The Investment Group holds the meeting in Brussels

The Energy Charter Investment Group held its second meeting of 2016 on 20 September in Brussels. Several important topics for the modernisation of the Energy Charter were addressed during the meeting, including activities on removing barriers to the establishment of energy investments, the pilot project for a flagship publication on energy investment risk assessment, and the investment dispute settlement mechanism.

The Energy Efficiency and Trade and Transit Groups meet in Brussels

The Energy Charter Energy Efficiency Group (EEG) met on the 21st September in Brussels to discuss the findings of a number of energy efficiency reviews and to discuss the group’s programme of work for 2017.

The Trade and Transit Group held its last meeting of 2016 on 21 September. The main agenda item was related to the Concept paper for a Multilateral Framework Agreement on Energy Transit addressing policy objectives, substantial issues and challenges, which had been presented by the Secretariat at the previous meeting in May.

Secretary General’s Activities

Ambassador Tatoul Markarian visits the Secretariat and meets with Secretary General Dr Rusnák
7 September 2016

On 7 September, the Secretary General met with H.E. Tatoul Markarian, the Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to the Kingdom of Belgium at the Energy Charter Secretariat. Dr Rusnák informed Ambassador Markarian on the objectives and goals of the recently launched EU-funded regional energy programme – EU4Energy. The Energy Charter Secretariat is one of the EU4Energy implementing organisations and as such will be delivering the necessary assistance to Armenia within Component 3 "Legislative and regulatory assistance to six Eastern Partnership countries" until 2020.

Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Adela Raz holds talks with Secretary General Dr Rusnák
8 September 2016

On 9 September 2016, the Secretary General met with Ms Adela Raz, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. They discussed bilateral cooperation issues between Afghanistan and
the Energy Charter as well as regional energy cooperation in Central and South Asia.
The Deputy Minister highlighted the importance of energy access for sustainable
development and security in Afghanistan. She expressed her interest in the work of the
Secretariat on investment promotion and protection which would be discussed with
relevant energy authorities in Kabul.

**Energy Charter cooperates with Azerbaijan within EU4Energy Programme**
14 September 2016

On 14 September 2016, Dr Rusnák met with H.E. Fuad Isgandarov, the Ambassador of the
Republic of Azerbaijan to the Kingdom of Belgium and the Head of the Mission to the
European Union. Dr Rusnák informed Ambassador Isgandarov on the recently
launched EU-funded energy programme – EU4Energy and in particular on the specific
objective to support Azerbaijan in the implementation of recent energy policy
recommendations on a voluntary basis. Ambassador Isgandarov welcomed the role the
Energy Charter Secretariat will play within the EU4Energy programme and expressed
his full support to the inclusion of the identified important areas for support in the
EU4Energy Multi-annual Programme of work.

29 September 2016

On 27-28 September 2016, the Energy Charter Secretariat’s delegation led by the
Secretary General, Dr Urban Rusnák, participated at the 15th Ministerial Meeting of the
International Energy Forum (IEF) held in Algiers, Algeria. In his
intervention, the Secretary-General emphasised the role of the
International Energy Charter and the Energy Charter Treaty in
increasing investments in the energy sector to secure the energy transition envisaged in
the COP21 Paris agreement by providing a favourable investment framework. In a
message from H.E. Mr F. Kishida, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan and the
Chairman of Energy Charter Conference, the Japanese delegation stressed:

“It is important to deepen the discussion on global energy architecture for the future of sustainable energy in the world. On the occasion of the LNG Producer-Consumer Conference and the 27th Meeting of the Energy Charter Conference to be held in Tokyo in late November, a seminar, titled “Global Energy Architecture and its Implications in Asia” will be organised with the confirmed participation of the Head of IEF Mr Sun Xinseng; the Executive Secretary of the International Energy Agency (IEA), Dr Fatih Birol; the Secretary General of the Energy Charter, Dr Urban Rusnak; on 25 November 2016. This seminar will review this year’s discussion on global energy architecture, including the talks at this IEF Ministerial.”

