The 2019 Tirana International Energy Charter Forum

On 13 June 2019, Albania hosted the Tirana International Energy Charter Forum. The event was hosted by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy and highlighted energy diversification, renewables and energy efficiency.

H.E. Minister Belinda Balluku opened the Forum to highlight Albania’s participation and leadership as the Chair of the Energy Charter Conference. Albania assumed the Chair of the Conference for 2019 and Minister Balluku stressed the competitive nature of the Albanian energy sector that aims to improve energy efficiency and encourage energy supply diversification in the region. Albania is a European leader in renewable energy particularly in production of hydroelectricity.

The Minister also emphasised the importance of the Energy Investment Risk Assessment (EIRA) publication as a means to enhance and standardise energy policies beyond national borders. She commended the methodology of the project and encouraged all countries of the Conference to participate in EIRA 2020. The EIRA publication evaluates specific risks affecting energy investment that can be mitigated through adjustments to policy, legal and regulatory frameworks.

The Minister of Tourism and Environment, Mr Blendi Klosi and Energy Charter Secretary-General Dr Urban Rusnák also participated in the opening remarks. The Secretary-General stated that it is not only Albania’s abundance of renewable energy production that is important but also the drive to more regional integration and connectivity in the region through diversification supplies. Diversity of supply needs to be an option to maintain competitiveness and quality and this is the direction that Europe is heading. The International Energy Charter therefore, remains committed to supporting and enhancing the national energy goals for Albania and the wider Energy Charter Constituency.

From the speech of H.E. Joe Mizzi, Minister for Energy and Water Management of Malta

It is with great pleasure for me to be here again in Tirana for this International Energy Charter Forum, and would like to thank the Albanian Chairmanship and the Charter Secretariat for organising this Forum.

I believe that the subject of Energy Diversification, Renewable and Energy Efficiency tops the list of priorities for most Energy Ministers and is central in the energy transition and decarbonisation of our economies. It subtly underlines the link between energy security, low carbon technologies and affordable energy.

This is fully reflected in our energy policy, and after a significant investment to move away from the use of fuel oil for power generation and the construction of an LNG facility, we are now in the process of constructing a gas pipeline to connect to the European grid.

Quote

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SECRETARY GENERAL’S ACTIVITIES

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Energy Charter Secretariat attends 3rd Dundee Energy Forum

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) demands for cleaner air, cleaner transport, and new technologies. Together with the Paris Agreement, SDGs are drivers of an international energy transition. A condition for future success is enhanced by international cooperation among states, investors and communities.

The Third Dundee Energy Forum co-organised with the International Energy Forum (IEF) and the University of Dundee took place on 10-11 June 2019 and addressed key questions arising from the energy transition. The Energy Charter Secretary General Dr Urban Rusnák delivered a keynote speech on the legal costs of the energy transition alongside OPEC Secretary General HE Mohammed Barkindo, Megan Richards Director of Energy Policy in DG Energy (ENER) of the European Commission and Dr Sun Xiansheng IEF Secretary General and addressed over 30 other distinguished speakers including from the UNFCC, Energy Community, European Commission, UN International Law Commission, The Climate Technology Centre and Network, IOGP, Eurogas, Florence School of Regulation and many more.

There were over 100 participants from all over the world and the Energy Charter Secretariat has been invited to co-host this unique Forum in 2020. Energy Charter Secretariat’s Knowledge Centre’s Dr Gokce Mete chaired a session on technology and innovation in the energy sector and delivered a presentation on the UK DfID funded Extractives Hub project, which she led before joining the Secretariat at the University of Dundee. In acknowledgement of the importance of international research in the energy sector, the Secretariat continues working closely with leading academic institutions.

ENERGY CHARTER SECRETARIAT’S ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

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Dow Chemical hosts the 42nd Industry Advisory Panel meeting

On 04 June, 2019 the Energy Charter Industry Advisory Panel (IAP) held its 42nd meeting in Brussels, Belgium. The meeting was hosted by Dow Chemical. The IAP Brussels session was well attended by representatives of energy companies, associations, international organisations, and diplomatic representations. The main theme of the event was: “Investment for a low-carbon energy sector”. The first part of the Panel meeting was dedicated to internal developments within the IAP. The next part of the meeting has been divided into two thematic sessions. The first Session entitled “Facilitating and Protecting Investment in the Energy Sector” included awareness raising activity on Investment Facilitation Toolbox and Energy Investment Risk Assessment (EIRA) publications, followed by
Announcements

Call for energy efficiency experts to join a Peer Review Mission to Baku, Azerbaijan on 16-19 September 2019

Please visit the web-site of the Energy Charter Secretariat (www.energycharter.org) for additional information.

The Industry Advisory Panel is the expert consultative body to the Energy Charter Conference, providing policy advice from energy companies, international business associations and financial institutions on energy investment and the functioning of energy markets. The Panel includes members from all sectors of the energy industry and from a wide range of signatory and observer countries to the Energy Charter Treaty.

**The Energy Charter Secretariat and OPEC explore cooperation in energy investment**

On 28 May 2019, officials from the Energy Charter Secretariat and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) met in Vienna to discuss perspectives and explore options for collaboration to improve the investment climate in the energy sector. Mr Leonardo Sempértegui, General Legal Counsel at OPEC, chaired the meeting, by delegation of the OPEC Secretary-General.

The Energy Charter Secretariat presented its flagship publication, the Energy Investment Risk Assessment (EIRA) publication which aims to assist governments in reducing policy, regulatory and legal risks for investment in the energy sector. It was also explained that the principles of the Energy Charter Treaty include the interests of producing, consuming and transit countries as balanced in the Energy Charter constituency. Representatives from OPEC presented multiple questions and comments, in line with OPEC's mandate and objectives.
EU4Energy will support the development of Electricity grid code connection rules for renewable energy generators in Belarus

On 17-21 June 2019 the EU4Energy Project held in Minsk the meetings with relevant Belarus authorities on activities for “Electricity grid code connection rules for renewable energy generators” within the Programme of Work 2019-2020. Belarus has taken gradual steps towards developing its renewable energy sector. The Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection and the Energy Efficiency Department of the State Standardization Committee are responsible for the development and implementation of renewable energy policies.

In 2019, the Ministry of Energy requested EU4Energy Governance to provide support to the development of grid connection rules for renewable energy generators ensuring reliable functioning and security of the electricity grid.

On 18 June 2019 the EU4Energy Project experts team met with representatives of the Energy Efficiency Department of the State Committee for Standardization of the Republic of Belarus. Discussions focused on goals, objectives and mechanisms for the renewable energy sources development in the draft of the state Energy Saving Program 2016-2020. Given the analysis of the current quota mechanism for the renewable energy generators, participants have exchanged their views on the Concept of RES development after commissioning of the Belarus Nuclear Power Plant (2021-2025) and problematics of the renewable energy generators integration into the state power grid.

On 19-20 June 2019 meetings were held with representatives of the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Belarus, State Unitary Enterprise “Belenergo”, RUE “ODU”. Participants have discussed issues of the existing regulatory and legal framework for the renewable energy generators development, and agreed that terms of access to the market for renewable energy generators, technical requirements and conditions for that should be clearly stipulated. Working documents should be developed containing step-by-step (with reference to legal acts) description of the renewable energy power generators assessment algorithm of connection and integration to the state power grids, including dispatching solutions.

Participants concluded with a list of further steps to undertake and preliminary schedule of future meetings.

* Funded under the EU4Energy Initiative of the European Union