SECRETARY GENERAL’S ACTIVITIES

The Future Global Energy Security

Energy Charter Secretary-General Dr Urban Rusnák was invited by the Secretary-General of the International Energy Forum (IEF), H.E. Sun Xiansheng, to attend the 16th Ministerial Meeting from 10-12 April 2018 in New Delhi. The theme of the Forum was “The Future of Global Energy Security: Transition, Technology, Trade and Investment”. In his inaugural address, Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi outlined the four pillars of the energy sector: energy access, energy efficiency, sustainable energy and energy security.

The importance of a global energy dialogue has never been higher than at the present moment when so many uncertainties surround the energy market. A global architecture calls for institutional coordination to promote synergies and avoid overlaps. Hence the importance to outline the specific added value of the International Energy Charter to promote stable, transparent and fair investment frameworks that enhance a level playing field and the rule of law in the energy sector.

The Global Energy Transition is discussed in Berlin

The Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue 2018 kicked off on the 17th of April for a two-day conference on viable concepts for the ongoing transformation of the global energy sector. High-level participants and state ministers from around the world were in attendance. Energy Charter Secretary-General Dr Urban Rusnák met with African Union Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, Dr Amani Abou-Zeid, to brief on the progress of the Energy Charter CONEXO policy and preparation for upcoming events such as the Nigeria National Energy Summit in Abuja in July 2018. Later, Dr Rusnák visited the German Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy for a consultation with the Director General of National and European Energy Policy, Dr Cristoph Reichle.

ENERGY CHARTER SECRETARIAT’S ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Engaging with Contracting Parties and Observers in New Delhi

During the IEF Ministerial Meeting on 10-12 April 2018, the Secretary-General Dr Urban Rusnák accompanied by the Head of Expansion Unit Ernesto Bonafé, held side meetings with Contracting Parties and Observers on current issues such as the accession process, modernisation of the Energy Charter Treaty, the project on Energy Investment Risk Assessment (EIRA) and participation in the Subsidiary body working groups and in the annual Meeting of the
Energy Charter Conference that will be hosted at the end of November by the chairman Romania.

Reconnecting with former Observer and outreach Countries

When the status of Observer by invitation expired at the end of 2016, there was the possibility to keep the observer status by signing the new International Energy Charter. The International Energy Forum Ministerial Meeting on 10-12 April 2018 in New Delhi offered the opportunity to reconnect with former Observer by invitations. To this end, Secretary-General Dr Urban Rusnák and Ernesto Bonafé (Head of Expansion Unit) held bilateral meetings with H.E. Mustapha Guïtouni, Minister for Energy of Algeria; H.E. Tarek El Molla, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources of Egypt; H.E. Hachem Hmidi, Secretary of State in Charge of Mines of Tunisia.

International Energy Charter activities in 2018 discussed with Romanian Chairmanship

During the Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue 2018, Energy Charter Secretary-General Dr Urban Rusnák met with H.E. Anton Anton, Romanian Minister of Energy to discuss priorities of the Romanian Chairmanship of the Energy Charter Conference in 2018. The Secretary-General briefed on preparations for the International Energy Forum on the 6-7 June and for the 29th Energy Charter Conference which will be held on 27-28 November 2018. On the same day, a Romanian Delegation travelled to the Secretariat to discuss progress regarding the current Chairmanship of the Conference. The topics discussed included the final preparations for the International Energy Charter Forum based on the theme; Energy efficiency: A priority in combating energy poverty and providing access to affordable energy services for all. Energy efficiency and tackling energy poverty has become the priority for Romania’s Chairmanship and will also be the focus in November when Bucharest hosts the 29th Energy Charter Conference.

Turkey Ratifies the Trade Amendment

On May 29, 2017, the Government of the Republic of Turkey ratified the Trade Amendment to the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT). On 13 April 2018, the Energy Charter Secretariat received official communication from the Depository, Portugal, informing that on the 3rd November 2017, the Republic of Turkey deposited its instrument of ratification. As stipulated in Article 42 paragraph 4 of the ECT, amendments to it shall enter into force on the ninetieth day after the deposit of its instrument of ratification. Therefore, the Trade Amendment has entered into force for Turkey on the 1st February 2018.

