On 10-11 December 2019, the Albanian Chairmanship hosted the 30th Meeting of the Energy Charter Conference in Brussels, Belgium. This year’s Ministerial Session was chaired by Mr Ilir Bejtja, Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Energy of Albania, and Vice-Chair of the Energy Charter Conference. The event was dedicated to facilitating investment in renewables, diversification and efficiency.

Over 100 delegates from over 40 countries participated in the Conference. This year, the Contracting Parties confirmed that the modernisation of the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) would be a top priority in 2021. Parties emphasised the unprecedented opportunity for the ECT modernisation to promote innovative solutions by aligning the Treaty with the Paris Agreement objectives.

The meetings included high-level representatives such as H.E. Fafa Sanyang, Minister of Petroleum and Energy of The Gambia, H.E. Irene Margaret Nafuna Muloni, Minister of Energy and Mineral Development of Uganda and Deputy Energy Minister of Energy of Azerbaijan, Mr Samir Valiyev. Azerbaijan will chair the Energy Charter Conference in 2020, and Mr Valiyev highlighted some of the priorities for 2020 which includes increasing the deployment of renewables, improving energy efficiency and ensuring the security of electricity supply.

During the second day of the Conference, the Energy Charter Award was presented to H.E. Hala Zawati, the Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources of Jordan. Minister Zawati attached high importance to the Energy Charter and the accession process of Jordan to the ECT. The efforts of the Minister resulted in Jordan ratifying

**Quote**

“My goal as the minister is to overhaul, transform and modernize Gambia’s energy sector. Whilst we are working actively to bolster our energy supply, we are just as focused on increasing energy access in the country, as well as to deepen the penetration rate of modern energy services amongst the population. In this context we see the Energy Charter Conference, and particularly the Secretariat, as important partners in furthering our key energy policy goals.

Indeed, we see our accession and eventual membership to the Energy Charter Treaty as an additional instrument, which we will have available in our policy toolbox to assist in working with foreign investors, who we hope will play an increasing role in the development of our energy markets.”

From the speech of Hon Fafa Sanyang, Minister of Petroleum of The Gambia
the ECT in August 2018 and joining the Energy Charter Conference as a Contracting Party. Mr Ziad Sabra received the award on behalf of the Minister. All meetings were initially planned to be held in Tirana, Albania, but had to be relocated due to the tragic earthquake that struck the country late November. The participants held a minute of silence for Albania and the people affected by the disaster.

**The year in brief**

In 2019, the Chair of the Energy Charter Conference was Ms Belinda Balluku, Minister of Infrastructure and Energy of Albania. The Vice-Chair was Mr Ilir Bejtja, Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Energy of Albania. For 2020, Azerbaijan will take over the Chairmanship of the Energy Charter Conference. Other Chairs and Vice-Chairs for 2019 included:

- Chair from 1 January 2019 till 1 February 2019: Mr Damian Gjiknuri, Minister of Infrastructure and Energy, Albania
- Vice Chair from 1 January 2019 till 11 February 2019: Ms Dorina Cinari, Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Energy, Albania
- Vice Chair: Mr Samir Valiyev, Deputy Energy Minister, Azerbaijan
- Vice Chair: Ms. Elena Popescu, Director General, Ministry of Energy, Romania

**SECRETARY GENERAL’S ACTIVITIES**

**Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic visits the Energy Charter Secretariat**

On 13 December 2019, His Excellency Mr Muktar Djumaliev, the recently appointed Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Kingdom of Belgium, paid a courtesy visit to the Energy Charter Secretariat and met with the Energy Charter Secretary General Dr Urban Rusnák.

Ambassador Djumaliev highlighted the importance of the energy sector in Kyrgyzstan and the role of energy in the integration processes in Central Asia and the Eurasian Economic Union. H.E. Ambassador and the Secretary-General discussed the modernisation of the ECT, participation of Kyrgyzstan in the Energy Investment Risk Assessment (EIRA) project and regional energy cooperation in Central Asia. H.E. Mr Djumaliev and the Secretary General also discussed further steps to strengthen cooperation between the Kyrgyz Republic and the International Energy Charter.
The International Energy Charter holds its Annual Symposium in China

The International Energy Charter and the China Electricity Council (CEC) held its annual meeting & symposium back to back with the Investment Mediation Training in Beijing. The Training was co-hosted with CEC on 27 November 2019 with the Energy Charter Secretariat providing an in-depth overview of its work on investment mediation including the Investment Mediation Guide.

In the afternoon of 27 November, the Steering Committee together with the present members of the Academic Board and other researchers from CEC discussed the planned research topics for 2020 which include carbon trading mechanisms and carbon pricing, hydrogen economy and increasing the deployment of renewable energy.

The Annual Symposium on 28 November was opened by Mr. An Fengquan, Deputy Director of the International Cooperation Department of the National Energy Administration, Mr. Yang Kun, Executive Deputy Chairman of the CEC, and Energy Charter Secretary General Dr Urban Rusnák. These interventions highlighted the role of the Energy Charter Treaty in promoting the effective development and utilisation of clean energy in various countries to achieve the global energy transition. Parties noted that the cooperation between the International Energy Charter and China is very promising. The Joint Research Center is a vital platform for China’s cooperation with the Energy Charter.

During the sessions, research projects completed during 2019 were presented by Chinese experts and mainly focused on the power sector. The following panel sessions provided in-depth exchanges on regional power interconnections and the role of the Energy Charter Treaty, sector-coupling and the latest developments in hydrogen energy economy with speakers from Russia, Germany, Japan, Hong-Kong, UK, Turkey, China and Poland.
EU4Energy Governance Project in Brief

Armenia

The technical assistance activities focused in two main areas - energy efficiency (buildings and energy using products) and enhancing the investment climate in the energy sector. Until the end of 2019 in total 7 studies and technical reports/legislative proposals were developed, 5 Inter-Ministerial working group workshops/High-level roundtables organised for more than 260 participants.

Azerbaijan

In Azerbaijan the technical assistance focused on the development and adoption of the first Draft Energy Efficiency Law and the National Energy efficiency action plan (NEEAP) in line with best EU practices as well as facilitating the process of the Long –term energy strategy development. Until the end of 2019 in total 7 studies and technical reports/legislative proposals were developed, 12 Inter-Ministerial working group workshops/High-level roundtables organised for more than 350 participants.

Belarus

In Belarus the technical assistance activities focused in three main areas – scaling up of energy efficiency investments, support to electricity market reform and enhancing the investment climate in the energy sector. Until the end of 2019 in total 16 studies and technical reports/legislative proposals were developed, 13 Inter-Ministerial working group workshops/High-level roundtables organised for more than 330 participants.

* Funded under the EU4Energy Initiative of the European Union

Upcoming Events

4 Feb.  
First Meeting of the Implementation Group

5 Feb.  
First Meeting of the Strategy Group

6 Feb.  
First Meeting of the Working Group on Governance Issues

6 Feb.  
First Meeting of the Budget Committee

EU4Energy Newsletter