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## Members and Observers of the Energy Charter Conference

**Members (56)**

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**Observers (42)**

- International Atomic Energy Agency
- Asian Nations Reconstruction and Development Organization
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- Economic Commission for Europe
- Black Sea Economic Cooperation
- World Bank
- World Trade Organization
- International Renewable Energy Agency
- Baltic Sea Region Energy Cooperation

**Country**

- Afghanistan
- Albania
- Armenia
- Australia
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- European Union
- EURATOM
- Finland
- France
- Georgia
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Japan
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Latvia
- Liechtenstein
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Moldova
- Mongolia
- Montenegro
- Netherlands
- North Macedonia
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Russian Federation
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Tajikistan
- Turkey
- Turkmenistan
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom
- Uzbekistan
- Yemen

**Year of Accession**

- 1991
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- 2020
ENERGY CHARTER CONFERENCE
as of 1 May 2021

OBSERVERS (42)

Country | EEC | IEC
--- | --- | ---
Bangladesh | 2015 |  
Benin | 2015 |  
Burkina Faso | 2017 |  
Burundi | 2015 |  
Cambodia | 2015 |  
Canada | 1991 |  
Chad | 2015 |  
Chile | 2015 |  
China | 2015 |  
Colombia | 2015 |  
EAC | 2016 |  
ECCAS | 2016 |  
ECOWAS | 2015 |  
Eswatini | 2015 |  
GS Sahel | 2016 |  
Gambia | 2017 |  
Guatemala | 2016 |  
Guyana | 2018 |  
Indonesia | 2009 |  
Iran | 2016 |  
Iraq | 2016 |  
Italy | 1991 | 2015
Kenya | 2017 |  
Mali | 2017 |  
Mauritania | 2014 | 2015
Morocco | 2012 | 2015
Niger | 2015 |  
Nigeria | 2017 |  
Pakistan | 2005 |  
Palestine | 2014 |  
Panama | 2017 |  
Rwanda | 2016 |  
Senegal | 2016 |  
Serbia | 2001 |  
Sierra Leone | 2018 |  
South Korea | 2015 |  
Syria | 2010 |  
Tanzania | 2015 |  
UAE | 2017 |  
Uganda | 2019 | 2015
USA | 1991 | 2015
Vietnam | 2018 |  

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS WITH OBSERVER STATUS:
(by decision of the Energy Charter Conference):

- Association of Southeast Asian Nations
- Baltic Sea Region Energy Cooperation
- Black Sea Economic Cooperation
- CIS Electric Power Council
- Economic Cooperation Organization
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- International Atomic Energy Agency
- International Energy Agency
- International Renewable Energy Agency
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
- The World Bank
- World Trade Organisation
FOREWORD BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Brussels, April 2021.

The year 2020 was anything but an ordinary year for most of us. Several waves of the COVID-19 pandemic spread worldwide, paralysing societies and dramatically reshaping priorities of Energy Charter Conference Members’ and Observers’ governments. Cyberspace emerged as the only safe place for meetings and discussions. Everyone had to adapt, and the Energy Charter Process followed suit. As of March 2020, the Secretariat’s officials mostly worked remotely, and all meetings of delegates, including the 31st session of the Energy Charter Conference, were held via videoconference.

As the Secretary-General, I am proud of the resilience and adaptability of the organisation and our capacity to continue providing the necessary support for our Members in such extraordinary circumstances. Under Azerbaijan’s Chairmanship, we made significant progress on all priorities defined by the Programme of Work, including the implementation of the conclusions of the 2019 Review. Revisiting all rules and regulations framing the International Energy Charter’s work and reviewing the main activity areas is progressing as planned and is expected to be concluded during 2021. Three productive rounds of negotiations on the modernisation of the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) were held, and the Energy Charter Conference took note of the progress achieved. The Energy Investment Risk Assessment (EIRA) 2020 publication was delivered in October, with analyses of the energy investment conditions of 30 participating Members and Observers.

