ENERGY CHARTER CONFERENCE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

28th Meeting of the Energy Charter Conference
Jointly organised by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan and the Energy Charter Secretariat

The Energy Charter Conference will hold its 28th Meeting on 28-29 November 2017 in Ashgabat under the Chairmanship of Turkmenistan. The Meeting will be held in two Sessions over one and half days. The half day Statutory Session will be held on Tuesday, 28 November, and the full day Ministerial Session will be held on Wednesday, 29 November.

On 29 November the Ministerial Session will be open to all Observers, international organisations, and the private sector. The theme of the Ministerial Session will be “Mobilising investment for sustainable energy future and diversified transportation routes”. In the first part of the Ministerial Session ministers and heads of delegation of Members and Observers of the Energy Charter Conference as well as CEOs of energy industry enterprises will address this theme. The second part of the Ministerial Session will allow for representatives of international organisations to present their views.

SECRETARY GENERAL’S ACTIVITIES

Secretary General promotes ECT to facilitate FDI at COP23

On 16 November 2017, Energy Charter Secretary General Dr. Urban Rusnák addressed delegates of the high-level segment of COP23 of UNFCC in Bonn. In his statement, Dr Urban Rusnák, promoted the Energy Charter Treaty as a valuable multilateral and legally-binding instrument that could help mobilise the large flows of foreign direct investment (FDI) that countries need to meet their Paris Agreement commitments. The Treaty helps governments provide the long-term and predictable legal framework that survives election cycles and gives industry and investors the reassurance they need.

Through the rule of law in cross-border trade, transit and investment of energy, the Treaty strongly promotes open, competitive and liquid markets as well as energy efficiency – offering a clear route to an affordable energy transition. As the Treaty could be more effective if better adapted for the future and with larger membership, the Secretary General encouraged delegates to participate in upcoming discussions regarding modernisation of the Energy Charter Treaty.

Azerbaijan Minister of Energy visits Energy Charter Secretariat

On 17 November 2017, the Energy Charter Secretary General Dr Urban Rusnák met with H.E. Parviz Shahbazov, Minister of Energy of Azerbaijan and H.E. Fuad Isgandarov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Belgium. The Secretary General informed the Minister on the ongoing processes within the Energy Charter and

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the discussion on the modernization of the Energy Charter Treaty, including its transit and investment protection provisions. Minister Shahbazov acknowledged the value of the Energy Charter and in particular welcomed the role the Secretariat plays within the EU4Energy initiative. He confirmed Azerbaijan’s commitment to continue and strengthen the dialogue with the Secretariat in the areas of investment promotion and protection and energy efficiency.

**International Energy Charter discussed in St. Petersburg**

Modernisation of the International Energy Charter as an element of global energy transformation effort has been discussed in depth at the X International Scientific Conference - ENERGETIKA XXI — in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation. Energy Charter Secretary General Dr. Urban Rusnák presented to the audience recent achievements of the modernisation and expansion of the International Energy Charter.

One of the key features of the Energy Charter Treaty, investment protection, is set to play a pivotal role in reducing risks of private foreign investment in the energy sector. With its newly developed Energy Investment Risk Assessment initiative (EIRA), the Energy Charter Secretariat is contributing to better governance in the energy sector of participating countries. Contracting Parties to the Energy Charter Treaty (1994), the single most used international investment agreement worldwide according to the UNCTAD, are considering to open a discussion on its possible adaptation for better serving its Members during the ongoing global energy transition.

**Armenian Prime Minister meets with Energy Charter Secretary General**

On 8 November 2017, Energy Charter Secretary General Dr. Urban Rusnák conducted several bilateral meetings with high-level representatives of the Armenian government. Jointly with Armenian Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan, Dr. Rusnák opened the solar power plant, called Talin 1, in Armenia’s Aragatsotn region. This project was made possible by joint national and foreign investors.

Following the opening, a bilateral meeting took place where the Secretary General and Prime Minister Karapetyan discussed the benefits of the Energy Charter Treaty in relation to attracting foreign investment. Dr. Rusnák presented the Prime Minister the Energy Investment Risk Assessment of Armenia, which shows the robustness of Armenia’s investment climate from a policy, legal and regulatory perspective.