Energy Charter Secretariat contributes to ECO Foreign Ministers’ dialogue

On 17 April 2018, the Energy Charter Secretariat participated in the 23rd Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) which was hosted by the government of Tajikistan in Dushanbe. The ECO is an international organisation comprised of ten countries in the Eurasian region, namely Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan,
In-Depth Review of the Energy Efficiency Policy of Kyrgyzstan (2017). An in-depth review of the energy efficiency policy of Kyrgyzstan was conducted in 2017 and published in 2018. This review report has been prepared by the Energy Charter Secretariat in cooperation with the country’s State Committee on Industry, Energy and Subsoil.


Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Eight of these ten countries are also full members of the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT), while the remaining two – Iran and Pakistan – are both ECT observers. ECO encourages the development of a diversity of interstate economic projects and, like the International Energy Charter, is a major proponent of regional cooperation.

A delegation from China visits the Energy Charter Secretariat

On 20 April 2017, a delegation from the Electric Power Planning & Engineering Institute (EPPEI) visited the Energy Charter Secretariat in Brussels. EPPEI is entrusted by the Chinese National Energy Administration (NEA) to carry out tasks such as researching international organisations to evaluate their importance to China’s policy objectives. Currently, EPPEI is drafting a research report on energy organisations that will include the International Energy Charter, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the International Energy Agency (IEA).

Mr Qiuye XIE, President of EPPEI, was welcomed by Energy Charter Secretary-General Dr Urban Rusnák who provided an introduction and expanded upon the positive relationship that exists between the two organisations. The Secretary-General briefed on the ongoing work at the Secretariat and elaborated on the current stage of the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) modernisation process, on work related to China in the consolidation and expansion (CONEXO) unit and was updated on the Energy Investment Risk Assessment (EIRA). They also spoke at length about the ECT dispute settlement mechanism and the investment protection mechanism.

EPPEI expressed that the research report will be submitted to the National Energy Administration, and will be used as an important guideline for the government’s decision on the cooperation between China and the International Energy Charter.

The Eurasian Economic Commission visits the Energy Charter Secretariat

On 26 April 2018, a delegation of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) visited the Energy Charter Secretariat in Brussels. The Eurasian Economic Commission is the permanent regulatory body of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) which brings together the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Russian Federation. Energy Charter Secretary-General Dr Urban Rusnák welcomed the delegation and briefed on the International Energy Charter, work of the Secretariat on the Energy Investment Risk Assessment (EIRA) project and the current stage of the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) modernisation process. Mr Leonid Shenets, Director of the Energy Department of the ECC, explained the ongoing work of the Commission regarding the integration of energy markets of member countries. Taking into account overlapping membership and common energy challenges, the need for a regular exchange of information and deeper cooperation between two organisations was stressed.

The EIRA fact-finding missions in Kenya and Senegal

The fourth fact-finding mission of 2018 for the Energy Charter Secretariat’s Energy Investment Risk Assessment (EIRA) project took place in Nairobi, Kenya from 25-27 April 2018. In line with the scope of the EIRA project, the mission’s goal was to
mission to collect information that will be used for the Energy Investment Risk Assessment report 2018. The Secretariat's team gathered information on policy, legal and regulatory environment of Senegal, particularly about the energy sector's advantages and constraints, enabling the validation of data and the preparation of a comprehensive energy investment risk assessment of Senegal.

**INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CHARTER FOR EU4ENERGY***

**EU4Energy Action Steering Committee meets in Vienna**

On 23 April 2018, Energy Charter Secretary-General Dr Urban Rusnák participated in the EU4Energy Action Steering Committee meeting which was hosted by the Energy Community Secretariat in Vienna. The meeting took stock of the EU4Energy actions over the last 12 months and adopted the work plans under the different EU4Energy components for the next year. The EU4Energy country coordinators from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Belarus expressed their high appreciation and satisfaction from the ongoing support, provided by the Energy Charter Secretariat to strengthen the energy and energy efficiency legislative and regulatory framework within the EU4Energy Governance component. The meeting was attended by high-level officials from the Energy Ministries of the 11 partner countries, European Commission DG NEAR as well as representatives of the implementing partners - International Energy Agency (IEA), Energy Community Secretariat, EU4Energy Communication project and the Energy Charter Secretariat.

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