2016 Year of the Japanese Chairmanship of the Energy Charter Conference

Tokyo Declaration
On the Energy Charter

27th Meeting,
25-26 November 2016
Tokyo, Japan

“We acknowledge that the ECT, which is a broad platform to promote international energy cooperation, has contributed to strengthening the rule of law in the energy sector through the application of legally binding rules for all participating governments, and to minimising the risks linked to cross-border trade, transit and investment in the energy sector.

Taking into account the major changes in the geopolitical situation and the increased interest in the Energy Charter from countries worldwide, we acknowledge that the adoption of the International Energy Charter in May 2015 was a great achievement for the further modernisation and globalisation of the Energy Charter Process. The signatories of the ECT reaffirmed their commitment to further promote international energy cooperation through the renewed framework.”

From the official text of the Tokyo Declaration, points 2.1 and 2.2. The full text is available in English and Russian.

Energy Charter Conference adopts the Tokyo Declaration

At its 27th Meeting held on 25 November 2016 in Tokyo, the Energy Charter Conference adopted the Tokyo Declaration on the Energy Charter (in English and Russian) with attendance of 68 countries and 9 international organisations, including 33 ministerial-level participants. It welcomed the 25th anniversary of the beginning of the Energy Charter Process and acknowledged that:

• the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) has become even more important as an instrument to provide a sound legal basis for ensuring and promoting stable and sustained investment in the energy sector;
• promoting the development and improvement of a favourable investment climate in the energy sector under the framework of the ECT and the International Energy Charter contributes to stable energy supply, energy access, increased use of clean energy and the further promotion of energy efficiency;
• the ECT has the great potential to further contribute to promoting sustainable energy at global level and to strengthening global energy security by extending the application of its legal framework to an increasing number of the countries.

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Secretary General’s Activities

President of the Slovak Republic Mr Andrej Kiska receives Secretary General Dr Rusnák in Bratislava

On Tuesday 6 December 2016, the President of the Slovak Republic, H.E. Mr Andrej Kiska received the Energy Charter Secretary General, Dr Rusnák, at the Presidential Palace in Bratislava. The Secretary General briefed the President on the achievements of
the International Energy Charter in 2016 and outlined to him the main objectives for the coming years. The Secretary General also met with Mr Štefan Rozkopál, the Head of the Office of the President of the Slovak Republic. While in Bratislava, the Secretary General also held meetings with Mr Ján Petrovič, the Director General of the Energy Section at the Ministry of Economy and Ms Andrea Holíková, the Director of the Department of Specific State Operations at the Ministry of Finance. With Mr Petrovič, the Secretary General discussed the longstanding and active engagement of the Slovak Republic in the Energy Charter Process, while the energy investment arbitration and dispute settlement under the Energy Charter Treaty were discussed with Ms Holíková.

The International Energy Charter’s role in energy security discussed at NATO Roundtable

The Energy Charter Secretary General Dr Urban Rusnák participated in the annual North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Roundtable on Energy Security on 15 December 2016. The Secretary General outlined the energy challenges in Eastern Europe and addressed the question of broad understanding of energy security (supply, demand, transit and access for final consumers). In his address, Dr Rusnák promoted the International Energy Charter as an effective instrument for energy cooperation and global energy governance.

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On 23-25 November 2016, the XI. Conference of the Iberoamerican Association on Regulatory Studies (ASIER) was held at the Pontifical Catholic University of Argentina, in Buenos Aires. The forum was attended by Argentinian ministers, executive officers, lawyers and experts from Iberoamerica. During this Conference, 120 speakers addressed different topics on economy, infrastructure, energy, utilities and public services in Iberoamerica. The relevance of the International Energy Charter was explained in three speeches:


- Dr Vicente López-Ibor, chairman of Lightsource Renewable Energy Ltd and president of Spanish energy law firm, Estudio Jurídico Internacional Lopez-Ibor Mayor & Asociados (EJI), analysed the "Balance of renewable energies in Iberoamerica" and highlighted three relevant facts featuring the global energy sector: energy decarbonisation, demand response encouraged by technology and the Energy Charter Treaty.

- Dr Margarita Nieves Zárate, former secondee to the Energy Charter Secretariat and legal expert at the National Hydrocarbons Agency of Colombia made a presentation on "Energy Integration in Latin America", emphasising the relevance of the Energy Charter Treaty for Latin America in order to attract foreign direct investments to the energy sector, including intra-regional investments, and foster cross-border energy trade.

From Iberoamerica, Spain and Portugal are member countries to the legally-binding Energy Charter Treaty of 1994. Colombia, Chile and recently Guatemala are observer countries having signed the non-legally binding political declaration International Energy Charter of 2015. As set in the Tokyo Declaration adopted in Japan on 25 November 2016, both the Energy Charter Treaty and the International Energy Charter are important instruments to enhance the rule of law and promote cooperation between...
producing, transit and consuming countries as well as universal energy access. The XII. meeting of ASIER will be held in Costa Rica in 2017.

The International Energy Charter discusses long term energy strategies with G20 under German Presidency

The International Energy Charter, represented by Sarah Keay-Bright, participated in the G20 Energy Sustainability Working Group (ESWG) and the G20 Sustainability Working Group (SWG) discussions, held on 14-15 December 2016 in Munich. The German Presidency of the G20 led the discussions focused on long-term energy strategies and investment frameworks, exploring areas for G20 cooperation. Countries discussed implementation of the Paris agreement and the United Nations (UN) 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the implications for the energy sector. The Presidency sought to identify how countries could cooperate in order to realise the energy transition in ways that are cost-efficient while supporting energy security, innovation, competitiveness, economic growth and job creation.