III quarter 2021 Newsletter
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ENERGY CHARTER CONFERENCE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES
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Public Communication on the Sixth Negotiation Round of the Modernisation of the ECT

On 6-9 July 2021, the Sixth Negotiation Round on the modernisation of the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) was held by videoconference. The Modernisation Group discussed the topics of Pre-investment, Regional Economic Integration Organization (REIO), Obsolete provisions, Definition of Economic Activity in the Energy Sector and Investment protection on the basis of the progress made in the previous negotiation rounds, submissions and comments provided by the delegations before and during the Sixth Round of Negotiations, as well as draft compromise proposals which were prepared on some of the topics.

The Seventh Round of negotiations will take place on 28 September -1 October 2021 by videoconference.

Full text of public communication is available on the International Energy Charter web-site in English and Russian.

Mongolia is preparing for the upcoming Chairmanship of the Energy Charter Conference in 2022

On 11 August 2021, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to the Kingdom of Belgium, Head of the Mission to the EU, H.E. Mr Od Och met with the Secretary-General of the International Energy Charter, Mr Urban Rusnák.

During the meeting, partners discussed the upcoming Chairmanship of Mongolia at the Energy Charter Conference in 2022 and also exchanged views on the further development and deepening of relations between the International Energy Charter and Mongolia.

The Secretary-General also noted that at the relevant working group, Mongolia is expected to launch presentations on potential plans for the Chairmanship at Energy Charter Conference in 2022, according to the future agenda.

Quote

“Clean, renewable energy solutions provide the best business opportunities. International cooperation must be dramatically scaled up to catalyze the finance and investment needed to accelerate such energy transitions, especially in developing countries and small island developing states...

We need to triple investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency to $5 trillion dollars a year. And access to finance by developing countries must be simplified, facilitated and expedited. We need to re-direct fossil fuel subsidies to renewables and put a price on carbon...

Today, I call on all governments to build on international cooperation and provide the global package of support needed for a just, inclusive and sustainable energy transition that ensures renewable energy access for all.”

Mr. António Guterres, UN Secretary-General, from Opening remarks to High-Level Dialogue on Energy
Uzbekistan is interested in deepening cooperation within the International Energy Charter

During his visit to Uzbekistan on 15-17 July 2021, Secretary-General Urban Rusnak participated in the high-level international conference Central and South Asia: regional connectivity. Challenges and opportunities. He presented his view about energy transit and connectivity at the panel session dedicated to the Trade and Transport Connectivity for Sustainable Growth in Central and South Asia.

In his meeting with the Minister of Energy of Uzbekistan H.E. Alisher Sultanov, Amb Rusnak informed about the ongoing preparation of Uzbekistan’s in-depth Energy Efficiency Report. Both sides agreed on further potential cooperation in the area of regional cooperation and improving conditions for investment in sustainable energy.

Secretary-General U.Rusnak met with the top management of the Uzbekneftegaz, National Electric Networks of Uzbekistan and Uzkimyosanoat companies and discussed different topics related to sustainable energy and energy efficiency.

Foreign Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic meets with the Secretary-General

On 28 September 2021, the Energy Charter Secretary-General Dr Urban Rusnák met with His Excellency Mr Ruslan Kazakbaev, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic. They discussed cooperation issues between Kyrgyzstan and the Energy Charter related to the modernisation of the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) and the Energy Investment Risk Assessment (EIRA). Both sides exchanged views on regional developments in Central and South Asia, including the situation in Afghanistan and its implication for the countries of the region.

