2017 Year of the Turkmen Chairmanship of the Energy Charter Conference

Quotes

“As energy and resources are major traded commodities, diplomacy in these areas plays a key role in free trade and investment promotion. In light of this perspective, Japan will pursue investment protection and business environment improvement through international frameworks including the “Energy Charter Treaty (ECT),” a multilateral investment protection treaty in the field of energy. Last year, I had the honor of serving as the Chairman of the Energy Charter Conference held in Tokyo. The Conference drew delegates from 74 countries, the highest rate of participation ever, and I witnessed the adoption of the Tokyo Declaration. I also believe that, in order to promote free trade of energy, it is important for Japan to take the initiative in creating a more liquid and transparent LNG market.”


SECRETARY GENERAL’S ACTIVITIES

The Government of Lithuania welcomes cooperation with the International Energy Charter

On Tuesday 4 July 2017, the Energy Charter Secretary General Dr Urban Rusnák was welcomed in the Republic of Lithuania where he met with the Minister of Energy Mr Zygimantas Vaičiūnas. Dr Rusnák thanked the Minister for Lithuania’s continued support and contribution to the Energy Charter Process and extended to him a personal invitation to participate in the upcoming Ministerial Session of the 29th Energy Charter Conference in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan in November 2017. The purpose of the visit was to discuss the topic of the International Energy Charter modernisation process, and to exchange views on general energy related issues in the region.

The Secretary General met with Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Neris Germanas to discuss energy security and the Energy Charter Diplomatic Dialogues. The Diplomatic Dialogues aim to involve energy experts and diplomats with the purpose of fostering closer cooperation and communication between high level officials of energy consuming, producing and transit countries. Dr Rusnák thanked Mr Germanas and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for nominating energy diplomat Mr Aidas Rimkevičius for secondment assignment at the Energy Charter Secretariat in order to help facilitate the Energy Charter Diplomatic Dialogues.

Constructive talks with Dominique Ristori -Director General for Energy at the European Commission

On 6 July 2017, Energy Charter Secretary General Dr Urban Rusnák and Director General for Energy at the European Commission Dominique Ristori, held a constructive discussion on international cooperation and energy investment. They recognised that a multilateral dialogue and trust in the energy sector needs to be encouraged and developed.

The International Energy Charter is contributing to these objectives by attracting new observer countries from Africa and The Gulf, and with the active participation of major energy players such as China, Iran and Nigeria.

Moreover, EU4Energy is a regional programme where the Energy Charter Secretariat provides technical assistance to Armenia, Azerbaijan and Belarus. Extending cooperation to the Caspian region is facilitated by the fact that the EU and Central Asian countries are contracting parties to the Energy Charter Treaty. Dr Rusnák stressed the ongoing process of modernisation that includes a reflection on reviewing the Energy Charter Treaty of 1994. Director General Ristori expressed his full support for the goals and the role of the International Energy Charter, which is more important than ever, he said.
High level meetings held on the margins of the World Petroleum Congress in Istanbul

On 9-13 July 2017, during the 22nd World Petroleum Congress in Istanbul, Energy Charter Secretary General Dr Urban Rusnák met with Deputy Minister of Iran for Trade and International Affairs Mr Amir Zamaninia to discuss the next steps of cooperation between the Energy Charter Secretariat and Iran following its signing of the International Energy Charter in November 2016.

Dr Rusnák also held a meeting with Ambassador H.E. Emre Yunt from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey to discuss the modernisation of the Energy Charter Treaty and new initiatives for dialogue between energy diplomats under the umbrella of the International Energy Charter. The Secretary General also attended a reception organised by H.E. Mr Berat Albayrak, Minister of Energy of Turkey, where Ministers from Africa and the Middle East were present to discuss the future challenges in the rapidly evolving energy sector.

The World Petroleum Congress addresses global energy strategies

On 12 July 2017, during the 22nd World Petroleum Congress in Istanbul, Energy Charter Secretary General Dr Urban Rusnák chaired the session “Global Midstream Strategies” with executives from India’s Oil Corporation, BOTAS, Sonatrach and CLH Group.

Dr Rusnák had the opportunity to meet with the Minister of Energy from Israel, Dr Yuval Steinitz, to discuss Israel’s energy ambitions in the eastern Mediterranean and the relevance of the role of the International Energy Charter. A meeting was also held with the Ministry of Energy of Turkey to discuss future cooperation initiatives and the modernisation of the Energy Charter Treaty.

ENERGY CHARTER SECRETARIAT’S ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Ukraine hosts fact-finding mission for Energy Investment Risk Assessment 2017

On 4-5 July 2017, the Energy Charter Secretariat(ECS) conducted a fact-finding mission to Kiev, Ukraine in the run-up to a new publication of the International Energy Charter, the Energy Investment Risk Assessment (EIRA). This year about 10 countries are to be assessed within the scope of the EIRA publication, which will be followed by a comparative analysis. The Ukrainian government hosted this fact-finding mission, during which a number of representatives from governmental institutions and industrial organisations were interviewed.

