



Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between
Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussels Diplomatic Academy
and
The Energy Charter Secretariat

Prof. Dr. Caroline Pauwels, Rector of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Pleinlaan 2, 1050 Brussels, hereinafter referred as VUB or BDA, and Dr. Urban Rusnák, Secretary General of the Energy Charter Secretariat, with Brussels Headquarters located Woluwedal 46, 1200 Brussels, hereinafter referred as ECS, represent the Institutions mentioned and reciprocally recognise their ability to formalise this MoU.

Internal Reference number VUB : 2021-BE-302

Hereinafter referred to collectively as “the Institutions”,

Considering the fundamental importance of education and research in the area of “Sustainability, Environmental & Energy Diplomacy” as well as economic diplomacy, international trade and investment,

Aware of the benefits that may derive from closer cooperation between the Institutions in fostering knowledge relation to the energy issues, economic diplomacy, trade and investment,

Desirous of promoting cooperation between the Brussels Diplomatic Academy and the ECS in the furtherance of their common goals in respect of “Sustainability, Environmental & Energy Diplomacy”

The institutions have come to the following understanding:

Article 1

The Brussels Diplomatic Academy (BDA) of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, specializes in post graduate education in economic diplomacy, international trade and investment, which amongst others encompasses “Sustainability, Environmental & Energy Diplomacy”.

The BDA has at its core a belief that diplomacy and business are essential elements in the growth of any economy, and bringing them together in dialogue and education is fundamental. VUB provides bachelor, master, and doctoral education to about 8,000 undergraduate, 6,500 graduate and 2,000 PhD students. It is a strongly research-oriented institute, which has led to a top ranking among universities worldwide.

The Energy Charter Secretariat is the administrative body of the Energy Charter Conference (ECC). ECC is the governing body of the Energy Charter Treaty and the Energy Charter Protocol on Energy Efficiency and Related Environmental Aspects. The Treaty regulates the promotion and protection of investments, trade, transit, and dispute resolution in the energy sector.

Article 2

The abovementioned Institutions seek to promote relations and to enhance their synergies, within their respective mandates, by participating in common activities, projects and initiatives related to investment and dispute resolution to:

1. strengthen cooperation and knowledge-sharing between Institutions.
2. promote knowledge and capacity-building of government officials and industry.
3. support the knowledge-sharing on Energy Charter-related matters.
4. support the knowledge-sharing on “Sustainability, Environmental & Energy Diplomacy”.

Article 3

As a result, the Institutions consider it appropriate to approve this MoU and define the following initial activities for collaboration:

- a) 1 traineeship per year, available for students of BDA at ECS Brussels headquarters, for a period of 3 months under the general regulation of internships as established by the organization. Where appropriate, the internship may be used as a credit in the academic programmes of BDA, according to evaluations performed by both institutions.
- b) ECS agrees to be open to receive academics and post-graduate students of BDA to carry out research and studies on ECS areas of work at its Brussels headquarters, for a period of one (1) week to two (2) months.

- c) In case of an open call for fellowships by the ECS, BDA will conduct a pre-selection of the potential candidates of that Institution. The list will be duly considered by the ECS.
- d) Consider participation of staff of each Institution as speakers or lecturers at public events, academic courses and trainings.
- e) the Institutions will exchange information on their respective research and training programmes in the field of “Sustainability, Environmental & Energy Diplomacy” as well as discuss the preparation and implementation of a ‘Sustainability, Environmental & Energy Diplomacy’ course / joint Course of Professional Development.
- f) exchange of non-restricted information, documents, research materials and reports in matters of common interest

Article 4

Each Institution is expected to appoint a representative who will be responsible for coordination towards implementing this MoU and its related activities.

The representatives will develop the means of cooperation, through communication and consultation and provide suitable suggestions and recommendations.

Article 5

The present MoU does not imply contributions to the specific budget of either Institution. The development of joint (or individual) projects, organized under this framework of cooperation, will be subject to the assessment of budgetary availability of each institution and its respective review and approval.

Article 6

This MoU may be amended with the consent of the Institutions. The proposed amendment should be in writing and be effective of the date decided by the Institutions.

Article 7

This MoU will have duration of five (5) years from the date of signature and will be renewed for the same duration automatically. It should be noted that unilateral cancellation is possible at any time upon request of either of the Institutions, after a thirty (30) days prior notice in writing to the other Institution or by mutual agreement in writing, provided that the termination will not affect activities conducted under the MoU that may have started before the expiration of the 30-day notice period, even if such activities should occur after the expiration date.

Article 8

All communications and documents between the Institutions will be done in English.

Article 9

Any dispute that may arise over the interpretation or implementation of this MoU should be settled by direct negotiations between the Institutions.

Article 10

This MoU does not give rise to legally binding rights or obligations between BDA and ECS.

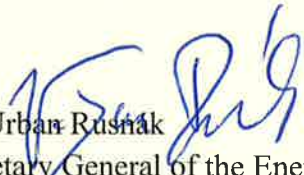
Signed in English in two copies, in Brussels, on 22 June 2021

For Brussels Diplomatic Academy (BDA)

For the Energy Charter Secretariat (ECS)



Prof. Dr. Caroline Pauwels
Rector Vrije Universiteit Brussel



Dr. Urban Rusnak
Secretary General of the Energy Charter
Secretariat