ENERGY CHARTER CONFERENCE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

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Two Nominees for the Energy Charter Award 2019

This year, the Energy Charter Secretariat has received two nominations for the Energy Charter Award. The Award was introduced in 2013 in order to recognise the outstanding role of individuals and entities in the development of the Energy Charter Process. The first recipient of the award was former Prime Minister of The Netherlands, Mr Ruud Lubbers (1939 - 2018), the founding father of the Energy Charter Process.

For 2019, the first nominee is Mr Shukhrat Khamidov, Chief Expert, International Organization CDC Energia (Uzbekistan). Mr Khamidov has been an active Energy Charter delegate since 2001 and served as a Vice Chair of the Investment Group in 2005-2012. He took part in the development of the RECA Declaration in 2007 and the In-depth Report on Investment Climate in Uzbekistan.

The second nominee is HE Eng. Hala Zawati, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, (Jordan). Since taking office in June 2018, Minister Zawati has attached very high importance to the Energy Charter file and for the accession process of Jordan to the ECT and personally supported all activities and actions to facilitate the accession to the ECT. The voting period will be from 1 August till 31 October inclusive.

SECRETATARY GENERAL’S ACTIVITIES

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Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and Climate Business Forum

The Energy Charter Secretariat was invited to participate in the 2nd UfM Energy and Climate Business Forum; Supporting local authorities in their efforts towards the energy transition, which was held in Lisbon on 18 July 2019 under the auspices of the Portuguese Ministry of the Environment and Energy Transition. The event,
opened by Dominique Ristori, Director General for Energy of the European Commission and João Galamba, Secretary of State for Energy of Portugal, gathered high-level government representatives, stakeholders, private sector investors and international financial institutions.

The Secretariat contributed by presenting the Energy Charter Process and activities designed to assist countries in removing legal and regulatory barriers to energy investment. This includes the Energy Investment Risk Assessment (EIRA) project, and the conclusions stating the importance of the participation of local authorities in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of energy policy and legal frameworks. Fittingly, the focus was on the Mediterranean countries which have participated in EIRA, and examples were given of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Greece, and there were suggestions presented on how to promote the role of the local authorities and improve coordination with the central government.

**XVI Batumi International Conference and meeting with Georgia’s Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development Natia Turnava**

Secretary General participated at the XVI International Batumi Conference on the theme of ‘A partnership that matters -10 years and beyond’ on 11-12 July which was a top level gathering focused on Georgia’s successful experiences with EU’s Eastern Partnership Program (EaP). It was opened by opened by HE Ms S.Zurabishvili, President of Georgia and HE Mr D.Tusk, President of the European Council, and highlighted the success of the EaP in fostering interconnectivity and energy cooperation between the EU and Eastern European Countries. International Energy Charter and Energy Community are implementing agencies for cooperation with EaP countries within EU4ENERGY project. Alongside the Conference, Secretary General held a bilateral meeting with Minister Natia Turnava in Tbilisi on 10 July who articulated that Georgia is adopting EU energy legislation to the extend possible. Secretary General briefed the Minister about current issues of the International Energy Charter including the modernisation, review EIRA and EU4Energy and in response the Minister expressed her interest in an extended EIRA profile for Georgia.
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.

This summer EU4Energy project produced a brochure for each of our three partner countries in four different languages (Armenian, Azeri, English and Russian) as well as an EU4Energy newsletter for the autumn season. You may find all of these items on the EU4Energy section of the Energy Charter website: www.energycharter.org/partners/eu4energy.*

*Funded under the EU4Energy Initiative of the European Union

ENERGY CHARTER SECRETARIAT’S ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Join the Investment Arbitration Masterclass on 4-7 November 2019

The 2019 edition of the Investment Arbitration Masterclass is an interactive training that will guide the participants through the main stages of 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).

The training will also include comprehensive coverage of the complex topic of determination of damages and strategic communication. Upon completion of the training, participants will gain the practical skills and know-how necessary to navigate an investment arbitration process successfully. More information on the programme is available here. This training programme is designed to bring together around 30 participants from governments, associations, private sector and other relevant professions including legal practice and academia. Participants should have a genuine interest in investment arbitration proceedings, although previous experience is not essential. Interested candidates are invited to submit the registration form by 30 October 2019. The registration form can be downloaded here. Completed registration forms, or requests for further information should be sent by email to training.programme@encharter.org. Participation in the training is free of charge for government officials. The participation fee for candidates from non-government categories is 1000 Euro per participant.

Secondments at the Energy Charter Secretariat in 2019

Each year, the Energy Charter Secretariat welcomes a number of Secondees from Member and Observer Countries. During their time at the Secretariat, Secondees continue to be employed by their own national bodies, however, they carry out functions that serve for achieving some of the specified missions of the Energy Charter Process. The programme offers an excellent opportunity for the relevant government officials to have a job experience in an international environment and offers on the job training prospects. The programme aims at broadening the expertise of these professionals in fields covered by the Energy Charter Treaty and at strengthening their organizational, time management and drafting skills as they are often assigned on a concrete project. For instance, in 2019, the diverse group of such national experts included Towfick Sufian, Yemen; Elshan Abdulazimov, Azerbaijan; Nidal Tayeh, Palestine; Funmi Teniola Abiodun, Nigeria; Oyindamola Mahmoud; Olagunju, Nigeria; Dajana Ndreja, Albania; Kanat Bobbaev, Kyrgyzstan; Fatou Sulay Penn, Gambia; Issa Sonko, Senegal and Arwa Abukashef, Jordan. They have worked on Accession Reports and Investment Climate and Market Structure reports.
Energy Efficiency in Eswatini

Following the approval of the National Energy Policy in 2018, Eswatini has once again confirmed its interest and ambitions to improve energy efficiency in all sectors of economy. In July 2019, Eswatini’s cabinet of ministers approved Energy Efficiency and Conservation Policy that is now an official guiding document supporting the implementation of further reforms in the energy sector of the country. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy developed the latter policy in close collaboration with the Energy Charter Secretariat based in Brussels, Belgium.

The technical assistance provided by the Secretariat was funded by the European Union’s Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) for the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL). The collaboration between the Ministry, the European Union and the Secretariat aims to support the country’s initiative related to sustainable development. The Ministry has already begun working on the development of the National Energy Efficiency Strategy and Action Plan envisaged by the new policy. The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Policy publication is available in English.

Secretariat met with the new Ambassador of Afghanistan

In July, the Secretariat was received by H.E. Nazifullah Salarzai, Afghanistan’s new Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium, the European Union and NATO. The meeting was held in the context of the joint development of an Investment Climate and Market Structure report on the energy sector of Afghanistan. Despite sometimes difficult circumstances in the country, the Government is increasing its efforts to create favorable conditions to investment. Located at the crossroads of Central Asia, South Asia and the Middle East, Afghanistan has a unique geo-strategic position to play the role of a “land bridge” between all these regions and facilitate the flow of goods and energy, thus securing regional cooperation.

Afghanistan also participates in the Secretariat’s flagship publication, the Energy Investment Risk Assessment. The 2019 edition of this publication, which is due to be launched on 30 September, will contain a country profile showing the recent trends in the country and identifying the most important policy, legal and regulatory risks for investment. Afghanistan aims to promote investment opportunities and seeks cooperation with the energy industry. Charter Secretariat.