The world of energy was heavily impacted by pandemic crises and the downturn of the global economy. Many investment decisions were postponed or cancelled, creating expectations of instabilities for energy supply in the medium term. The main question is, what will fill the investment gap? What kind of energy sources will be developed and what regulatory environment for energy investments will be adopted in different economies? The commitments of ECT Members under the Paris Agreement already have an important impact on how energy is produced, transited and consumed. The ECT plays a vital role in protecting energy investment in low- and zero-carbon sources and supporting energy efficiency measures across the Member and Observer countries.

The Energy Charter Conference is adapting to the changing environment. There is little doubt that the modernised Treaty will reflect the future consensus of its Contracting Parties about the applicable rules and procedures for investment protection, transparency, transit and the definition of the energy investment to be covered by the ECT 2.0.

At the beginning of 2021, it is necessary to recognise the progress and contribution of the past year. In 2020, Azerbaijan’s Chairmanship provided excellent leadership and guidance to the Energy Charter Process. Continuous support by the Chair of the Conference, HE Parviz Shahbasov, Minister of Energy of Azerbaijan, and the Vice-Chair Mr Samir Valiyev, Deputy Minister, were highly appreciated by the delegates and the Secretariat. I would like to thank delegates serving as Conference officers of different subsidiary bodies, representatives of Members and Observers actively working during the meetings and all staff members of the Secretariat for their contribution towards achieving the objectives set by the Energy Charter Conference.

Thank you,

Dr Urban Rusnák,
Secretary-General,
Energy Charter Secretariat
WHO WE ARE

Based on the Energy Charter Treaty, the International Energy Charter is an intergovernmental organisation whose primary objective is to strengthen the rule of law on energy issues by creating a level playing field of multilateral rules to be observed by all participating governments. The Energy Charter Treaty is the world’s only legally binding multilateral instrument dealing specifically with cooperation in the energy sector. The Energy Charter Conference, which is made up of Member countries, leads the organisation and has a Secretariat based in Brussels.

Using this report

The 2020 Annual Report summarises the structure of the organisation and provides a breakdown of the activities and participation throughout the year.

Find out more

Website: energycharter.org
General enquiries: info@encharter.org
Tel: +32 2 775 9800

ENERGY CHARTER PROCESS BACKGROUND

The 1991 European Energy Charter

The European Energy Charter provides the political foundation for the Energy Charter Process. The Charter is a declaration of the principles that underpin international energy cooperation, based on a shared interest in secure energy supply and sustainable economic development.

The 1994 Energy Charter Treaty (ECT)

The ECT and the Energy Charter Protocol on Energy Efficiency and Related Environmental Aspects was signed in December 1994 and entered into force in April 1998. The ECT was developed on the basis of the European Energy Charter of 1991, but whereas the European Energy Charter was a declaration of political intent to promote East-West energy cooperation, the ECT is a legally binding multilateral instrument, the only one of its kind dealing specifically with intergovernmental cooperation in the energy sector.

The 2015 International Energy Charter declaration

The International Energy Charter declaration is a non-binding political declaration aimed at updating the European Energy Charter of 1991 and lifting the Energy Charter Process to a global level. It maps out universal principles aimed at strengthening energy cooperation between the signatory states and does not bear any legally binding obligation or financial commitments. The International Energy Charter declaration was formally adopted and signed at the Ministerial Conference in The Hague in 2015.

Energy Charter Conference

The Energy Charter Process is directed by the Energy Charter Conference, the governing and decision-making body which brings together representatives of Member countries. The Conference meets at least once a year to discuss policy issues affecting international energy cooperation, to review the implementation of the provisions of the ECT and to consider possible new instruments and projects on energy issues. Regular meetings of the Conference’s subsidiary bodies take place throughout the year.

