ENERGY CHARTER CONFERENCE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Implementation Group discusses new flagship publication on energy investment risks

On 6 July, the Energy Charter Secretariat hosted the fourth meeting of the Implementation Group in 2018. Under the leadership of Chair Ms Klara Rakhmetova from the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Group discussed the perspectives for the new flagship publication of the Energy Charter Secretariat, the Energy Investment Risk Assessment (#EIRA2018) project. Mr David Kramer, Head of Unit for Investment, described the progress and gave an outlook for future editions. The first public edition of EIRA will contain 30 country profiles and is due to be launched on 3 October 2018, in Brussels.

SECRETARY GENERAL’S ACTIVITIES

Albania prepares for the 2019 Chairmanship of the Energy Charter Conference

On July 2 2018, Energy Charter Secretary-General Dr Urban Rusnák held several bilateral meetings with Albanian governmental authorities as a part of the preparation process for the Albanian Chairmanship of the Energy Charter Conference in 2019. The Minister of Infrastructure and Energy, Mr Damian Gjiknuri, and the Deputy Minister Ms Dorina Cinari, outlined Albania’s priorities for the Chairmanship which are in line with the objectives of the country’s energy strategy. The Chairmanship priorities were officially presented at the Implementation Group meeting in Brussels on the 6th of July. The meeting covered the topics of Albania’s participation in the Energy Investment Risk Assessment (EIRA) project and potential collaboration in the energy efficiency and renewable energy fields.

DG Energy hosts a meeting with Energy Charter Secretariat Officials

On 20 July 2018, Energy Charter Secretary-General, Dr Urban Rusnák met with Dominique Ristori, Director General of DG ENER at the European Commission offices. The meeting centred on the current activities of the Energy Charter Secretariat (ECS), namely, the modernisation process of the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT), the situation on investment and transit and the launch of the Energy Investment Risk Assessment (EIRA) report. The meeting was also the occasion for DG...
Ristori to reaffirm support of the ECS by pointing out that investment is currently at the top of the political agenda and that the EIRA publication remains a priority.

ENERGY CHARTER SECRETARIAT’S ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

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Workshop on Prevention and Management of Investment Disputes

On 6 July 2018, the Energy Charter Secretariat held an interactive workshop on Prevention and Management of Investment Disputes. The workshop aimed to informally exchange views and experiences from governmental officials on dealing with investment disputes to gather their practical concerns and best practices. The comments received during the workshop will be used to enrich the draft Model Dispute Management Protocol, prepared by the Energy Charter Secretariat with the support of the IMI Investor-State Mediation Taskforce and government officials dealing with investment disputes.

The Model Protocol is a non-binding framework that could be voluntarily used (similar to a Model Law) as a reference to implement a national framework by those states who do not have one already in place (or by those who want to update/extend the one they already have). In doing so, they could adapt the Model to their particular needs and circumstances.

Secretariat participates in a round-table on renewables in Niger

The Energy Charter Secretariat was invited by the Research Service of the European Parliament to take part in a roundtable on renewable energy on 17-18 July 2018, which was held in Niger, in West Africa. Head of Expansion Unit, Dr Ernesto Bonafé, participated in a panel composed of other experts from the European Parliament, the European Commission, the African Development Bank, IRENA, and other stakeholders from Niger. The roundtables (there were two others on numeric transformation, agriculture and water management) and a business delegation were part of an official visit by the President of the European Parliament, Antonio Tajani, to the Republic of Niger. Mr Tajani also held meetings with the Presidents of National Assemblies of the G5 Sahel countries, namely, Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, and Chad.

An Overview of Mediation in the GCC and the Development of Investor State (IS) Mediation

A Forum on Mediation in the GCC and the Development of Investor State (IS) Mediation is set to take place on 14 October 2018, in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The UAE has been an Observer to the Energy Charter Conference since the summer of 2017.
This forum will, through interactive panels and a mock mediation:

- review the adoption of mediation in the Gulf Region
- analyse how to make mediation more relevant in the Region
- explore the developing impact of mediation on the resolution of IS disputes
- discuss the challenges to mediating IS disputes and possible solutions
- observe mediation in action with a mock IS mediation session

**Bucharest Energy Charter Conference is now available on the Energy Charter YouTube channel**

The Bucharest Energy Charter Conference is now available on the Energy Charter YouTube channel.

The Bucharest International Energy Charter Forum brought together ministers and representatives of national and local governments and regulatory agencies of member and observer countries of the Energy Charter Conference, with relatively high representation of countries from Europe and Asia.

**Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan visits to the Energy Charter Secretariat**

On 30 July 2018, Her Excellency Ms Aigul Kuspan Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Brussels paid an introductory visit to the Energy Charter Secretariat. Being recently appointed, H.E. Ambassador Kuspan met with Secretary-General Dr Urban Rusnák and other officials of the Secretariat.

The Republic of Kazakhstan which signed and ratified the Energy Charter Treaty 1994 (ECT) and the International Energy Charter declaration (2015), has been very active in the Energy Charter process contributing and adding value to its meetings. Kazakhstan’s representatives have been repeatedly appointed as Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Energy Charter Conference and its subsidiary bodies and regularly participated in the Secretariat’s secondment program.

**Investment Arbitration Masterclass 3rd edition**

Another exciting edition of the Legal training will take place at the Energy Charter Secretariat on 5-8 November 2018.

The 2018 edition of the Investment Arbitration Masterclass is a hands-on training and open discussion guiding participants through the main stages of a typical investment arbitration under the rules of the Arbitration Institute of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce (SCC), the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) and the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), including the complex topic of determination of damages. Upon completion of the training, participants will benefit from grasping a clear understanding, know-how and skills necessary to help them face an investment arbitration process in a confident manner.
EU4Energy in Azerbaijan; working towards a long-term energy Strategy


The Deputy Minister of Energy, Mr Samir Veliyev, welcomed the continued support of the European Union. The development of the Long-term Energy Strategy is one of the highest priorities in Azerbaijan related to the ongoing reforms in the energy sector.

The ongoing energy reforms in Azerbaijan currently include the adoption of new legislative acts: Electricity Market Law and Energy Efficiency Law. The Energy Efficiency Law was developed with the assistance provided by the EU4Energy Governance project. Thus, the European Union continues to play an essential role in reforming the energy sector in Azerbaijan.

The Counselor of the EU Delegation to Azerbaijan, Mr Erik Somelar stressed the importance of the inter-ministerial cooperation and invited all relevant stakeholders to contribute to the development of this important document.

The EU4Energy initiative is funded by the European Union, and the Energy Charter Secretariat is an implementing partner responsible for delivering technical assistance to Armenia, Azerbaijan and Belarus.

*Funded under the EU4Energy Initiative of the European Union