The Minister updated on the preparations for the first EU-Central Asia Economic Forum, which takes place on 5 November and will be hosted by the Kyrgyz Republic in Bishkek. The Forum’s main objective is to foster more resilient regional integration and promote green and sustainable development. The Minister invited the International Energy Charter to join the event and contribute to the discussion. The organisation of the thematic session on regional energy cooperation in Central Asia on the margins of the Forum was also discussed.
**EIRA monitoring report for Armenia for 2020 under the EU4Energy project**

**EIRA monitoring report for Belarus for 2020 under the EU4Energy project**

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

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The Energy Charter Secretariat congratulates Mr Tigran Zakaryan on the successful completion of his secondment programme

The Energy Charter Secretariat congratulates Mr Tigran Zakaryan on the successful completion of his secondment programme who managed to implement all planned activities and prepared the Report on the implementation of Stage I of the International Energy Charter Investment Facilitation Toolbox (IEC IFT) in Armenia. Mr Zakaryan has also provided an invaluable contribution to organising and holding the International Energy Charter Forum in Yerevan on 16 June 2021.

The secondment programme was conducted as a part of the IEC IFT implementation in Armenia and preparations for the 2021 Energy Charter Conference. The Investment Facilitation Toolbox is intended to progressively identify various de jure and de facto barriers that impede investment in the energy sector. The report on implementing the IFT Stage I in Armenia, prepared by Mr Zakaryan, covered the identification of existing non-discriminatory and de facto barriers to entry of energy investment in Armenia, and the progress made in addressing current challenges.

**ECS signs a Memorandum of Understanding with the Brussels Diplomatic Academy of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel**

The Energy Charter Secretariat is proud to announce that a Memorandum of Understanding with the Brussels Diplomatic Academy (DBA) has been signed.

The Brussels Diplomatic Academy of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel specializes in post graduate education in economic diplomacy, international trade and investment.

Both signatories believe that diplomacy and business are essential elements in the growth of any economy, and bringing them together in dialogue and education is fundamental.

**Legal Training on Investment Dispute Resolution took place on 21-23 September 2021**

On 21-23 September 2021, the Energy Charter Secretariat (ECS), together with the Arbitration Institute of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce (SCC), the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) held the 5th Legal Training on Investment Dispute Resolution for government officials (the first one taking place online). The event brought together 25+ officials from 15+ countries and the European Union.

The training sessions were delivered by officials from the abovementioned institutions who focused their presentations on their respective frameworks for dispute settlement as well as ongoing work in the area. In addition, the Conflict Resolution Centre of the ECS gave some insights on the dispute prevention and management tools which can be found in the Model Instrument for Management of Investment Disputes while representatives from Slovakia and Azerbaijan shared their experience in managing investment disputes. Presentations were further complemented by practitioners’ practical tips on Authority, Budgets, Communication, as well as other important topics to take into account for successful outcome of a dispute. The names of the speakers can be found in the leaflet at the Secretariat’s web-site.
Energy Charter reviewed energy efficiency policy in Uzbekistan

Under the auspices of the Protocol on Energy Efficiency and Related Environmental Aspects (PEEREA) and at the request of Uzbekistan, the Energy Charter Secretariat implemented a four-day mission to review the energy efficiency policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan from 21 to 24 September 2021.

The review team was comprised of the following experts:

1. Mr Andrei MALOCHKA, Head of Energy Department, State Enterprise “BELTEI”, Belarus;
2. Mr Constantin BOROSAN, Executive Director, National Energy Council, Moldova;
3. Dr Mevlüt Hürol METE, Senior Expert, Directorate General for Market Surveillance and Inspection, Ministry of Industry and Technology, Turkey;
5. Dr Oleksandr ANTONENKO, Head of the Energy Efficiency Unit, Energy Charter Secretariat;
6. Dr Urban RUSNAK, Secretary General, Energy Charter Secretariat.

During the mission, the Peer Review Team met with high-level representatives and experts of the Ministry of Energy, other ministries, state authorities and energy companies. The team discussed the key challenges identified in the draft In-Depth Review of the Energy Efficiency Policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, shared the experience of their respective states and presented draft recommendations.

The draft recommendations of the In-Depth Review of the Energy Efficiency Policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan will be further presented for adoption by the Energy Charter Conference to be held in Yerevan on 14-15 December 2021. The In-Depth Energy Efficiency Reviews analyse the broad economic and energy context of the country, patterns of energy use, energy efficiency policies and institutional frameworks.