

Statement by the Secretary General

Development of the Situation in Ukraine

Energy Charter Secretariat, Brussels, 17 March 2014 – Today the Energy Charter Secretary General Urban Rusnák made the following statement:

“Although deeply concerned about how the situation in Ukraine is developing, I strongly hope that it will be settled peacefully in line with the principles of international law and with full respect to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine – a founding member of both the 1991 Energy Charter and the 1994 Energy Charter Treaty; the more when the Energy Charter Process is based on the principle of state sovereignty and sovereign rights over energy resources.

Considering that the 1991 Charter promotes safety of energy infrastructure and that some allegations have been made regarding the lack of protection in case of armed interventions, I reiterate my call to all parties involved to refrain from any action that could affect critical energy infrastructure.

Recalling that the 1991 Charter fosters the promotion and protection of investments in the energy sector and fully aware of the potential risks to energy investments in the Crimean Peninsula, I urge all parties to fully observe the commitments with existing investors.

Finally, I do appreciate the efforts of all parties concerned for their continued involvement in the Energy Security Contact Group as a neutral channel of communication and common evaluation.”

The Energy Charter Treaty is legally binding multilateral international treaty, which focuses on cross-border energy flows and international energy investments and currently brings together 54 members and 25 observers. The aim of the Treaty is to strengthen the rule of law on energy issues by creating a level playing field for energy exporting, importing and transit countries.

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