

2021 Year of the Armenian Chairmanship of the Energy Charter Conference

Quote

“The Republic of Armenia, as the Chair of the Energy Charter Conference in 2021, is fully committed to consolidating and expanding cooperation among the Energy Charter Members and Observers, aiming at improved energy security, stability, and reliability at regional and global levels. The priorities for the 2021 Chairmanship are defined to be in line with commitments to the Paris Agreement, for ensuring the energy transition process and creating pathways for fostering a climate-neutral energy industry. More specifically, the Republic of Armenia under the Chairmanship will focus on the most pressing issues such as modernisation of the Energy Charter Treaty, promotion of clean energy to diversify energy mix and support for connectivity to build energy bridges, identify new markets and create opportunities for mutually beneficial co-operation across the borders.”

Mr. Suren Papikyan,
Chair of the Energy Charter Conference,
Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia

ENERGY CHARTER CONFERENCE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Armenia assumes the Chairmanship of the Energy Charter Conference for 2021



As of 1 January 2021, Armenia assumed the Chairmanship of the Energy Charter Conference for one year. The Conference works on an annually rotating basis, and each year a new country takes over leadership to direct the highest decision-making body of the Energy Charter process.

The International Energy Charter would like to welcome the new Energy Charter Conference Chair, Mr Suren Papikyan, Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia who was nominated by the Armenian Government. The Government also nominated the current Deputy Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, Mr Hakob Vardanyan, to serve as Vice Chair. Both Chair and Vice Chair were approved on 16 December 2020 by the Conference.

Heeding rapid developments in the energy world and defined priorities, Armenia has expressed interest in promoting the energy transition and creating pathways for fostering a climate-neutral energy industry, in line with the commitments to Paris Agreement. These topics will be the focus for the 32nd Ministerial Meeting of the Energy Charter Conference to be held in Yerevan on 14-15 December 2021. Under the Chairmanship, Armenia will also host the International Energy Charter Forum in 2021.

Public Communication on the fourth negotiation round of the Modernisation of the ECT

From 2-5 March 2021, the Fourth Negotiation Round on the modernisation of the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) was held by videoconference. All parties present engaged in fruitful discussions on all topics covered. Good progress was made and the Modernisation Group mandated the Energy Charter Secretariat, and the Chair and Vice-Chairs, with the drafting of draft compromise proposals to be considered during one of its next negotiation rounds in 2021.

The Fifth Round of negotiations will take place from 1-4 June 2021.

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



SECRETARY GENERAL'S ACTIVITIES

Energy Charter Conference priorities on 2021 discussed with the Armenian Chairmanship



On 23 February 2021, during a working meeting of the Armenian Chairmanship 2021 and the Energy Charter Secretariat HE Ms Anna Aghadjanian, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Armenia, was updated by Dr Urban Rusnák, the Secretary-General of the International Energy Charter on implementation of the Program of Work priorities and other current issues. In the light of the upcoming round of negotiation of the Energy Charter Treaty modernisation Secretary-General Rusnák expressed his satisfaction with the strong commitment of participating delegations to achieve a positive outcome in the shortest possible time.

The parties addressed the necessary steps for the implementation of Armenia's Chairmanship priorities and activities envisioned in 2021. The Ambassador committed to the secondment of an national expert from Yerevan for coordination of events under the 2021 Chairmanship of the Conference.

14th summit of Economic Cooperation Organisation

Upon the invitation of HE Mr Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the President of Turkey, Secretary-General Dr Urban Rusnak, participated today at the virtual summit of the ECO. Leaders of ten ECO member states focused their attention on the Regional Economic Cooperation in the Aftermath of the COVID-19.

In his address, Dr Urban Rusnak, highlighted the role of energy and its use in the post-COVID recovery. He also referred to the progressing Energy Charter Treaty Modernisation negotiation and the need to embrace the ongoing energy transition. The Energy Charter Secretariat, in close cooperation with the ECO Secretariat, launched a joint cooperation on the establishment of the ECO regional electricity markets in 2020. Turkmenistan as a Chair of the ECO this year will host the next 15th ECO summit in Ashgabad on 28 November 2021.



ENERGY CHARTER SECRETARIAT'S ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Energy Charter Secretariat and ICSID Conclude Cooperation Agreement

The Energy Charter Secretariat and ICSID are pleased to announce that they have entered into an Agreement on General Arrangements. The agreement was signed on behalf of ECS by Urban Rusnák, Secretary General of the Energy Charter Secretariat, and on behalf of ICSID by Meg Kinnear, Secretary-General of ICSID . The Agreement seeks to build on the strong foundation of cooperation that exists between the two institutions. It provides for the possibility of reciprocal use of facilities for dispute resolution proceedings and other meetings, as well as enhanced technical collaboration.

International Energy Charter in Global Media

Georgia faces renewed claim over oil and gas block, Global Arbitration Review, 15 January 2021

France puts EU withdrawal from Energy Charter Treaty on the table, EURACTIV.com, 3 February 2021

Luxembourg backtracks on Energy Charter Treaty withdrawal, EURACTIV.com, 10 February 2021

EU to seek fossil fuel phase-out in energy charter treaty talks: document, Reuters, 16 February 2021

The EU should maintain the Energy Charter Treaty, EURACTIV.com, 16 February 2021

Letter: Investors need Brussels to stick with energy treaty, Financial Times, 19 February 2021

Energy treaty reform could see investors in fossil fuels, renewables lose cover, S&P Global, 25 February 2021

Brussels calling: "deep mystery" of the Energy Charter Treaty needs to be solved by investigative journalists, EUtoday, 20 March 2021

Open Calls

CALL FOR TENDER - EXTERNAL AUDITOR

Please visit the web-site of the Secretariat for additional information.

