



Ashgabat Energy Charter Forum

Conclusion

On 9 December 2014, Ministers and high-ranking officials from governments, international organizations and industry gathered at the Ashgabat Energy Charter Forum, co-organised by the Government of Turkmenistan and the Energy Charter Secretariat. The topic of their debate was “Reliable and Stable Transit of Energy”. Special attention was paid to the potential of international trade in natural gas, oil and electricity in the Eurasian region.

The Heads of Delegations agreed that energy security was one of today’s biggest challenges. The availability of stable and affordable energy supplies is crucial for the economic development of all nations, whether they are advanced or emerging economies, or developing countries. Ensuring energy security and diversifying sources and routes of supply and final markets have been identified as a common objective. In the context of climate change, it has become particularly challenging to attain this goal. Some nations have already formulated ambitious goals to reduce CO₂ emissions. Others, while committed to this goal as well, put special emphasis on ensuring their growing energy demand.

Sources of supply are abundant in Eurasia, but the transportation of energy sources from where they are produced to where they are needed remains an important obstacle. The construction of energy transport infrastructure is costly and involves highly complex political and commercial problems. Transit is a factor that makes things even more complicated – as the interests of sellers and buyers need to be reconciled with the interests of transit countries. Land-locked countries, whether they are net energy producers or consumers depend on reliable and stable transit in order to benefit from international energy trade.

A number of regional electricity projects exemplify the common benefit of interconnected systems for energy security and sustainability. Delegations also presented ambitious projects to connect their countries by international pipelines. They agreed that stable and reliable delivery of energy resources through fixed infrastructure required stable frameworks, based on common rules and cooperation mechanisms. Delegations noted that the Energy Charter provided such a framework to its members and welcomed the fact that the International Energy Charter, a political declaration to be signed in The Hague in 2015, promoted the geographic expansion and modernisation of this framework.

The Heads of Delegations expressed their gratitude to the Government of Turkmenistan for hosting the Ashgabat Energy Charter Forum, and personally to the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov for opening this important event. They expressed their desire that the process launched with the Ashgabat Energy Charter Forum would find its conclusion during the Chairmanship of Turkmenistan in the Energy Charter Conference in 2017.