2021 Year of the Armenian Chairmanship of the Energy Charter Conference

Quote

“I am re-affirming the position of the Government of Armenia on its continuing commitment to the Energy Charter Process. The Armenian Chairmanship of the Energy Charter Conference in 2021 was marked with remarkable events, including the selection of the new Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General of the International Energy Charter and conducting six rounds of negotiations on the modernisation of the Energy Charter Treaty.”

Mr. Gnel Sanosyan, Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of Armenia, Chair of the Energy Charter Conference

ENERGY CHARTER CONFERENCE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

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The 32nd Meeting of the Energy Charter Conference held under the Chairmanship of Armenia

On 14 December 2021, more than 30 Contracting Parties to the Energy Charter Treaty convened for the 32nd Meeting of the Energy Charter Conference, the governing and decision-making body for the Energy Charter Process.

The first part of the Statutory Session was mostly devoted to the budget and programme of work for 2022-2023, as well as the main priorities in 2021: modernisation of the Treaty and implementation of the Conclusions of the 2019 Review.

The second part of the Statutory Session, which was open to all Members and Observers to the Conference, was dedicated to the report and future outlook of the Secretary-General, as well as the reports of the subsidiary bodies and Working Groups of the Conference and the Industry Advisory Panel.

High-level speakers, including Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu, Honourable Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation of Nigeria, H.E. Yasushi Masaki, Ambassador of Japan to the European Union, Mr. Jingdong Ren, Vice Administrator, National Energy Administration of China (by video-message) made their interventions during the session on the Exchange of views by Members and Observers of the Energy Charter Conference. The session was also attended by international and regional organizations represented by Amb. Huseyin Avni Bıcakli, Deputy Secretary-General, Economic Cooperation Organization and Amb. Traian Chebeleu, Deputy Secretary-General, Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

Public Communication on the Ninth Negotiation Round of the Modernisation of the ECT

On 13 December 2021, the Ninth Negotiation Round on the modernisation of the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) was held by videoconference to address the topics: of Transit, REIO (in the context of transit), Definition of ‘Economic Activity in the Energy Sector’ and Definition of ‘Fair and Equitable Treatment’.

The Modernisation Group discussed the aforementioned topics on the basis of available draft compromise proposals and submissions and comments provided by the delegations, taking into account the progress made in the previous Negotiation Rounds.

Full text of public communication is available on the International Energy Charter web-site in English and Russian.
Upon the invitation of the Government to Uzbekistan SG Dr Urban Rusnak visited Tashkent and Samarkand

On 23 October 2021 he met with Mr Furkat Sidikov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. Broad range of topics were discussed with Uzbek hosts: road to decarbonisation of energy sector, deployment of renewables and investment conditions in Uzbekistan, prospects for hydrogen economy, regional cooperation including transit of energy resources and power interconnections.

Regionalism in Central Asia and role of parliaments in promoting mutually beneficial cooperation was topic of a round table discussion between postgraduate students, faculty members and foreign guests at the Tashkent Jean Monet Centre of Excellence in European studies. Ms Gulnoza Ismailova, Vice-rector of the University of World Economy and Diplomacy opened the event. SG Rusnak intervened in the roundtable discussion focused on energy related cooperation in Central Asia and experiences of the International Energy Charter.

Energy Charter Secretary General, Dr. Urban Rusnak to speak at the Belt and Road Energy Ministerial Conference

The International Energy Charter was invited by the National Energy Administration of China to contribute to the Belt and Road Energy Ministerial Conference.

Dr. Rusnak spoke about the importance of energy transition in order to combat climate change and also the importance of international cooperation and a steady investment into sustainable energy along the lines of the theme of the hybrid conference “Join hands toward a greener and more inclusive energy future”. The goal of the conference was to strengthen the partnerships and collaboration within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative, encourage countries to join hands and respond to the challenges of energy transition and security together.

High-Level Meetings in the Republic of Kazakhstan

On 4-5 October 2021 in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, HE Dr Urban Rusnak held a number of bilateral meetings with high-level officials of the Republic of Kazakhstan. At the meeting, with HE Mr Akan Rakhmetullin, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, the parties discussed the current international energy landscape in the ECT, energy transition and security, and Kazakhstan’s approaches to decarbonization. The second meeting took place with HE Mr Magzum Mirzagaliyev, the Minister of Energy. The meeting with HE Mr Marat Beketayev, the Minister of Justice, concentrated mainly on the particularities of the ongoing modernisation process of the ECT, and Kazakhstan’s views on certain areas thereof.
Industry Advisory Panel holds its 45th meeting

On 15 December 2021, the International Energy Charter Industry Advisory Panel (IAP) held its 45th Session. The event, hosted by COGEN Europe, took place virtually through Zoom and was attended by the Panel members, representatives of energy companies international organisations, research centres, and business associations. The meeting participants were welcomed by Ambassador Dr Urban Rusnák, Secretary-General of the International Energy Charter and Mr Rafael Cayuela, the IAP Chair and Chief Strategy Officer & Corporate Chief Economist at Dow EMEAI.