**Secretary General speaks at the Turkmenistan International Oil & Gas Conference**

Energy Charter Secretary General Dr. Urban Rusnák is participating in the 22nd Turkmenistan International Oil & Gas Conference (OGT) which takes place in Ashgabat on 2-3 November 2017. OGT is a leading regional and international event that brings together top-level leaders to discuss key issues of international energy cooperation and global energy security. Dr Rusnák contributed to the plenary session of the Conference on the role of the International Energy Charter in shaping the strategies for the future of energy. He especially focused on the major achievements of Turkmenistan as the Chair of the Energy Charter Conference in 2017.
New flagship publication presented to European Commission and Investment Banks

On 8 November 2017 the Energy Charter Conference welcomed the first Energy Charter Energy Investment Risk Assessment (EIRA) Report, being the outcome of a pilot undertaken by the Energy Charter Secretariat with the aim to assist governments in shaping a better investment climate for investment in their energy sectors. To this end the EIRA Report identifies policy, regulatory and legal risks. It highlights strengths of countries and shows areas for improvement.

Organised by the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Energy on 14 November the concept of this new EIRA flagship publication was presented by Energy Charter Secretary General Dr Urban Rusnák and his EIRA team, led by Senior Investment Expert David Kramer, to Director-General for Energy Dominique Ristori and representatives of the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

Turkmenistan hosts 14th Meeting on Regional Energy Cooperation (RECA)

The 14th meeting of the Energy Charter Task Force on Regional Energy Cooperation in Central and South Asia (RECA) is being held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan on 7-8 November. The meeting is organised by the International Energy Charter in cooperation with the Ministry of Energy of Turkmenistan and USAID Energy Links project.

This regional event brings together representatives of the Ministries and System Operators from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The meeting is also attended by the regional organisations such as CDC “Energiya” and Executive Committee of CIS Electric Power Council as well as international organisations including USAID, the World Bank, EBRD and the EU.

Investment Arbitration Masterclass held at the Energy Charter Secretariat

The Energy Charter Secretariat Knowledge Centre hosted another impressive intake of young professionals in Executive Energy Training Program No.11 during three action packed days from 6-8 November, 2017. As reflected by the title of this particular sequence of the training, this was truly an ‘investment arbitration masterclass’. This intensive three day exercise in knowledge transfer focused on providing budding arbitrators, legal councils and a host of energy professionals with hands of training about the rules and intricacies of international arbitration processes. The course also included practical information about how to quantify and assess damages.

The training modules were delivered by leading specialists from, inter alia, damages and forensic experts from Navigant (a London City firm specialising in this area), and legal counsels from the Permanent Court of Arbitration and the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce Arbitration Institute.

The November 2017 Masterclass is the 11th training course for young professionals organized by the Energy Charter Secretariat since the inception of
participants from scores of countries from across the world have graduated from the trainings since that time.

**International Energy Charter continues to build cooperation with Iran**

On 31 October - 1 November 2017, the Energy Charter Secretariat conducted a Mission to Iran at the invitation of the Iranian government. Knowledge Centre Coordinator, Dr Marat TERTEROV, travelled to Iran in order to make preparations for Iran’s participation in the 28th Annual Energy Charter Conference due to be held in Ashgabad, Turkmenistan at the end of November 2017.

**Energy Charter Secretariat takes part in the 7th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable**

The Energy Charter Secretariat participated in discussions during the Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER7) attended by Ministers, Vice Ministers, heads of International Organisations and industry leaders. The Roundtable was organised in three plenary sessions: Oil markets - investment and security challenges in a world in transition; Natural Gas - Market and policy hurdles to the golden age of gas; and Disruptive Technologies and Energy Future - Impacts challenges and preparation.

**INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CHARTER FOR EU4ENERGY**

**EU4Energy High-level Conference on Energy Efficiency in Armenia**

On 8 November 2017 in Yerevan Armenia, EU4Energy put on a high-level conference on unlocking the energy efficiency potential of Armenia’s residential and public buildings. The conference was co-organised by the Directorate-General of Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG-NEAR) of the European Commission, the Energy Charter Secretariat and the International Energy Agency in close cooperation with the EU Delegation in Armenia and hosted by the Ministry of Energy Infrastructures and Natural Resources of Armenia. Energy Charter Secretary General Dr. Urban Rusnák opened the event alongside with Mr. Lawrence Meredith, Director Neighbourhood East of DG NEAR, and the Deputy Minister Mr. Hayk Harutyunyan. Overall, more than 100 representatives from government institutions, donor organisations, international financial institutions, the private and public sectors, as well as technical experts from NGOs and academia took part in the event.

*Funded under the EU4Energy Initiative of the European Union*