ENERGY CHARTER CONFERENCE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

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Jordan is the 51st Contracting Party to the ECT

As confirmed by Portugal, the Depository State, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has become a Contracting Party to the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) as of the 11 December 2018. The Treaty was ratified by the Parliament in Jordan in April 2018, the instruments of ratification were submitted to the Depository in September 2018. Jordan started the accession process to the ECT back in 2009.

Sierra Leone becomes the newest member of the International Energy Charter Family

On 13 of December 2018, the Republic of Sierra Leone joined the family as the 91st signatory of the International Energy Charter declaration of and was granted observer status to the Energy Charter Conference.

The Government of Sierra Leone, by its decision to adhere to the International Energy Charter has shown its strong commitment to developing and strengthening global and regional energy collaboration especially as a member of the ECOWAS and in all other related activities of mutual interest between the Republic of Sierra Leone and the International Energy Charter.

SECRETARY GENERAL’S ACTIVITIES

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The Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources of Jordan meets to discuss collaboration with the Energy Charter Secretariat

Her Excellency Hala Adel Zawati, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources of Jordan was in Brussels, for the 20th Anniversary of the entry into force of the Energy Charter Treaty, and met with Energy Charter Secretary-General Dr Urban Rusnák on 17 December 2018. Jordan is, the first Arab country to become Member of the Energy Charter Treaty.

The meeting was devoted to the collaboration between the Energy Charter Secretariat and the Charter’s members. Discussions covered several topics including the upcoming modernization of the Energy Charter Treaty, benchmarking of transit tariffs and the role of transit countries, regional electricity market under the Arab League umbrella, renewables and energy efficiency. Experts from the Energy Charter Secretariat will provide a training on the energy transition in Amman early next year.
International Energy Charter Attends ECOWAS Ministerial Meeting in Cote D’ivoire

A Technical Meeting of Experts, preceding the Meeting of Ministers in charge of Energy of ECOWAS Member States, was held on 3 December 2018 in Abidjan. The opening ceremony was marked by a statement delivered by the Minister of Energy of Côte d’Ivoire, Mr Thierry TANOH.

ECOWAS Commissioner for Energy and Mines Mr Sédiko DOUKA, recalled that the willingness of the ECOWAS Member States to make regional integration a preferred strategy for the economic development of the sub-region culminated in the development of an ECOWAS Master Plan in 1999. The Commissioner enumerated some of the gains in implementing the Master Plan and welcomed the active involvement of all stakeholders.

Seminar on Prevention and Management of Investment Disputes

On 3 December 2018, the Energy Charter Secretariat in cooperation with the George Washington University Law School held an interactive seminar on Prevention and Management of Investment Disputes. The seminar aimed to explore practical issues such as early assessment of the dispute, transparency and confidentiality, when to consider investment mediation, the role of the agent and hiring external experts. Reference was made to the Model Dispute Management Instrument with respect to the issues discussed. The comments received during the seminar were used to enrich the Explanatory Note to the Model Dispute Management Instrument.

The seminar was moderated by Iryna De Meyer from the Secretariat and gathered representatives from MIGA, World Bank, ICSID, US and Vietnam government officials, private lawyers and students.

Secretariat strengthens relations with the World Bank Group

On 11-12 December a delegation from the Energy Charter Secretariat’s Investment Unit held meetings with several organizational units of the World Bank Group in Washington DC. The aim of the mission was to discuss potential cooperation between the Investment Unit of the Secretariat and the World Bank units in the context of the Secretariat’s new flagship publication, the Energy Investment Risk Assessment (EIRA).
On 17 December 2018, the International Energy Charter organised a Conference to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the entry into force of the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT). The Energy Charter Treaty entered into force on 16 April 1998. After the successful update of the political declaration in 2015, it was time to reflect on the lessons learned, objectives achieved and challenges ahead (in particular, the potential Modernisation of the ECT).

In fact, at the end of November, the Conference had adopted the Bucharest declaration which emphasized that the ECT, “as a multilateral framework for investment protection in the energy sector, provides legal instruments that are helpful and complementary to policies and regulations in promoting investments and energy efficiency required to support a sustainable energy future” and reiterated “the importance of the modernisation of the Energy Charter Treaty to guarantee that it keeps providing balanced rules to protect investments that ensure stable energy supply, energy access, and a sustainable energy future”.

Over 80 participants were in attendance, representing industry, governments, legal circles and academia.
EU4Energy presents Azerbaijan a roadmap for the development of a long-term energy strategy

On 13 December 2018, the EU4Energy Governance project together with the Ministry of Energy of Azerbaijan organised the second meeting of the Inter-Ministerial working group on the development of a Long-term Energy strategy. The Head of the EU Delegation to Azerbaijan, Kestutis Jankauskas, and Deputy Minister of Energy, Samir Valiyev, opened the meeting.

In 2015 the Minister of Energy had defined the development of a long-term energy strategy as one of the strategic tasks for achieving market-based reforms in the electricity and natural gas sectors and attracting private investments in the energy sector.

Over the last 6 months, EU4Energy has been supporting the Ministry of Energy in the preparatory phase of the strategy development through the following activities: providing an overview of common features and divergences among energy strategies of relevant EU and East Neighbourhood countries, initiating broad stakeholder consultations on the future strategic objectives and priority sectors, and proposing a draft outline of the Energy Strategy. Now EU4Energy presented a detailed Roadmap to the inter-ministerial working group members, which identifies the necessary steps for completing the energy strategy. It also designates deadlines and responsibilities for various involved parties. The Energy Charter Secretariat and EU4Energy stand ready to further support the Ministry and the designated energy strategy team in delivering and implementing the Roadmap proposed.

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