The next part of the meeting was divided into two thematic sessions. While the first thematic session was dedicated to digitalising the critical energy infrastructure, the second session focused on deepening the collaboration between international organisations, financial institutions and industry for a smooth energy transition. The interventions addressed key issues, including, such as enhancing the new phase of energy efficiency through digitalisation, mitigating digitalisation risks in the energy networks, the interlink and real-time management between supply and demand as the major advantage of digitalisation, reforms of international investment agreements, the need for combining policy instruments and financial incentives to secure affordable technological transformations, and support of international organisations to the energy transition process. Both sessions included discussions among the panellists and participants of the meeting.

Joint ECOWAS-Energy Charter Regional Energy Governance Forum and Training Programme on Improving Energy Governance and Promoting Regional Cooperation in West Africa


The workshop was run in hybrid format, with a group of some 30 core in-person participants, together with multiple contributions delivered by video conference. Thematic sessions focused on the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) and process; ECT accession outlook of the ECOWAS member states and the pause on ECT accession; regional integration and cooperation; energy governance and investment outlook of the ECOWAS member states, renewables, energy efficiency, heating and cooling; investment risk assessment and the energy outlook for the ECOWAS region through 2050.

The event was hosted by the government of Benin at a commensurately high level, in the name of the Minister of Energy (of Benin), the Hon. Dona Jean-Claude Housso. The opening ceremony of the event on November 15 was graced by presence of the Hon. Armand Dakehoun, the Chief of the Cabinet of the Minister (rank Deputy Energy Minister); as well as senior representation from the ECOWAS Commission, (Department of Energy and Mines); the Delegation of the EU in Benin; and officialdom from the Energy Charter Secretariat. Participants in the workshop likewise included officials from the governments of seven ECOWAS member countries, and the specialized energy agencies to enhance regional cooperation and market integration in the sphere of the power sector, renewable energy, natural gas and energy efficiency. Substantial media coverage was accorded to the event in the local media.
International Energy Charter contributes to the First EU-Central Asia Economic Forum and organizes a high-level side event on transition to sustainable energy

On 4 November 2021 in Bishkek, the Energy Charter Secretariat, in cooperation with the Kyrgyz Ministry of Energy and Industry and UNDP Kyrgyzstan, organised a high-level side event on “Promoting sustainable energy and energy transition in Central Asia” on the margins of the EU-Central Asia Forum.

High-level speakers in Panel 1 provided an update on sustainable energy development in the respective countries. They addressed the challenges the countries and the region face on the way to the energy transition. Substantial discussions on regional energy cooperation, connectivity and market integration, clean energy technologies and frameworks continued in the following panels with the contributions from experts representing regional and international organisations and the private sector.

On 5 November, Ms Atsuko Hirose, Deputy Secretary-General of the International Energy Charter, participated in the EU-Central Asia Economic Forum and contributed to the thematic session “Transitioning to a green, sustainable, climate and ecological friendly-neutral economy”. In her intervention, Ms Hirose stressed the importance of international energy cooperation in attaining the goals of the UN Sustainable Development Agenda and objectives of the Paris Agreement.

16th RECA Meeting takes place in Nur-Sultan

On 5 October 2021, another annual meeting of RECA took place in Nursultan (Kazakhstan). The meeting was organized in conjunction with the World Energy Week and Kazenergy Eurasian Forum taking place the same week in Nursultan. The Kazenergy Association and the World Energy Council have contributed to the general running of the meeting.

Due to certain remaining limitations, the meeting was held in a hybrid fashion, with three speakers attending live and two speakers participating via the virtual platform. This 16th RECA meeting secured speakers from all Central Asian countries and Mongolia and ran under the headline “The energy industry in Central Asia: New national initiatives and partnerships”.

Upcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19-21 Jan</td>
<td>Joint accreditation training for investment mediators (online)</td>
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<tr>
<td>18-21 Jan</td>
<td>Tenth Round of Negotiations on Modernisation of the ECT (Zoom Videoconference)</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 Feb</td>
<td>First Meeting of the Strategy Group (Zoom Videoconference)</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 Feb</td>
<td>First Meeting of the Implementation Group (Zoom Videoconference)</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 Feb</td>
<td>First Meeting of the Budget Committee (Brussels)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-4 Mar</td>
<td>Eleventh Round of Negotiations on Modernisation of the ECT (Brussels)</td>
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