

Statement by the Secretary General

Energy Security Contact Group on the Ukraine Crisis

Energy Charter Secretariat, Brussels, 3 March 2014 – Today the Energy Charter Secretary General Urban Rusnák made the following statement:

“I am deeply concerned about the situation in Ukraine and the current tensions between Ukraine and the Russian Federation, both of whom are members of the Energy Charter Conference and signatories of the European Energy Charter of 1991. My particular concern is that the developments may pose a threat to energy security. With regard to the urgent need to address an imminent threat to peace, I call on the parties to act in line with the principles of international law and their international commitments. I urge both parties to refrain from any action that could provoke an energy security crisis in the Energy Charter constituency.

Any threats to energy security that might emerge from the current crisis should be prevented and addressed on the neutral platform provided by the Energy Charter Secretariat. By signing the European Energy Charter, sixty one states in Eurasia and the European Union established a common framework to improve security of energy supply. In this spirit, I have decided to establish at the Secretariat an Energy Security Contact Group to be prepared for the possible implications of current developments on energy security and to act, as appropriate, in the spirit of international commitments and partnership relations.”

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.

*For more information, please contact
the Energy Charter Secretariat:
+32-2-775-98-00 or info@encharter.org*