especially to welcome this morning:

- Ambassador André Mernier, Secretary General of the Energy Charter,
- Mr. Walter Steinmann, State Secretary for Energy of Switzerland,
- Mr. Didier Houssin, Director, Oil Markets and Emergency Preparedness of the International Energy Agency, and
- Mr. Brice Lalonde, Special Ambassador for Climate Change from France, who will deliver the Key Note Address this morning.

This conference is being held because energy efficiency can help improve global environmental conditions. This is undeniable. Energy efficiency is an essential feature of energy policy for all countries: both importers and energy exporting countries.

But energy efficiency is also needed to ensure the **energy security** of the European region.

In fact, enhancing the efficiency of hydrocarbons use in the Russian Federation and Central Asia would mitigate energy security risks in importing countries. It would also improve the state of the economies of exporting countries, as well as their competitiveness.

I would like to challenge this conference to open a **new dialogue on energy efficiency and energy security** which can help address global climate change.

This dialogue should lead to specific concrete actions – in particular new, large investments in energy efficiency. The strategic interest of energy importing countries is for exporting countries to produce and use hydrocarbons as efficiently as possible.

There is a vast potential for energy efficiency improvements which can be implemented very quickly, cheaply and reliably. The Eastern European market for energy efficiency projects with a payback period of less than five years is estimated to be between 5 and 10 billion Euro.

Western importing countries have the technology, management practices and experience in financing efficiency improvements. Revenues from increased oil and gas exports could be used to repay investments.

This should be the objective of a new producer consumer dialogue on energy efficiency to increase energy exports and reduce carbon emissions. It should lead to the preparation and financing of investment projects.

No doubt these investment projects would need to be supported by policy reforms. For example, the Russian Federation has recently increased energy prices by 40 per cent. This policy measure will stimulate efficiency improvements.

Cooperation could focus on developing project proposals, policy reforms and financial mechanisms to repay investments from the foreign currency earnings of increased hydrocarbon exports.

I think our member states would welcome the inter-governmental bodies of UNECE, Energy Charter and International Energy Agency working on this together. In fact, this cooperation can extend beyond this region through the United Nations system.

The UNECE is one of five Regional Commissions of the UN Economic and Social Council. The UNECE covers Eastern Europe,

Western Europe and North America. There is also a Regional Commission for Africa, one for Asia and the Pacific, one for the Middle East and one for Latin America.

Globally, 16 different agencies of the United Nations system cooperate through UN Energy. UNECE is a member of the UN Energy committee on energy efficiency which can help promote our regional cooperation at the global level.

I would welcome the views of delegations on this proposal for a new dialogue on energy efficiency and energy security which can help address global climate change and on how it could be practically pursued.

I can assure you that we are fully prepared to pursue this initiative since it is highly compatible with the current UNECE energy programme.

I look forward to the outcome of this conference and the results of your work today.

Thank you for your attention.

