

ENERGY EFFICIENCY: A STRATEGIC AGENDA FOR GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY

*Monday, 9 November 2009
Amman, Jordan*

**Special Intervention
by
Ambassador Jan-Meinte Postma
Netherlands Energy Envoy
For the
Ministry of Economic Affairs**

Mr. Minister,
Mr. Secretary General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning,

I am very happy to be here with you today. This event is very important to us, as it reflects the excellent relations between The Netherlands and Jordan, particularly in the field of energy cooperation. It is also the first Energy Charter Secretariat event to be organized in Amman.

Energy is an international issue that touches almost every aspect of our day-to-day lives. The energy issue has risen to the top of countries' national agendas. This is reflected in the renewed interest for multilateral fora on energy. Indeed, multilateral energy cooperation is understood as a global tool towards overcoming the dual challenges of energy security and climate change.

Chief of the multilateral fora on energy is the Energy Charter Treaty and associated process. My Government promoted the idea of a "WTO on energy" applying the non-discrimination standards to energy trade. This has been in essence the Energy Charter process and how it has delivered for its member states and their industry since 1994.

Since its inception, The Energy Charter Treaty and the Protocol on Energy Efficiency and Related Environmental Aspects have provided a unique forum open to all, bringing together both energy consuming and energy producing countries, from Norway to Georgia, from Portugal to Japan. A treaty and process where countries can set the principles that will ensure a stable and predictable framework for energy-related investment and trade, to enhance energy efficiency as well as institute dialogue and cooperate; coordination and exchange of information and capacity-building.

Jordan is among a recent group of countries, including Indonesia and Serbia, to join the process. We are very happy to welcome Jordan into this forum, and know that its strategic position within the region as well as its ambitions in the energy sector mean that Jordan's presence and contribution to the process will push our common efforts to an ever more efficient energy trade. We look forward to Jordan becoming a member state soon.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

One of the primary areas of cooperation pursued within the Energy Charter framework, are those of Energy Efficiency and the environment.

The importance of these issues has been long recognized by the Energy Charter. For the past 15 years, the Charter and the Treaty have served as a platform for dialogue and cooperation among energy producers and consumers on the key challenges facing the energy sector. And from the beginning, the participants in this dialogue have recognised the importance of improving our environment while also meeting our energy needs.

The Protocol on Energy Efficiency and Related Environmental Aspects embodies this commitment to sustainable energy production and use. These issues become more pressing every day. But they have been a core objective of the Energy Charter Process from the start

While Energy Efficiency is not the sole answer to the many questions surrounding energy security and climate change, it is the only way that we can simultaneously reduce costs, reduce emissions, increase productivity and improve energy security. It is a “one-stop shop” for energy sustainability.

Promoting Energy Efficiency means taking concrete actions to encourage investment in energy efficiency and using efficient technologies in all energy applications. Everyone has a part to play – governments, business and the community.

I know that our discussions today will be productive and stimulating. I hope that this workshop will provide us with new ideas and avenues for action. In this way, we will enhance our continuing commitment to work together on the best solutions to boost our energy efficiency as a key step on the road to sustainability.

Thank you for your attention and good luck.