The EIRA, which is now in a pilot stage, aims at identifying risks for the energy sector, comparing countries’ risk profiles and proposing mitigating measures. By this new publication the Energy Charter Secretariat will contribute to lowering investment risks and eliminating barriers for scaling up investments in energy-

International Energy Charter in Global Medias

UAE joins International Energy Charter as observer
Emirates 24/7, 2 July 2017

“Energy’s real winners: Adopters of unique technologies”
Anadolu Agency, 13 July 2017

Ashgabat Process and Energy Charter Forum 2017
Weekly Election Times
Islamabad, 7 July 2017

Vacancies

Fellowship Programme: Investment

As a continuation of the pilot project on energy investment risk assessment the research fellow will assist the Secretariat in the preparation of a preliminary publication providing the assessment of legal and regulatory investment risks in the energy sector in selected countries.

Interested candidates who fit the eligibility criteria as indicated in the Terms of Reference are invited to send their applications for, together with their CV and a cover letter, to

fellowship@encharter.org
by 31 August 2017 (17:00 Brussels time).
related projects. The EIRA pilot publication will be presented during the Energy Charter Conference on 28-29 November 2017 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

**Energy Charter Secretariat conducts high level working meetings in Jordan**

On 9-10 July 2017, the Energy Charter Secretariat conducted a working visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, an Arab country currently progressing along the path of accession to the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT). Jordan is an observer to the Energy Charter Conference, having signed the International Energy Charter political declaration at a ministerial level summit in The Hague, the Netherlands, in May 2015. It has also signed the European Energy Charter Declaration of 1991 and has completed the relevant technical procedures in order to accede to the ECT. The Jordanian Parliament is due to hold a session on the ECT in the near future, following which it is expected that the ECT will be ratified by the Kingdom.

During a two-day working visit, Energy Charter Secretariat Official Dr Marat Tertterov was received by H.E. Saleh Al-Kharabsheh, Ph.D, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources of Jordan, with whom he discussed the status of Jordan’s ratification of the ECT. The Energy Charter Secretariat Official also held working meetings with Engineer Ziad Jibril Sabra, Assistant Secretary General of the Ministry of Energy, and Engineer Ziad Obeidat, Director of the Development Plans and Programs Department, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. Technical cooperation between Jordan and the Energy Charter Secretariat, as well as Jordan’s prevailing energy sector challenges were the main topics discussed with these officials.

**Mr Jambulat Sarsenov re-appointed as Special Envoy**

On the 10 July 2017, the Energy Charter Secretariat received formal conformation that Mr Jambulat Sarsenov has been re-appointed as Special Envoy of the Energy Charter Secretary General Dr Urban Rusnák. Mr Sarsenov, is Vice Chairman of the KAZENERGY Association and previously served as Vice-Chairman of the Energy Charter Conference in 2013 and 2014.

Mr Sarsenov has over twenty years of experience in the oil and gas industry. He is a member of the Kazakhstan National Committee of the World Petroleum Council and the World Energy Council. Prior to joining KAZENERGY in 2005, Mr Sarsenov held senior positions in the National Company “Transportation of Oil and Gas”, National Company “KazMunayGas”, National Company “Trade House “KazMunayGas” and the Kazakh-Russian company “KazRosGas”. Mr Sarsenov graduated from the Diplomatic Academy majoring in “International Relations”, underwent advanced training in “Master of Petroleum Businesses”, and has a number of scientific publications.

**The Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization visits the Secretariat**

On 11 July 2017, a delegation from the Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization (GEIDCO) visited the Energy Charter Secretariat in Brussels in order to explore avenues of cooperation between GEIDCO and the International Energy Charter. GEIDCO, is a China based organisation that supports firms and institutions in order to promote the sustainable development of energy on a large scale.
The GEIDCO delegation was headed by Dr Zheng Zhanghua, Representative of the GEIDCO-EU office and had a particularly strong interest in the role of the Energy Charter Treaty in energy investment and cross border energy infrastructure connectivity. This can be seen by the fact that the Energy Charter Treaty is the only multilateral framework covering all activities with no geographical restrictions.

Energy Charter Assistant Secretary General Dr Masami Nakata and experts in energy Transit and Investment welcomed the delegation to discuss specific initiatives for further cooperation.

The Secretariat attends SADC high-level meetings in Swaziland

In the context of the EU Technical Assistance Facility for SE4All Initiative, the Energy Charter Secretariat accepted an invitation to participate in the “SADC High-Level Ministerial Workshop and Energy Investment Forum” that took place on 12-13 July 2017 in Swaziland, the country that currently holds the SADC Chairmanship. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) is a Regional Economic Community comprising of 15 Member States in Southern Africa dedicated to development, peace, security, and economic growth.

The meetings were attended by Ministers from the region, international cooperating partners, International Organisations and private investors. Major contributors to the SADC meetings were the European Commission, the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland, the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the Development Bank of Southern Africa.

Swaziland signed the International Energy Charter and aims to become a contracting party to the Energy Charter Treaty. This reflects the country’s determination to embrace common standards on investment promotion and protection, cross-border trade, transit and energy efficiency.