Energy Charter Secretariat

The Conference is served by a permanent Secretariat that implements the will of the Conference by assisting in the duties and functions assigned to it under the ECT. The Secretariat is staffed by experts from various countries and is headed by a Secretary-General who is elected by the Conference.
STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANISATION 2020

Energy Charter Conference
Chairmanship for 2020: Azerbaijan
Chair: Mr Parviz Shahbazov
Minister of Energy, Azerbaijan
Vice-Chair: Mr Samir Valiyev
Deputy Minister of Energy, Azerbaijan
Vice-Chair: Mr Ilir Bejtja
Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Energy, Albania
Vice-Chair: Mr Hakob Vardanyan
Deputy Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures, Armenia

Strategy Group
Chair: Ms Sofia Sanz Estébanez (Spain) until May
Acting Chair: Mr Samir Abdurahimov (Azerbaijan)
Vice-Chair: Vacant

Implementation Group
Chair: Ms Klara Rakhmetova (Kazakhstan)
Vice-Chair: Mr Johan Vetlesen (Norway)
Vice-Chair: Mr Aziz Khamidov (Uzbekistan)

Modernisation Group
Chair: Ms Sofia Sanz Estébanez (Spain) until May
Chair: Mr Lukas Stifter (Austria) from May
Vice-Chair: Mr Orii Sunao (Japan)
Vice-Chair: Mr Guy Lentz (Luxembourg)
Vice-Chair: Mr Samir Abdurahimov (Azerbaijan)
Vice-Chair: Mr Felix Imhof (Switzerland)

Group on Governance Issues
Chair: Ms Klara Rakhmetova (Kazakhstan)
Vice-Chair: Mr Guy Lentz (Luxembourg)
Vice-Chair: Mr Towfick Sufian (Yemen)

Budget Committee
Chair: Mr Christian Bühlmann (Switzerland)
Vice-Chair: Vacant

Industry Advisory Panel
Chair: Mr Rafael Cayuela
Corporate Chief Economist and Strategy Director at Dow Europe

Legal Advisory Committee
Chair: Decided ad hoc by the members of the LAC
On 1 January 2020, Azerbaijan assumed the Chairmanship of the Energy Charter Conference for one year. The Chairmanship works on an annual rotating basis, and each year a different Contracting Party assumes the leadership of the highest decision-making body of the Energy Charter Process. This responsibility includes guiding the Conference throughout the year regarding topics and activities such as regular meetings of the subsidiary bodies. At the end of the year, the chairing Contracting Party hosts the annual session of the Energy Charter Conference. The rotating Chairmanship is an instrument for greater involvement of the Contracting Parties and their governments in the work of the International Energy Charter.

The Secretary-General and the Energy Charter Secretariat ensure regular consultations with the chairing Contracting Party on political dialogue and negotiations, preparation of meetings, coordination of the work of the subsidiary bodies, representation of the organisation and other activities of the International Energy Charter. The Chairmanship allows the host Contracting Party to influence the political agenda for the year by introducing issues that affect international energy cooperation and contribute to the achievement of national priorities.

Under its Chairmanship of the organisation for 2020, Azerbaijan set the following priorities: (1) acceleration of the energy transition (from conventional energy sources to renewable energy), and increasing the share of renewable energy sources in transport and heating, alongside power generation; (2) promotion of energy efficiency, ensuring universal access to the most advanced energy efficiency policies and practices, and support of research and development activities in energy efficiency sector; and (3) regulatory responses to energy supply security challenges from an international and national perspective.

In June, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy of Albania hosted the Tirana International Energy Charter Forum. The event highlighted energy diversification, renewables and energy efficiency. It underlined the national priorities of the Albanian energy sector, which aim to improve efficiency, increase the deployment of renewable energy sources and encourage supply diversification in the region. More than 150 participants from 20 countries also debated how to address climate-change objectives while achieving energy prosperity and socio-economic benefits.
The 31st Meeting of the Energy Charter Conference was originally planned and scheduled to take place in Baku in December. The COVID-19 pandemic, and the ensuing restrictions and limitations, made it impossible to hold a physical meeting as originally envisaged, and, as a result, the Chairmanship made the decision to conduct the event via videoconference like all other Energy Charter meetings since March 2020.