On the margin of the Forum, the Secretary-General met with HE. Mr Yosuke Takagi,
State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan, H.E. Mr Mohamed Ould Abdel
Dr Michal Kurtyka, Undersecretary of State of the Ministry of Energy of Poland, H.E. Mr Kapil Dev Tripathi, Secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas of India, and many other heads of delegations.

International Energy Charter discussed at a meeting with newly-appointed Japanese Ambassador
30 September 2016

On 30 September 2016, the Energy Charter Secretary General, Dr Urban Rusnák, paid a visit to recently appointed Amb. Kazuo Kodama, the Ambassador of Japan to the European Union and Vice-Chair of the Energy Charter Conference.

Priority areas for cooperation within EU4Energy programme discussed with H.E. Ambassador Aleksandr Mikhnevich
30 September 2016

On 30 September 2016, the Energy Charter Secretary General Dr Urban Rusnák visited the Embassy of the Republic of Belarus to the Kingdom of Belgium. Dr Rusnák held a meeting with H.E. Aleksandr Mikhnevich, Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus and Head of the Mission to the European Union, to discuss ongoing cooperation activities between the International Energy Charter and the EU4Energy programme. Dr Rusnák informed Ambassador Mikhnevich on the recently launched EU-funded energy programme EU4Energy and in particular on the specific objective to support the Republic of Belarus in the process of sound elaboration and implementation of future energy policies.

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Energy Charter Secretariat's Other Activities & Events

Meeting of the Industry Advisory Panel in Prague
6 September 2016

On 6 September 2016, the Industry Advisory Panel (IAP) of the Energy Charter held its third meeting of 2016 in Prague, the Czech Republic. The meeting was hosted by ČEZ (multinational electricity entity with operations in a number of countries in Central and Southeastern Europe and Turkey, headquartered in the Czech Republic). The main theme of the meeting was: The Future of Electricity Sector—Removing Barriers and Attracting Investment.

US Department of State deepens cooperation with International Energy Charter
19 September 2016

The US Department of State has officially designated the Energy Charter Conference as an international organisation, which marks a new qualitative level of cooperation between the US Government and its agencies on one hand, and the International Energy Charter on the other. This allows, inter alia, the US
Department of State to second its officials to the Energy Charter Secretariat in Brussels to further strengthen existing ties between the two parties.

Senegal signs the International Energy Charter in Brussels
20 September 2016

The Republic of Senegal signed the International Energy Charter at the premises of the Energy Charter Secretariat in Brussels at the opening of the Investment Group meeting on 20 September 2016. The signing ceremony was attended by the Ambassador of Senegal to Belgium H.E. Mr Amadou Diop who confirmed the commitment of Senegal to the Energy Charter Process and expressed his appreciation and support to the expansion of the geographical scope of the Energy Charter Treaty.

Rwanda signs the International Energy Charter in Brussels
21 September 2016

The Republic of Rwanda signed the International Energy Charter at the premises of the Energy Charter Secretariat in Brussels at the opening of the Transit and Trade Group meeting on 21 September 2016. H.E. Olivier Jean Patrick Nduhungire, the Ambassador of Rwanda to Belgium represented the country at the signing ceremony and referred to the country’s commitment to attract investments in the energy sector.

International energy Charter enhances cooperation with ECOWAS
30 September 2016

Dr Monica Emmanuel, Nigeria-ECOWAS Coordinator at the Energy Charter Secretariat, undertook a two-week mission to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) countries the Gambia, Ghana and Nigeria, where she met and discussed extensively with all key officials. Dr Emmanuel gave a general overview of the Energy Charter Process to all key officials in the countries visited and discussed modernisation and expansion, highlighting the benefits for Africa and ECOWAS countries in becoming part of the Process.