



BAKU INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CHARTER FORUM

**“Transition to renewables in power generation,
transport, heating and cooling: modern challenges
and trends”**

Jointly organised by

the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan

and

the International Energy Charter

Zoom Videoconference

28 October 2020

12:00 – 16:00 (Baku, Azerbaijan)

9:00 – 13:00 (CET)

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

Electricity, despite accounting for only a fifth of global energy consumption, is a crucial energy carrier to meet long-term climate and other sustainability goals as renewables show exponential growth with wind and solar photovoltaics (PV) building on the significant contribution of hydropower generation. This increase in deployment of renewables must accelerate in heat, electricity and transport sectors in order to achieve the clean energy transition.

Renewables have the fastest growth in the power sector compared to heat and transport sectors. International Energy Agency (2018) forecasts indicate that the share of renewables in the power sector is expected to constitute more than 70 per cent of the global electricity generation growth, led by solar PV, followed by wind, hydropower and bioenergy by 2023. The share of renewables in heating and cooling and industry is also expected to increase in this period with renewables in transport having the lowest contribution due to ongoing petroleum product consumption.

In this century, disruptive and smart technological innovations and forward looking, sustainable policy initiatives are urgently needed around the world to combat climate change and transform the way we produce, distribute and consume energy. There is also a need to establish greater geographical connectivity of solar, wind and hydro power, which can lead to a reduction of costs and consumption. This would need the support of policymakers, businesses and other organizations. In addition, the transition to renewables in power generation, transport, heating and cooling requires smart devices and other information technologies so that risks of peak loads and costly investments in new grid infrastructure can be avoided and that there is more flexibility over demand and transmission and consumption of renewable electricity.

Transformation at this scale is not without challenges. In terms of policies (software), it is crucial to have appropriate regulations, taxes and incentives along with robust political will. On the infrastructure side (hardware) the change is dependant on timely adoption of enabling market mechanisms fostering investment in smart grids, heat pumps and charging networks for the electric vehicles, which may take several years to put in place.

The Government of Azerbaijan is already taking significant steps to accelerate the energy transition in the country by making renewables a priority with an ambitious target of 30% renewables in installed capacity of electricity generation by 2030 (up from 17% in 2020 according to government data). The Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan is working on a new strategy and drafting a Law on Renewable Energy that is expected to accelerate the deployment of renewables and attract foreign investment. Meanwhile, the government is attempting to increase private investment in the renewables sector through supportive policies and incentives.

The International Energy Charter, a declaration of political intention aiming at strengthening energy cooperation between the signatory states which has now been endorsed by over 90

states and international organisations, reflects some of the most topical energy challenges of the 21st century, including the development and liberalization of international trade in energy, the development of efficient energy markets, the promotion and protection of energy investments, access to and development of energy sources, energy efficiency and environmental protection.

Scope

The Baku International Energy Charter Forum will address the challenges and opportunities in a more sustainable world powered by renewable energy sources and discuss what modern policies, projects and technologies are shaping the future of the energy sector across the globe. It will provide a platform for dialogue and multilateral cooperation on legal, technical and financial aspects of renewable projects as well as best practices and lessons learnt in energy efficiency. The Forum will bring together high-level speakers from governments and international organisations across the Energy Charter Constituency and key international experts from private sector, financial institutions, think tanks and academia.

PROGRAMME

9:00 – 09:30 Opening Remarks (Central European Time)

- **Mr. Parviz Shahbazov**, Minister of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Chair of the Energy Charter Conference,
- **Dr. Urban Rusnák**, Secretary-General, International Energy Charter,
- **Ms. Cristina Lobillo Borrero**, Director of Energy Policy, Directorate-General for Energy, European Commission.

9:30 – 10:00 Ministerial and High-Level Statements

Moderator: Mr. Elnur Soltanov, Deputy Minister of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Interventions by High-level representatives from the ECT Member and Observer countries as well International Organisations:

- **Mr. Ilir Bejtja**, Vice-Chair of the Energy Charter Conference, Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Energy of Albania;
- **Mr. Nicolae Havrilet**, Secretary of State, Ministry of Economy, Energy and Business Environment of Romania;
- **Dr. Hadi Soleimanpour**, Secretary General of the ECO Secretariat,
- **Sir Laurie Bristow**, COP26 Regional Ambassador, the Government of the United Kingdom,
- **Amb. Traian Chebeleu**, Deputy Secretary General, Permanent International Secretariat of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation,

- **Mr. Yurii Shafarenko**, Deputy Chairman, State Agency on Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving of Ukraine,
- **Mr. Mohamad Satkin**, Deputy Minister of Energy of Iran, Chairman of the Renewable Energy and Electricity Productivity Organization.

10:00 – 11:00 Session 1: Support for Renewable Energies - legal, technical and financial aspects

Moderator: Mr. Kanat Botbaev, Energy Charter Secretariat

- **Mr. Prasoon Agarwal**, Regional Programme Officer, Asia-Pacific, Country Engagement and Partnerships Division, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA);
- **Mr. Fariz Shirinov**, Head of Legal Support and Analysis Division, Azerbaijan Energy Regulatory Agency;
- **Mr. Stefan Dür**, Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology, Republic of Austria;
- **Mr. Máté Heisz**, Head of International Cooperation, SolarPower Europe.

11:00 – 11:15 Break

11:15 – 12:15 Session 2: Promoting energy efficiency – sharing best practices and lessons learnt

Moderator: Mr. Samir Valiyev, Deputy Minister of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Vice-Chair of the Energy Charter Conference

- **Mr. Nobuyuki Kikuchi**, Director of Resource Security Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan;
- **Ms. Gabriela Prata Dias**, Head of Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency;
- **Mr. Zaur Mammadov**, Chief of Staff of the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- **Ms. Bilyana Chobanova**, Manager of EU4Energy Project, International Energy Charter.

12:15 – 12:30 Concluding Remarks

- **Mr. Samir Valiyev**, Deputy Minister of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Vice-Chair of the Energy Charter Conference.