“The fact that this year Azerbaijan chairs the International Energy Charter Conference is the logical result of the initiatives and achievements of our country in recent years.”

Mr Parviz Shahbazov, Minister of Energy of Azerbaijan

Other than this constrained virtual novelty, in general the 31st Energy Charter Conference’s format did not change from its previous editions. The first day, 16 December, was the Statutory Session, which was mostly devoted to the approval of decisions for the year and reports by chairs of the Conference’s subsidiary bodies. The principal outcome of the session was the need to continue with efforts aimed at reaching further milestones and eventual results concerning the priorities in 2021: modernisation of the Treaty and implementation of the Conclusions of the 2019 Review.

The second day was a reduced Ministerial Session on the topic of energy efficiency as originally developed and proposed by the Chairmanship. The Session was attended by over 80 participants from more than 30 Contracting Parties, Observers and international organisations. Their practical interventions and remarks on the topic of the Session have underlined the significance of concerted efforts towards greater energy sustainability, in particular in light of the ambitions of the ongoing Energy Charter Treaty modernisation process.

Both sessions of the Energy Charter Conference were chaired and moderated by HE Mr Parviz Shahbazov, the Minister of Energy of Azerbaijan and Mr Samir Valiyev, the Deputy Minister of Energy. High-level speakers at the Ministerial Session representing Member countries included Their Excellencies the Minister of Energy of Kazakhstan, the State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, the Vice-Minister of Energy of Mongolia, and the Secretary of State of the Ministry of Economy, Energy and Business Environment of Romania. The Ministerial Session was also attended by international and regional organisations represented by Their Excellences the Secretary-General of OPEC, the Deputy Secretary-General of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization, and the Deputy Secretary-General of the Economic Cooperation Organization.

“The greening of the power sector through the rapid deployment of renewable energy and acceleration of energy efficiency is key to formulating a climate change responsive approach via energy sector planning in the ECO region.”

Dr Urban Rusnák, Secretary-General of the International Energy Charter

Baku, Azerbaijan
SUBSIDIARY BODIES

STRATEGY GROUP

The Energy Charter Strategy Group was established by the Energy Charter Conference in 2009 to allow Members (as well as on certain occasions, Observers) to evaluate new challenges arising in the energy sector and possible means of response through the context of the Energy Charter Process. During 2020, the Group convened on three occasions – 5 February, 24 June and 1 October. Taking into account travel restrictions to Belgium and the suspension of Belgian visa activity, the last two meetings were held by videoconference. The first Strategy Group meeting in February 2020 was chaired by Ms Sofía Sanz Estébanez (Spain) and the two remaining meetings were chaired by Mr Samir Abdurahimov (Azerbaijan), an interim Chair designated by the Azerbaijani Chairmanship of the Conference.

Mr. Samir Abdurahimov, Chair of the Strategy Group

The February meeting was largely dedicated to discussing the scope and planning of the work to be completed by the Group during 2020, as well as actions to be taken by the delegates and the Secretariat. The June and October meetings, in turn, were devoted to substance discussion. Overall, discussions in the Strategy Group in 2020 were predominantly devoted to the implementation of the Conclusions of the 2019 Review under Article 34(7) of the Energy Charter Treaty, including the recommendations of the International Public Audit, which took place in late 2019. Discussions on the Consolidation Expansion Outreach (CONEXO) policy took place within this context, since one of the core conclusions from the 2019 Review was to have CONEXO thoroughly re-assessed through its own review, which was to take place in 2020. A substantial volume of documentation was produced by the Secretariat to facilitate discussions on the review of CONEXO, enabling Conference Members to conduct their work in this light. Discussions are set to continue in 2021.

