2018 Year of the Romanian Chairmanship of the Energy Charter Conference

ENERGY CHARTER CONFERENCE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

The last meetings of Strategy Group, Implementation Group, Budget Committee and Technical Sub-Group on Transit under the Romanian chairmanship took place in Brussels on 24-26 October 2018. It addressed fundamental issues such as the Bucharest Declaration, modernisation of the ECT, the flagship publication Energy Investment Risk Assessment (EIRA), CONEXO. Groups agreed on documents to be submitted for the approval of the Energy Charter Conference.

The 29th Energy Charter Conference will take place on 27-28 November 2018 in Bucharest under Chairmanship of Romania. The meeting will be held in two sessions over one and half days. The half day of Statutory session will be held on Tuesday 27th November and the full day Ministerial session will be held on Wednesday 28 November 2018.

SECRETARY GENERAL’S ACTIVITIES

Energy Charter Secretariat Participates in the Nigerian Energy Summit

Energy Charter Secretary-General Dr Urban Rusnák and his team attended as special guests for the Nigerian National Energy and Climate Change Summit taking place on 11-12 October 2018 in Abuja. The event was organised by the National Energy Commission in conjunction with the Energy Charter Secretariat and the European Union.

The event was opened by the Minister of Science and Technology Dr Ogbonnaya Onu, followed by an address from Dr Rusnák which highlighted the work of the Energy Commission of Nigeria, the country’s work on reforming its energy sector, attracting investments and participation in the Energy Investment Risk Assessment Project.

National Energy Administration of China is looking into the full accession to the International Energy Charter

During the meeting on the margin of the Belt and Road Energy Ministerial Conference in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, PRC on October 19, 2018, the Secretary General Amb. U.Rusnák discussed with the Deputy Administrator of the National Energy Administration Mr Fanrong Li gradual progress towards China’s accession to the Energy Charter Treaty. By 2018 all three accession reports of China have been completed by Chinese experts.
with the support of the Energy Charter Secretariat. China is interested to take its due place in the existing global energy architecture, there is no intention to build a separate legal framework from scratch.

**ENERGY CHARTER SECRETARIAT’S ACTIVITIES & EVENTS**

***

**Workshop on Energy Investments in Uzbekistan**

On 4 October 2018, the Knowledge Centre of the Energy Charter Secretariat organised a workshop on energy investments in Uzbekistan with the participation of more than 40 attendees from European institutions, representatives of energy companies, media, academia and others participants interested in energy investments in Central Asia region. The current investment situation in Uzbekistan was discussed, particularly in relation to the energy sector. The workshop seemed to open a new wave of investor thinking about Uzbekistan, with some participants referring to it as ‘a country of the move’.

**Forum on investment mediation in Abu Dhabi**

On October 14 2018, the Energy Charter Secretariat co-organised with IMI, CEDR, ICC a Forum on Mediation in the GCC and the Development of Investor State (IS) Mediation, in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) hosted by ADGM (Abu Dhabi Global Market). The UAE has been an Observer to the Energy Charter Conference since the summer of 2017. The forum discussed the challenges to mediating investment disputes as well as the different instruments developed by the Energy Charter Secretariat to facilitate its development: the 2016 guide on investment mediation, the mediator accreditation trainings (together with CEDR, IMI and ICSID), and the draft Model Instrument on investment disputes management.

**Energy Charter Secretariat addresses IPEC Congress 2018 in Iran**

On 17-18 October 2018 the Iranian Petroleum and Energy Club (IPEC) organised its 4th IPEC Congress and Exhibition, in Teheran. The Congress was opened by Iran’s Minister of Petroleum, H.E. Bijan Zangeneh. On behalf of Energy Charter Secretary-General Dr Urban Rusnák, the Head of the Secretariat’s Investment Unit David Kramer addressed the Conference with a closing speech. In his speech, Mr Kramer underlined the different roles of the government, including the role it can play to enhance the regulatory environment for attracting more investment to the energy sector, the Energy Charter Treaty and he presented the Secretariat’s new flagship publication, the Energy Investment Risk Assessment 2018 (#EIRA2018).
Publications


---

**International Energy Charter promotes advanced scientific cooperation with China**

The Energy Charter Knowledge Centre contributed a 3-day training program within the context of the two-week long 2nd International Seminar on Belt and Road Initiative, Energy Connectivity & Innovation organised by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. This 3 day training was held in Beijing during October 15-17, and consisted of multiple knowledge stream deliveries and interactive discussions focusing on key global energy challenges, comparative analysis of investments into energy infrastructure in China and Europe, as well as issues to do with climate, the environment and sustainability.

**ECT Modernisation and #EIRA2018 presented at the UNCTAD World Investment Forum**

The 2018 Forum consisted of some fifty events. Energy Charter Secretary-General Dr Urban Rusnák, made a presentation of the Energy Investment Risk Assessment Flagship Publication (#EIRA2018) as a side event to the Forum in the morning of 24 October. A number of countries expressed their interest in participation in EIRA 2019. In the afternoon, the High-level International Investment Agreements (IIAs) Conference 2018 took place. Its focus was on sustainable-development oriented IIAs reform. Heads of delegations of states made their statements regarding their policies and progress made on different reform areas and priorities for the reform. In his statement, the Secretary-General informed about the ongoing discussions on the potential modernisation of the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT).

**Deepening Cooperation with the Czech Republic and the ECS**

On 30 October 2018, Energy Charter Secretary-General Dr Urban Rusnák visited the Ministry of Industry & Trade and met with Deputy Cabinet Minister Ms Alexandra Rudyšarová and Deputy Minister René Neděla to discuss cooperation between the Czech Republic and the Energy Charter Secretariat (ECS). The topics discussed in detail included the potential Energy Charter Treaty modernisation and the Consolidation-Expansion-Outreach Policy (CONEXO).

**Third successful Investor-State Mediator training co-organised in Hong Kong**

The International Energy Charter, the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR) and the International Mediation Institute (IMI) jointly organized the 3rd training course for mediators in investment disputes kindly hosted by the Department of Justice of Hong Kong and the Asian Academy of International Law (AAIL). The week-long training, which concluded on October 21 and was preceded by some panels on investment law.
EU4Energy: Public Consultations in Belarusian Energy Sector

On 10 October 2018 in Minsk, Belarus, the Energy Charter Secretariat together with the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Belarus and the EU Delegation to Belarus held a communication workshop on stakeholder consultation and inter-ministerial coordination.

The goal of the event was to provide support to the Ministry of Energy in developing its own procedure for organising public participation in the policy-making process of the country’s energy sector. Belarus’s current practice of using Public Advisory Councils forms an ideal basis that can be built upon. The workshop objectives stem from the assessment that direct dialogue and consistent communication with all stakeholders would generate a more predictable and transparent environment where interested parties could better understand the rationale that underpins the government’s decisions and intentions. Likewise, public consultations can also better inform the Ministry of Energy about public needs as it prepares policies.

EU4Energy provided tailor-made recommendations in the form of a “Code of Good Practice” for Belarus. It lays out a step-by-step approach where the Ministry of Energy would adopt a coordinating role in setting up a communication channel with external stakeholders. This would entail identifying potential actors outside government institutions, initiating regular meetings to exchange information, and supporting the establishment of informal working groups dedicated to discussing specific topics in the energy sector. In turn, outcomes from the working groups could feed into the formulation of ‘green papers’, the inception of draft law projects and the discussions of the Public Advisory Council, which is an already existing formal consultative body within the Ministry of Energy.

*Funded under the EU4Energy Initiative of the European Union