[CALL FOR EXTERNAL AUDITOR](#)

Energy Charter Secretariat contributes to the Annual Day of International Law in Africa



The Secretariat has been invited to contribute to the annual day of international law in Africa organised by the African Academy for International Law Practice and law firm GIDE Loyrette Nouel. The main topic of the colloquium was the challenges of the environmental law in Africa, while the Secretariat was invited to intervene in the Panel focused on the legal framework for achieving

objectives of sustainable development.

Mr Vitali Hiarlouski from the Legal Affairs unit intervened on behalf of the Secretary-General. Other members of the Panel were :

- Mutoy Mubiala, Associated professor at the University Kinshasa (DRC), Vice-President of the African Academy for International Law Practise
- Saadia Bhatti, Advocate at Paris Bar, Attorney-at-law (New- York), Counsel, Cabinet Gide Loyrette
- Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, Professor at the University of Geneva, Co-Director of Center for International Dispute Settlement (CIDS)

The discussion was also oriented to the questions on the role of international law in environmental protection, responsibility of operating companies, financing of sustainable development and associated risks.

The audience received the publicly available information related to the Modernisation of the Energy Charter Treaty and the latest CONEXO policy updates. The Energy Charter Treaty presents an interest for African countries, and some of them are already in the advanced accession and ratification stages.

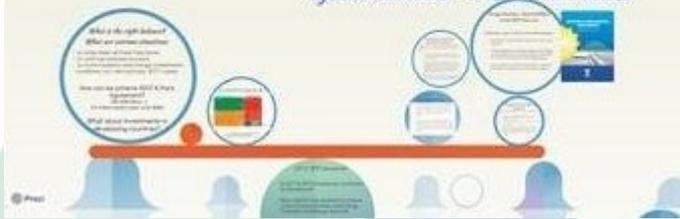
Secretariat contributes to the workshop on “Governing the Energy Transition” organized by King’s College, London

On 19 March 2021, the Secretariat contributed to the knowledge exchange workshop “Governing the Energy Transition” that brought together academia, experts and policymakers. The initial workshop was planned to be organized as a joint event by the Energy Charter Secretariat and the King’s College in Brussels back in 2020, but due to pandemics, the event took place virtually. The goal of the workshop was to share and exchange new ideas on the legal framework of Energy Transition. The Secretariat was represented by the Secretary General and the Head of Energy Efficiency Unit.

Striking the Right Balance

*Energy Security vs Sustainability: the
Regulatory Frameworks of the ECT and WTO*

by Anna Marhold & Sashka Antonenko



Dr. Rusnák was invited to give the keynote speech on Energy Transition and stated that “Energy Transition is an ongoing process which is as old as our civilization” and stressed that “actions need to be taken on national levels”. He also compared the process of Energy Transition with the ‘Gordian knot’ that cannot be cut but must be patiently solved layer by layer in order to move efficiently from fossil fuels based economies to climate-neutral ones. Oleksandr Antonenko, Head of Energy Efficiency of the Energy Charter Secretariat, provided input to the Panel on Energy in International Economic Law speaking about the right balance between energy security and sustainability in regulatory frameworks.

The Energy Charter Secretariat congratulates Mr Ilkhom Nimatullaev on the successful completion of his secondment programme



The Energy Charter Secretariat congratulates Mr Ilkhom Nimatullaev on the successful completion of his secondment programme. Despite the restrictions and general uncertainties dictated by the COVID-19 situation, Mr Nimatullaev has successfully completed all planned activities and provided invaluable input to the development of the Draft In-Depth Energy Efficiency Review of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The seconded programme was implemented as a part of an ongoing in-depth energy efficiency review of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The In-depth Energy Efficiency Reviews, which have a standard format, analyse the country's economic and energy context, patterns of energy use, energy efficiency policies, and institutional frameworks as well as include general and specific recommendations.

Dr Urban Rusnák, the Secretary General of the Energy Charter Secretariat, has officially communicated the Secretariat's proposals to assist COP 26 goals under the Presidency of the UK

"Today we have much experience of the Treaty's application that can predominantly facilitate the implementation of the UK's four goals for COP26" wrote Dr Rusnák in his letter to Prime Minister Johnson and COP26 President Sharma. In his proposal, the Secretary General explained that over the last 23 years, the ECT has efficiently fulfilled its functions related to the facilitation and protection of energy-related foreign investments, access to technology and capital.



The letter further elaborates that in order to offset the energy sector's impact on global warming and keep the global temperature below 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, countries should cooperate based on the stable and enforceable rule of law. The current global investments in sustainable energy should be increased by more than ten times, and the major part of these investments should come from private international investors to the energy sectors of developed and, more importantly, developing countries.

In his concluding remarks, Dr Rusnák invited COP26 to explore and evaluate the global application of the modernised Energy Charter Treaty and its potential role in achieving UK's goals for COP26.

Upcoming Events

**13
Apr**

*Investor-State Mediation
Online Workshop for
State Officials*

**13-14
Apr**

*National Energy Summit
in Nigeria*

**21
Apr**

*Second Meeting of the
Working Group on
Governance Issues 2021
(Zoom Videoconference)*

**22
Apr**

*Briefing on the
Modernisation Process
(Zoom Videoconference)*

**28
Apr**

*Second Meeting of the
Implementation Group
2021 (Zoom
Videoconference)*

**6
May**

*Second Meeting of the
Budget Committee 2021
(Zoom Videoconference)*

**1-4
Jun**

*Fifth Round of
Negotiations on
Modernisation of the ECT
(Zoom Videoconference)*

ENERGY CHARTER SECRETARIAT

Boulevard de la Woluwe 46, B 1200—Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +32 2 775 98 00

Fax: +32 2 775 98 01

Email: info@encharter.org

www: www.energycharter.org