Additionally, there was also some discussion within the group on the implementation of the International Public Audit’s individual recommendations in the area of its competence and assessment of any other issues relevant to the Strategy Group. It should be mentioned also that a number of other issues were addressed within the Group by Members in 2020, including Chairmanship priorities, leakage of documents and additional security measures in light of this, as well as the matter of the appointment of the Secretary-General. Strategy Group meetings in 2020 were attended by Members only.
MODERNISATION GROUP

On 6 November 2019, the Energy Charter Conference established and mandated the Modernisation Group to start negotiations on the modernisation of the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT), with a view to concluding the negotiations expeditiously, and invited the Modernisation Group to report on progress made in fulfilling the negotiations mandate.

The Modernisation Group was chaired by Ms Sofia Sanz Estébanez (Spain) until May and after that by Mr Lukas Stifter (Austria), with Mr Orii Sunao (Japan), Mr Guy Lentz (Luxembourg), Mr Samir Abdurahimov (Azerbaijan) and Mr Felix Imhof (Switzerland) as Vice-Chairs.

Since the approval of its mandate, the Modernisation Group has held six meetings, five of which in 2020, including three negotiation rounds. Short summaries on the negotiation rounds were made public on the International Energy Charter website.

The work of the Chair and Vice-Chairs was supported by the steering group, open for all interested delegations.

IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

The Implementation Group convened three times in 2020, on 4 February, 23 June and 28 September. In general, the discussions at the Implementation Group were devoted to the implementation of the Conclusions of the 2019 Review under Article 34(7) of the Energy Charter Treaty as well as to other areas carried over from 2019 relating to investments in the energy sector, transit of energy resources and energy efficiency. The Implementation Group prioritised the work based on the requests of the Members of the Conference.

The Investment Unit presented the Energy Investment Risk Assessment (EIRA) 2020 on 6 October. The publication contains 30 country profiles. In 2020, the EIRA publication introduced a new chapter that summarised the actions taken by countries to mitigate the EIRA risks and address the improvements suggested in the report’s previous editions. Also, background information from the Orbis Crossborder Investment database (run by Bureau Van Dijk, the analytical branch of Moody’s rating agency) on energy projects and deals completed between 2015-2020 was included in the country profiles.

The EIRA website (www.eira.energycharter.org), which provides detailed information on each participating country, a year-on-year comparison of the countries’ performance and risk level, was launched in 2019. The use of the website simplified the data collection process by allowing participating countries to complete the questionnaire and provide supporting documents online.

The activities of the Investment Promotion Centre include assisting with the implementation of the Energy Charter Investment Facilitation Toolbox. Based on the expressed interest of the delegation of Uzbekistan, the Secretariat conducted an introductory webinar for over 20 government officials and prepared a draft Action Plan. The implementation of the Investment Facilitation Toolbox was postponed to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Regarding the transit-related component, the Implementation Group addressed the potential content and proposals for further work of the Group to enable further discussion on the decommissioning of pipelines and the legal aspects of transnational power transmission and grid interconnection. Taking into account the Conference priorities for 2020, the Group recognised the state of completion of transit-related topics, regardless of whether or not these topics would see further development.

On the regional cooperation front, despite the restrictions due to the pandemic, the Transit Unit has managed to continue its work on promoting regional energy cooperation in Central and South Asia, focusing on sustainable energy development, regional markets and interconnection. Work on the policy dialogue has culminated in the 16th Meeting of the Taskforce on Regional Energy Cooperation. A few proposals from the attending Contracting Parties have been made, and the regional cooperation aspect will see more development in 2021.

In relation to the Protocol on Energy Efficiency and Related Environmental Aspects (PEEREA), the Implementation Group discussed the scope, potential content and proposals for a public event on the role of the International Energy Charter in achieving clean energy transition. In 2020, the Energy Efficiency Unit started the work on the preparation of the In-depth Review of the Energy Efficiency Policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan which should be finalised in 2021.

WORKING GROUP ON GOVERNANCE ISSUES

The Working Group on Governance Issues was established on 10 December 2019 at the 30th Meeting of the Energy Charter Conference. At the same meeting, the Conference approved the designation of Ms Klara Rakhmetova (Kazakhstan) as its Chair. Mr Guy Lentz (Luxembourg) and Mr Towfick Sufian (Yemen) are Vice-Chairs of the Working Group on Governance Issues.

