ENERGY CHARTER SECRETARIAT
СЕКРЕТАРИАТ ЭНЕРГЕТИЧЕСКОЙ ХАРТИИ

High Level Conference

"Paving the Way for a European Energy Security Strategy"

Reinforcing the EU's external energy policy:

Views from the Energy Charter Secretariat

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The European Council in March 2014 called on the Commission to conduct an in-depth study of EU energy security and to present by June 2014 a comprehensive plan for the reduction of EU energy dependence.

In the same political context, G7 Energy Ministers, meeting in Rome in May 2014, prepared issues for Leaders' consideration, in view of the G7 Summit to be held in Brussels on June 4-5, 2014, addressing, among other things:

- *The need to solve energy disputes through dialogue based on reciprocity, transparency and continued cooperation;*
- *The view on energy security as a collective responsibility;*
- *The need to develop flexible, transparent and competitive energy markets, including gas markets and to diversify energy fuels, sources and routes, and to encourage indigenous sources of energy supply;*
- *Putting in place emergency response systems, including reserves and fuel substitution for importing countries, in case of major energy disruptions.*

The Energy Charter provides a relevant platform and tool in view of these objectives.

The European Energy Charter and the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) provide for common principles and legally binding rules for international energy cooperation. The EU[1] supports the Energy Charter in order to better use its potential in the core areas of trade, transit, investment and dispute resolution while also paying due attention to energy efficiency. It also supports the need to promote the benefit of joining the ECT as a full member, so that the Treaty might become a global instrument, recognised as the basis for international energy regulation in its main fields of competence.

Against this background, the EU, its members and the European Commission are invited to make full use of the benefits the Energy Charter provides by supporting the following ongoing processes:

- Developing a multilateral early warning mechanism to prevent and settle crisis situations related to the supply of energy through pipelines and grids.
- Using the Energy Charter as a neutral platform to exchange information and data on gas flows through Ukraine. The Energy Charter Secretariat has set up an ad hoc Contact Group for that purpose.
- Analyse the possibility of using the Energy Charter Treaty's rules on transit as a tool for diversifying sources and routes of energy, e.g. on the EU's Southern Gas Corridor.
- Engaging new countries in the Energy Charter Process with the ultimate goal of attracting them as full members. This year, negotiations on an updated version of the European Energy Charter have been launched which have already attracted the interest of countries like China, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Morocco, Mexico or Nigeria.
- Promoting the principles of the Energy Charter Treaty in the MENA countries through the EU neighborhood policy.
- Using the Energy Charter as a political platform for the EU and its members to discuss energy security issues with Russia. Provided the Russian Federation returns formally to this platform, this dialogue is supposed to facilitate the ratification of the ECT by Moscow.
- Strengthening the Energy Charter as an important instrument of global energy governance, building on its specific added value in comparison to other relevant organisations like the Energy Community, the IEA, the IEF or IRENA.

[1] Council Conclusions on strengthening the external dimension of the EU energy policy of 24 November 2011