SECRETARY GENERAL’S ACTIVITIES

International Energy Charter and Chinese Institutions strengthen ties

In September 2017, the International Energy Charter and the China Electricity Council established a Joint Research Centre in Beijing. The idea behind the Centre was to share knowledge through research and public activities while at the same time promoting the Energy Charter Treaty and its principles in China.

On 27 September 2018, the Joint Research Centre held its 1st Annual Symposium in Beijing. Energy Charter Secretary-General Dr Urban Rusnák spoke of how China is leading the way regarding the energy transition and gradually seeing the added value of universal energy rules and regulations to enhance development. Executive President of China Electricity Council (CEC) Mr Yang Kun spoke of international energy cooperation and commented on the achievement of creating the Energy Charter Treaty and the valuable contribution that it has given the energy world.

During the mission to Beijing, the Secretary-General had a number of bilateral meetings including with the Deputy Director of the International Cooperation Department of the National Energy Administration (NEA) Mr An Fengquan. The Deputy Director was informed of the EIRA 2018 publication and was encouraged to put forward the participation of China for the EIRA publication in 2019. Dr Rusnák also met with the President of the Electric Power Planning & Engineering Institute (EPPEI) Mr Xie Qiuye and the Vice Secretary-General of the Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization (GEIDCO) Mr Cheng Zhiqiang. Finally, the meetings concluded with a visit to the North China Electric Power University (NCEPU) where Dr Rusnák signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) agreement with the President of the University Mr Yang Yongping.

ENERGY CHARTER SECRETARIAT’S ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Jordan becomes a Contracting Party to the ECT on 11 December 2018

As confirmed by the Depository State Portugal, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan will become a Contracting Party to the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) on 11 December 2018. The Treaty was ratified by the Parliament in Jordan in April 2018, the instruments of ratification were deposited to the Depository on 11 September 2018.

Jordan started the accession process to the ECT back in 2009. Since then, the Energy Charter Secretariat has assisted the Jordanian authorities in the
accession process with significant milestones leading to the first ECT accession from the Arab world:


Energy Investment Risk Assessment publication launch

On 3 October 2018 the Energy Charter Secretariat launched the Energy Investment Risk Assessment (EIRA), its new flagship publication. The launch event took place in Brussels and was opened by European Commission Vice-President for Energy Union Maroš Šefčovič.

EIRA 2018 was launched with the participation of high-level representatives of EU institutions, governments, industry, international organisations, financial institutions and academia. During a ministerial panel opinions were given by participating governments, which were followed by views from international institutions and industry. In particular, the added value for governments was highlighted and the publication was highly welcomed by the business community.

Maroš Šefčovič welcomed EIRA as a tool helping investors to take well-informed decisions. He underlined that the Energy Charter Secretariat fills a niche, while building on its geographical reach and core competencies. Mr Michael Losch, Director General for Energy and Mining, speaking on behalf of the Presidency of the Council of the EU, supported the EIRA 2018 publication and emphasised the importance of the investment framework offered by the instruments of the Energy Charter Secretariat.

International Energy Charter’s presence in Latin America

The new Latin American Association of Energy Law (ASIDE, Asociación Iberoamericana de Derecho de la Energía) invited the Energy Charter Secretariat to participate in its inaugural Congress held in Mexico on 6-7 September 2018 hosted by the Facultad de Derecho y Criminología de la Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León in Monterrey.

The closing lecture was delivered by Dr Ernesto Bonafé, Head of the Enlargement Unit, who presented the experience of promoting renewable energy sources in the European Union and pointed out the relevance of the International Energy Charter for Latin America and the global energy architecture.

International Energy Charter in Global Media


Šefčovič: EÚ vítá správu o hodnotení investičních rizík v energetice. Teraz SK, 3 October 2018

Руснак: Міжнародна енергетична carta са розроста і модернізує, Teraz SK, 3 October 2018

Инвестклимат в энергосекторе Казахстана весьма благоприятный - эксперт, Хабар, 3 October 2018

EIRA annual report: energy investments in Latvia. Vilgerts, 3 October 2018

New tool tells governments how to entice energy investors. Energy Post, 3 October 2018

Vacancies

Investment Expert

The successful candidate, who is expected to take up duties in February 2019, will Under the supervision of Head of Investment unit: assist in the preparation of investment accession reports, and also country reports on investment climate and market restructuring; support in organizing expert consultations, seminars, workshops, etc. related to investment issues; assist in maintaining a dialog with industry and other relevant institutions; assist in preparations of investment related documents and in organising official meetings of member states. In addition his/her core task will include working on the Energy Investment Risk Assessment (EIRA) project.