The Working Group held three ordinary meetings in 2020 and one extraordinary meeting, all of which were conducted via videoconference. During the meetings, the Working Group on Governance Issues addressed the topics covered by the mandate given to it in the Conclusions of the 2019 Review, as well as in the Terms of Reference approved by the Energy Charter Conference on 16 July 2020.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Working Group on Governance Issues shall consist of representatives of all Contracting Parties and Signatories to the Energy Charter Treaty.

The Conference mandates the Working Group on Governance Issues to:

i. Address the structure of the Secretariat taking into account inter alia the organigram as recommended by the International Public Audit.

ii. Carry out the necessary revisions to the Rules of Procedure for the Conference, including Staff Rules, Code of Conduct etc.

iii. Implement the Independent Public Audit’s recommendations under its competence.

iv. Assess all other issues not covered by report of the Independent Public Audit in line with the ToR.

v. Assess any other particular governance-related issue.

The Group will report to the Conference on progress of the implementation of its specific assignments.

The Group will take the role of coordinator related to the implementation of the Conclusions of the 2019 Review and other related issues covering governance. It should ensure coherence and consistency on the deliverables.

The initial term is until the 32nd meeting of the Energy Charter Conference in 2021, after which the Conference should assess its work and role.
In December 2019, the Energy Charter Conference elected Mr Christian Bühlmann (Switzerland) as the new Chair of the Budget Committee. Having received no nomination for the position of Vice-Chair, that position remained vacant in 2020 despite the many calls for nomination.

During the year 2020, three regular meetings and one extraordinary meeting of the Budget Committee were organised on 6 February, 26 June, 15 October and 2 November respectively. All meetings were chaired by Mr Christian Bühlmann.

In addition to the regular administrative and financial matters, the Energy Charter Conference, following the 2019 Review based on Article 34(7) of the Energy Charter Treaty, mandated the Budget Committee to also:

- assess and revise the Financial Regulations and their Implementing Instructions;
- assess the structure of the biannual Budget;
- evaluate and, if necessary, propose an update of its Terms of Reference; and
- implement the International Public Audit’s individual recommendations in the area of its competence.

Discussions on these matters started in 2020 and will continue in 2021 with the aim to conclude them in 2021. The Budget Committee also requested the Secretariat to produce some additional reports, in particular on salaries and allowances (budget item 1), official travel (budget item 2) and consultants (budget item 3) for the years 2016 to 2019. It also requested more information on co-financing related to some voluntary contributions.

Following the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, only the first meeting of the year could be held physically, with the following three meetings taking place via videoconference. The Secretariat informed the Budget Committee of the measures taken to tackle the pandemic as well as their related costs.

Besides the traditional topics for discussion (i.e. programme of work, budget, contributions), the Budget Committee debated the extension of the implementation periods of the EU4Energy voluntary contribution and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in-kind contribution. The Budget Committee also discussed the acceptance of a new voluntary contribution in kind from the Gambia in the form of a staff-on-loan for a period of one year as well as a small voluntary contribution from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) for the preparation and the delivery of a training course.

The Chair of the Legal Advisory Committee, with assistance from the Secretariat, is responsible for conducting the work of the Legal Advisory Committee and reporting to the Conference Chair or Working Group Chair on the results, as appropriate. The Legal Advisory Committee consists of experts from delegations desiring to participate, with the goal of having representatives of different legal systems present.
Group Chair and is assigned specific tasks. These tasks may include reviewing the text of provisions and articles already agreed by the Charter Conference or a Working Group, and providing legal advice on matters put forth to the Legal Advisory Committee by the Conference Chair or by the Chair of a Working Group.

The Chair of the Legal Advisory Committee is decided ad hoc by the members of the Legal Advisory Committee.

**INDUSTRY ADVISORY PANEL**

The Energy Charter Industry Advisory Panel (IAP) is the expert consultative body to the Energy Charter Conference, providing policy advice from energy companies, international business associations and financial institutions on energy investment and the functioning of energy markets.

