ENERGY CHARTER CONFERENCE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Meetings of the Implementation Group and the Budget Committee held on 14 and 15 September 2017

Implementation Group held its fourth meeting at the Energy Charter Secretariat in Brussels. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Sergey Katyshev (Kazakhstan). The Implementation Group collected input for the Ashgabat Declaration, which is expected to be adopted at the Energy Charter Conference in Turkmenistan, 28-29 November 2017. Next day, on 15 September 2017, the Budget Committee held its second meeting at the Energy Charter Secretariat and discussed the Programme of work and budget for 2018—2019, Auditor’s report and Financial Statements.

INDUSTRY ADVISORY PANEL

Industry Advisory Panel discusses de-risking investment in renewable energy

On Thursday 14 September 2017, in partnership with WindEurope, the Energy Charter Industry Advisory Panel (IAP) conducted its 40th meeting at the Energy Charter Secretariat in Brussels. The meeting was attended by a large number of members and energy experts. The Panel discussed particularly investment, investment protection and dispute resolution in renewable energy sector.

The 41st session of the Industry Advisory Panel held in Beijing

On 28 September 2017 the Industry Advisory Panel (IAP) of the International Energy Charter held its 41st meeting in Beijing, China. The meeting was hosted by the Electric Power Planning & Engineering Institute (EPPEI). The Beijing IAP meeting was attended by over 120 participants from Chinese and international energy companies, associations, international organisations and governments making this particular meeting the largest IAP session since the inception of the Panel in 2005. The participants discussed “Promoting Energy Integration and Infrastructure Interconnection in Asia”.

SECRETARY GENERAL’S ACTIVITIES

Energy Charter Secretary General holds high-level bilateral meetings in Astana

Energy Charter Secretary General Dr. Urban Rusnák held a number of bilateral meetings with high-level officials from the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) Contracting Parties. During the meeting with Mr. Kimmo Tiilikainen, Minister of Housing, Energy and Environment of Finland, he briefed the Minister on the current status of the Energy Charter Process, ongoing modernisation and upcoming 28th session of the Energy Charter Conference in Ashgabat. Dr. Rusnák also met with the newly appointed Minister of Energy of Georgia Mr. Ilia Eloshvili.
to exchange on the existing Energy Charter instruments, mediation, and challenges related to infrastructure projects in Eurasia. At the meeting with the Vice-Minister of Energy of Kazakhstan Mr. Bakytzhan Jaxaliev, parties discussed the Energy Charter modernisation process, upcoming events, and the role of the Energy Charter Secretariat in the implementation of the EU Strategy for Central Asia. Cooperation pattern between the Eurasian Economic Commission and the International Energy Charter were discussed during the meeting with Mr. Leonid Shenets, Director of Energy Department of the Commission.

German Institute for International and Security Affairs, hosts Expert Talks on Global Energy Challenges

Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (the German Institute for International and Security Affairs, SWP) hosted Expert Talks on the topic of Global Energy Challenges on 12-13 September 2017 in Berlin. The panel was packed with experts ranging from IEA, the German Ministry of Economic Affairs, European Commission, Energy Charter Secretariat, and industry leaders such as BP, Volkswagen, Wingas, and ENAGAS. The conference explored ways to adapt and encourage sustainable energy development in the transport, manufacturing and electricity generation sectors.

Energy Charter Secretary General Dr Urban Rusnák presented on the historic evolution and expansion of the Energy Charter Process. He articulated how the Energy Charter Treaty can provide solutions for the future global energy transition by providing protection for new investments worldwide. Later in the day, the Secretary General visited the German Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy to consult about the current affairs and the progress on the Modernization.

ENERGY CHARTER SECRETARIAT’S ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

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International Energy Charter participates in the XI Kazenergy Eurasian Forum


The International Energy Charter also co-organised a special session on "Integration of Energy Markets - Challenges and Prospects" in cooperation with the Resident Office of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in Kazakhstan. The aim of the session was to facilitate discussions on current trends in regional energy cooperation and integration with a special focus on the developments in the European Union and the Eurasian Economic Union. The session, chaired by the Vice-Minister of Energy Mr Mirzagaliev, provided a platform for exchange of opinions on the challenges and perspectives of integrating energy markets in Eurasia.

