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Jordan seeks full membership in European Energy Charter - Al-Ali



Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Suhair Al-Ali holds talks with Ambassador André Mernier, secretary general of the European Energy Charter Secretariat, on Wednesday (Photo courtesy Planning Ministry)

AMMAN (JT) - Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Suhair Al-Ali on Wednesday said Jordan is determined to further strengthen its ties with the Energy Charter Secretariat to work closely towards full membership.

During a meeting with Ambassador André Mernier, secretary general of the European Energy Charter Secretariat and an accompanying delegation, Al-Ali discussed ways of developing cooperation in the energy field, especially in light of Jordan's formal accession to the membership of the charter as an observer last year.

The minister also stressed the importance the Kingdom attaches to strengthening relations with the charter at the current stage, in the light of the challenges it faces in the energy sector, according to a Planning Ministry statement.

She noted that Jordan's formal accession to membership of the charter as an observer in December 2007 paved the way to access the technical assistance offered by this membership and benefit from the expertise accumulated by the charter in the energy sector, specifically assistance in reviewing strategies, legislation and relevant laws and regulations to ensure their compatibility with what is applicable to member states in this area.

The minister expressed the government's gratitude to the efforts exerted by Mernier in enabling Jordan to accede to the Energy Charter Treaty as an observer.

Full membership will allow Jordan to develop its cooperation with member countries in numerous areas such as promoting joint investments; developing energy resources, including renewable and alternative energy sources; energy efficiency; technology transfer and encouraging innovation.

Mernier, for his part, expressed his full understanding of the challenges facing Jordan in the energy sector.

He highlighted the importance of activating the step taken by the Kingdom to join the membership of the charter as an observer, which would support its efforts to overcome these challenges and pave the way to get assistance and benefit from the expertise of the charter in the energy sector.

He also reiterated he would do his utmost to enable Jordan to get full membership in the charter, stressing the importance of progress in relation to audit and examining the compatibility between existing legislation and those applicable to member states.

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