The revised Terms of Reference of the IAP and the renewed mandate up to 2024 was approved by the Energy Charter Conference (CCDEC 2019 15).

Currently, the IAP has 67 members from energy companies, international and industry associations, intergovernmental institutions and individuals spanning 33 countries, and who operate in fields such as exploration, production, generation, transmission, distribution, finance, equipment, services, technology and consultancy.

In 2020, the IAP accepted membership applications from two new members, namely SolarPower Europe and COGEN Europe.

The IAP held two meetings in 2020. In March, the Secretariat convened an IAP meeting hosted by the Trans Adriatic Pipeline. It focused on the future role of energy infrastructure and strategies and market rules for a climate-neutral energy sector. The second meeting of the IAP, focusing on the role of natural gas as a transition fuel, took place virtually via videoconference in December 2020 and was hosted by SOCAR.

As of 24 March 2020, Mr Rafael Cayuela (Dow Europe) replaced Mr Howard Chase as the Chair of the IAP.
Baku, Azerbaijan
CONFLICT PREVENTION AND DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

Despite COVID-19 implications, the Conflict Resolution Centre continued facilitating (under certain limitations) to the “travaux préparatoires” of the ECT and providing neutral, independent legal advice and assistance in conflict prevention and dispute resolution, including good offices, for governments and companies. It also provided technical assistance for assessing, updating and/or implementing domestic frameworks for the management of investment conflicts and disputes based on the 2018 Model Instrument on Investment Disputes Management.

The International Energy Charter continues to be one of the leading actors in the development of investment mediation and its 2016 Guide on Investment Mediation and the 2018 Model Instrument on Investment Dispute Management are referenced as two basic tools at different international fora such as the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) inter-sessional meeting on the use of mediation in ISDS (9 November 2020).

The Conflict Resolution Centre provided expertise to the discussions on investment mediation at both UNCITRAL and International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). In addition, the Secretariat’s Legal Affairs Unit also spoke about on the challenges of negotiating multilateral agreements in times of COVID-19 at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) IIA Conference on 26 November 2020.

The Conflict Resolution Centre maintained and updated the user-friendly website (energycharter.treaty.org) with unique and interconnected information on cases, ECT provisions, enquiry points (to which requests for information about national laws, regulations may be addressed) and on the negotiations for the modernisation of the ECT.

The Conflict Resolution Centre also participated in relevant discussions on investment dispute prevention, such as the workshop on 21 February 2020 with ICSID and the World Bank on “Innovative Strategies for Conflict Management: Improving Investor-State Relations to Propel Global Growth” organised by the International Dispute Resolution Network, and the Forum on Investor-State Mediation (8-9 December 2020) organised by the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL) in cooperation with the ISDS Mediation Working Group.

Fifth Investor-State Mediator training went online: 1-3 December 2020
The International Energy Charter, the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR) and the International Mediation Institute (IMI) jointly organised the fifth training course for mediators on investment disputes. The event was successfully held online for the first time.

Investor-State Mediation: An Expert Roundtable, 17 July 2020
The International Energy Charter, together with the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), the International Mediation Institute (IMI), the Singapore International Mediation Institute (SIMI), the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR) and UNCITRAL jointly organised an expert roundtable on investment mediation.
As of 20 March 2021, the Secretariat is aware of 136 investment arbitration cases instituted under the Energy Charter Treaty (sometimes invoked together with a Bilateral Investment Treaty). Since parties to investment arbitration under Article 26 of the ECT are not obliged to notify the Secretariat of the existence or substance of their dispute, some awards (and even the existence of some proceedings) remain confidential. The Secretariat compiles information (which cannot be considered as exhaustive) from delegates and public sources (including specialised reporting services). The Secretariat assumes no responsibility for possible errors or omissions in this data and welcomes any additional information or clarification on specific cases (at legalaffairs@encharter.org).