Chad’s National Development Plan

The Roundtable on Financing the National Development Plan of Chad 2017-2021, was held from the 6th to 8th of September in Paris. The roundtable was chaired by H.E. Idris Deby, President of the Republic of Chad, and was attended by Mr.
Edouard Philippe, Prime Minister of France, as well as several heads of states, officials, international delegations, and representatives of international development and investment banks. Chad raised more than $20 billion at this roundtable. Energy Charter Secretary General Dr Urban Rusnak was invited to the Paris roundtable by the Minister of Economy and Development Planning Mr Ngueto Tiraina Yambaye. He was represented by the Expansion Coordinator Dr Ernesto Bonafe, who discussed about the ECT accession process with the Minister of Mines and Geology Mr Youssouf Abassalah, the Deputy Secretary General Mr Lwalaba Digali and the Director of Electricity and Energy Planning Mr Adoum Orze.

The energy committee of the Jordanian Parliament visits the Energy Charter Secretariat

On 11-12 September 2017, two members of the Parliament of the Kingdom of Jordan visited the Energy Charter Secretariat in order to benefit from a sequence of in-depth and specialised briefings on the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT). The two visiting Jordanian MPs - H.E. Ali Alkhalaileh and H.E. Haitham Alzaidin – were the respective Chairman and Rapporteur of the Parliament’s Energy Committee. The Jordanian delegation also included a Parliamentary administrator and diplomat from the Jordanian Mission to the EU in Brussels. Jordan is in an advanced stage of ECT ratification with the government already having made its endorsements and sent the dossier to the national parliament for further scrutiny.

Energy Charter Treaty stakeholders consultation workshop in Swaziland

A stakeholders consultation workshop on accession to the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) took place on 12-13 September 2017 in Ezulwini, Swaziland. The three accession reports on investment climate, harmonisation of laws, and energy efficiency, were discussed with a wide range of stakeholders from ministries, government authorities, industry, and the private sector. Presentations were made by Energy Charter Secretariat experts and senior officials of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy who had been seconded to the Secretariat in Brussels.

Key aspects discussed included energy market structure and sector regulation, regional energy market integration, investment protection standards, national and international judicial remedies, international and domestic law, investment arbitration, the relevance of case law, local content, and price controls. Energy efficiency was also extensively discussed, including a draft national policy on energy efficiency.

Energy Charter Secretariat contributes to high level energy debate in the United Arab Emirates

On 18-19 September 2017, the International Energy Charter made a speaker contribution to the high level Gulf Energy Markets Forum, which took place in the Emirate of Fujairah, UAE, in the presence of his highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Mohammed Al Sharqi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Fujairah. Addressing the Forum on behalf of the International Energy Charter, Knowledge Centre Principal Coordinator, Dr Marat Tertrov, chaired a high level policy debate on the topic of ‘whether India will overtake China as the new partner of choice for the Middle Eastern energy sector’. Dr Tertrov also took the occasion of his invitation to address the forum in order to hold meetings with senior UAE energy officials.
The EU and Central Asia discuss energy cooperation

On 25 September 2017, the Energy Charter Secretariat organised the second coordination meeting on the EU strategy for Central Asia. The meeting was attended by the Ambassadors of Central Asia and representatives of the European Union, including the European External Action Service and DG Energy. The participants of the meeting supported the initiative of the Secretariat to contribute to the consultation process initiated by the European Union to revise the priorities of the EU Strategy for Central Asia. The representatives of the Embassies of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan reconfirmed their interest in enhancing energy cooperation with the European Union. They stressed the importance of trilateral cooperation of the EU, Central Asia and the Secretariat.

International Energy Charter establishes Research Centre in Beijing

On 27 September 2017, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Energy Charter Secretariat (ECS) and the China Electricity Council (CEC) on the creation of the International Energy Charter-China Electricity Council Joint Research Centre. The establishment of the Research Centre is to be considered as a new milestone in the relationship between the International Energy Charter and China, after the country signed the International Energy Charter in 2015 and thereby became observer to the Energy Charter Conference.

The main purpose of the Research Centre is to deepen and share the knowledge of the International Energy Charter through research and public activities. Mr Yang Kun, Executive President of the CEC, and Ms Masami Nakata, Assistant-Secretary General of the Energy Charter Secretariat, emphasized that the Research Centre will promote the International Energy Charter and will serve China and the whole Asian region.

Expert and Stakeholders Meeting on standardisation of LNG contracts

The International Energy Charter hosted a workshop on potential standardisation of LNG contracts on 29 September 2017. The participants of the LNG workshop discussed an initial report on potential standardisation of LNG agreements.

Several industry representatives, experts and government officials discussed existing problems and gaps regarding LNG contracts. The revised report will be discussed by the Energy Charter Contracting Parties and Observers at the next Implementation Group meeting on 19 October to consider whether to continue this work on standardisation in 2018-2019.