EN能量CHARTER CONFERENCE & ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

International Energy Charter’s third Implementation Group discusses legal issues and energy efficiency

On 11 May 2017, the Implementation Group held its third meeting at the new premises of the Energy Charter Secretariat, based in Brussels. The meeting, chaired by Vice Chair Mr. Johan Vetlesen (Norway), was orientated around energy efficiency and particular legal issues relevant to the International Energy Charter constituency. Delegates were updated on progress regarding the in-depth energy efficiency review for Kyrgyzstan currently underway, with a mission scheduled for the last week in June. Delegates also discussed the role of the International Energy Charter in relation to facilitating scale-up of energy efficiency investment. On legal issues, delegates reviewed statistics on investment cases under the Energy Charter Treaty. Delegates then considered recent work of the Secretariat on investment protection standards, best practices in regulatory reform that can help minimize potential conflicts with foreign investors and recommendations to facilitate effective implementation of investment mediation.

SECRETARY GENERAL’S ACTIVITIES

Secretary General Meets High-Level Officials in Bucharest

On 3-4 May 2017, Energy Charter Secretary General Dr Urban Rusnák held a number of meetings with high-level Government officials of Romania to discuss the priorities of the Romania Chairmanship of the Energy Charter Conference for 2018. On May 3, the Secretary General met with the Romanian Coordination team in charge of preparing the 2018 Chairmanship. Secretary General Dr Rusnák also had fruitful discussions with the Chairman and the Director of International Relations of Transgaz, I. Sterian and C. Alic, who expressed full interest in the transit and investment promotion activities being carried out by the International Energy Charter. Finally, Secretary General Rusnák met with Secretary of State, Ministry of Finance, A. György, who is in charge of coordinating the disputes of foreign investors against the government.
Tajikistan and the International Energy Charter discuss cooperation in Central Asia

On 16 May 2017, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan Mr Sirodjidin Aslov welcomed the Energy Charter Secretary General Dr Urban Rusnák at the Embassy of Tajikistan in Brussels. The Secretary General updated the Minister of ongoing activities within the International Energy Charter and focused on the bilateral issues related to the finalisation of the Investment Climate and Market Structure review of Tajikistan.

ENERGY CHARTER SECRETARIAT’S ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Mongolia hosts inaugural fact-finding mission for Energy Investment Risk Assessment 2017

From 9-11 May 2017, the Energy Charter Secretariat (ECS) conducted a fact-finding mission to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in the run-up to a new publication, the Energy Investment Risk Assessment (EIRA). This year about 10 countries are to be assessed, which will be followed by a comparative analysis. The Mongolian government hosted this first fact-finding mission, during which a number of representatives from governmental institutions and industrial organisations were interviewed.

Seminar on investment mediation takes place at the Energy Charter Secretariat

On 11 May 2017 the Energy Charter Secretariat held an interactive seminar on investment mediation to provide government officials with a practical understanding of the key issues involved in investment mediation with foreign investors and with relevant advice on how to deal with potential obstacles. The seminar gathered government officials from 15 countries from Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe, as well as the European Union.

Brussels International Energy Charter Forum - Mobilising Investments For A Sustainable Energy Future

On May 12 2017, the Energy Charter Secretariat (ECS) hosted the International Energy Charter Forum in Brussels. The event was jointly organized with Florence School of Regulation (FSR), Arbitration Institute of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce (SCC), International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), and Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA). Over 100 participants were in attendance, representing the industry, governments, legal circles, and academics. Most of them joined the local diplomatic community evening before, 11 May, for a reception to inaugurate the new premises of the International Energy Charter. The forum aimed to deliver
cutting-edge thinking and debate on policy, legal and regulatory aspects concerning the undergoing transition towards a sustainable energy model. From different and complementary angles, the five institutions co-organising the forum participate in the promotion and protection of energy investment and in the analysis and policy dialogue on energy markets.

**The Republic of Mali Joins the International Energy Charter**

The Republic of Mali has joined the International Energy Charter following its signature by H.E. Ambassador Sekou Goussou CISSE in a ceremony held in Brussels on 12 May 2017 at the Secretariat in Brussels. The Netherlands, depository of the International Energy Charter, and the Secretary General Dr Urban Rusnák welcomed the 14th African State to have signed the International Energy Charter.

**International Energy Charter contributes to the Conference on EU-Central Asia Cooperation**

The Conference “EU-Central Asia: Reaching Sustainable Development Goals” was organized by the Permanent Representation of the Slovak Republic to the EU and the Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan in Belgium on 18 May 2017. The aim of the Conference was to discuss the challenges of sustainable development in Central Asia with a focus on Tajikistan and identify possible ways for enhanced cooperation between the EU and Central Asia.

**EU28 Energy Diplomacy meeting takes place in Budapest**

On the 29 May, 2017 in Budapest Hungary, the International Energy Charter’s role in Global Energy Governance was presented for EU28 diplomats at the European External Actions Service (EEAS) 7th Energy Diplomacy meeting. Energy Charter Secretary General Dr Urban Rusnák presented on the topics of modernisation and the Diplomatic Dialogues initiative.

**Ashgabat International Energy Charter Forum - Towards a Multilateral Framework Agreement on Transit of Energy Resources**

On 30-31 May 2017, the Government of Turkmenistan and International Energy Charter jointly organised the Ashgabat International Energy Charter Forum in Turkmenistan on the topic of “Towards a Multilateral Framework Agreement on Transit of Energy Resources”. Over 100 participants including Ministers, high-level officials and leading experts from member and observer countries of the International Energy Charter, international organisations, energy companies and research institutions participated in the Forum.
EU4Energy Governance to draft an Energy Saving and Energy Efficiency law of Azerbaijan

On 4 May 2017, the Inaugural meeting of the Inter-Ministerial working group met to discuss a draft Energy Saving and Energy Efficiency law of Azerbaijan. The meeting was organised by the Energy Charter Secretariat within the implementation of EU4Energy Governance programme for Azerbaijan. The Inter-Ministerial working group is chaired by Mr. G. Javadov, Deputy Minister of Energy. The EU4Energy Programme is an EU-funded energy programme in the countries of the Eastern Partnership and Central Asia (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan). Within EU4Energy Governance, the Energy Charter Secretariat is providing technical assistance to Armenia, Azerbaijan and Belarus.

Armenia hosts EU4Energy mission for Energy Investment Risk Assessment 2017

From 22 to 24 May 2017 the Energy Charter Secretariat (ECS) conducted a fact-finding mission to Armenia to assess the investment climate in the country’s energy sector. This mission was undertaken in the run-up to a new publication, the Energy Investment Risk Assessment (EIRA), and in the context of Armenia’s participation in the EU4Energy Programme. A priority in 2017 is to enhance Armenia’s investment climate by providing support to the identification of existing legal and regulatory investment risks.

Deputy Minister of Energy of Azerbaijan, Mr Gülmamed Javadov

“I am grateful for the successful start of the cooperation with the Energy Charter Secretariat within the frameworks of the EU4Energy Project for Azerbaijan. The Ministry of Energy of Azerbaijan appreciates this mission of the Energy Charter Secretariat as a good start for the practical cooperation for the EU4Energy Programme. We hope that this cooperation will be efficiently continued as well for another project envisaged by the joint Programme of Work for 2017 for assistance on the Energy Strategy development.”

*The EU4Energy Programme is implemented with the financial assistance of the European Union