To learn more about the vacancy and its requirements please click here or visit our website www.encharter.org
Energy Charter Treaty, a legal reference for the Energy Transition

The Energy Law Associations from France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom have created the European Federation of Energy Law Associations (EFELA), which held its first conference in Brussels on 18 September 2018. It is hardly surprising that both EFELA and ASIDE have invited the Energy Charter Secretariat to intervene in their respective inaugural events. Indeed, the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) is a benchmark to improve the rule of law in international energy relations. The ECT aims to guide and inspire governments, legislatures, regulators, investors, lawyers, and academics in the adoption, implementation and analysis of energy policies and investment decisions. The interest of EFELA and ASIDE in the ECT’s goals, provisions and implementation shows the increasing attention that the ECT is drawing across the world.

Seminar on Investment Mediation hosted by China Electricity Council

On 26 September 2018, the International Energy Charter organised a seminar on investment mediation hosted by China Electricity Council (CEC) in Beijing. The seminar attracted great interest within the Chinese stakeholders and was attended by more than 100 participants, including the Deputy Director of the Department of Treaty & Law of the Ministry of Commerce, the Vice-President of the Beijing Association for Alternative Dispute Resolution and First Rank Senior Judge and the Deputy Secretary-General of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT). Among the speakers were Dr Alejandro Carballo (General Counsel of the International Energy Charter), Mr Mark Appel (Chair of the IMI Investor-State Mediation Taskforce) and Mr Danny McFadden (CEDR Asia Pacific Ambassador).

Consultations with China on the potential Modernisation of the Energy Charter Treaty

On 27 September 2018, several stakeholders discussed the Chinese perspective on the potential modernisation of the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT). After the presentation of a draft report produced by Hao Zhang and Yu Kaho from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, there was a round-table discussion moderated by the General Counsel of the Energy Charter Secretariat.

The round-table consisted of Libin Zhang, Partner at Broad & Bright, who is also involved in a report on the modernisation of the ECT for the National Energy Administration; Fan Yang, International Dispute Resolution Manager at King & Wood Mallesons and Director of the International Dispute Resolution Academy; Wang Sunchao, Deputy Division Director, International Cooperation Division at China’s Electric Power Planning & Engineering Institute (EPPEI) and Wang Peng, Lecturer at Xi’an Jiaotong University School of Law, who co-authored the report on the compatibility of Chinese laws with the ECT. There, was a general support for China moving ahead in its accession process to the Energy Charter Treaty.
EU4Energy supports Azerbaijan in developing a long-term energy strategy

On 25-26 September 2018 in Baku Azerbaijan, the Energy Charter Secretariat together with the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the European Commission (DG NEAR) co-organised two consecutive EU4Energy workshops. The first was on a “Code of Good Practice for Stakeholders Consultation and Inter-Ministerial Coordination” and second was on “Support to the Development of the Long-Term Energy Strategy of Azerbaijan”.

An open and transparent process, which considers and coordinates the positions of public, private and independent stakeholders, enables government institutions to make decisions that better reflect and respond to the needs of their society. In this sense, the Government of Azerbaijan has sought different ways to integrate public participation in law and policy-making. For example, Azerbaijan joined the Open Government Partnership in 2011 and passed the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Public Participation in 2014.

Currently Azerbaijan is setting up a process of stakeholder consultations in its energy sector. EU4Energy is supporting Azerbaijan in this effort and has identified areas for further improvement that would make the communication process clearer and more consistent as well as involve all potential stakeholders including the business community, the general public and international donors among others. On this basis, within EU4Energy a code of good practice was drafted; it provides specific, tailor-made recommendations for the Ministry of Energy to plan future engagement with stakeholders. These guidelines also serve as a framework for the Ministry of Energy’s next major undertaking: the development of a long-term energy strategy, which was the topic of the following day’s workshop.

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