Number of Arbitration Cases Under the ECT: 136 cases

Outcome of Final Awards (72), Including Settlement Agreements Embodied in Awards (4)

International Energy Charter helps ease investment conflicts and disputes 1998 - 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No jurisdiction</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No breach of the ECT</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternative ECT claim dismissed *</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manifest lack of legal merit – Rule 41(5) ICSID Arbitration Rules</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breach of the ECT but no damages awarded</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breach of the ECT and damages awarded</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Settlement agreement embodied in an award</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outcome is unknown</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breaches found and damages awarded</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Having found the State liable under another international agreement, the tribunal dismissed an alternative claim under the ECT.

Regulatory predictability and rule of law
Energy Charter Treaty and Energy Investment Risk Assessment (EIRA)

Helpful tools: prevention measures and Model Instrument on Management of Investment Disputes

Secretariat provides good offices and support for negotiations and mediation

Arbitral proceedings under Article 26 ECT
some cases are discontinued/withdrawn or settled

Awards rendered
some cases lack jurisdiction or legal merit

72 incl. 4 settlement agreements embodied in awards

Breaches found and damages awarded
in 32 cases, incl. 3 cases in which investors renounced their right to collect damages
* In five of these cases, it has not been possible to identify particular energy sources. 52 cases are still pending and in some of the cases, there is no publicly available information on the exact amounts claimed and/or awarded.
EU4Energy is an energy programme funded by the European Union and focused on the countries of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) and Central Asia. It is designed to support the aspirations of Focus Countries to implement sustainable energy policies and foster co-operative energy sector development at the regional level.

By the end of 2020, the Energy Charter Secretariat (ECS) was able to successfully complete its objectives in the EU4Energy Project.

The implementation of EU4Energy Governance activities in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Belarus has been highly successful and greatly appreciated by the main beneficiaries, EU delegations and stakeholders in all three countries. The ECS has effectively managed to transform its already well-established relations with its Member countries into practical cooperation, aimed at bringing the three countries closer to European values, including by aligning their energy and energy efficiency related legislation to the best EU practices.

During the implementation period, numerous political (Armenian Velvet revolution in 2018, political instability following Presidential elections in Belarus 2020, and the recent Nagorno-Karabakh war between Armenia and Azerbaijan) and other challenges (COVID-19 pandemic) threatened to delay the implementation of activities and the achievement of planned results. Nevertheless, the ECS managed effectively to continue the engagement with government officials from a distance and to successfully complete all planned activities. A number of planned country missions in 2020 had to be cancelled and events were organised via videoconference.

In Armenia, technical assistance was provided to the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure (MTAI) and focused in two main areas: energy efficiency in buildings, and enhancing the investment climate in the energy sector. EU4Energy prepared and followed up on seven different proposals for the necessary legal and regulatory amendments related to energy efficiency in buildings, including enforcement and compliance procedures, energy auditing guidelines, nearly-zero energy buildings (NZE) and eco-labelling requirements, buildings calculation methodology, and related standards. In the area of investment climate, EU4Energy followed up with MTAI and other stakeholders on concrete solutions to reduce legal and regulatory investment risks and improve conditions for private investments in the energy sector. In the area of stakeholder participation, the project successfully managed to improve MTAI’s stakeholder communication strategy as well as the consultation process during the development of new legislative documents. EU4Energy worked to improve the knowledge and capacity of government officials on topics related to energy efficiency in buildings and energy using products. The project organised six training sessions and one high-level conference on energy efficiency topics.

EU4Energy governance in Armenia in numbers

In Azerbaijan, technical assistance was provided to the Ministry of Energy (MoEAz) in the areas of energy efficiency and long-term strategic planning in the energy sector. EU4Energy supported the development of first draft Law on Efficient Use of Energy Resources and Energy Efficiency (EE Law) and the first National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP) 2021-2025. Following lengthy intergovernmental consultations, the draft EE Law is currently on the agenda of the Azerbaijani Parliament. Furthermore, EU4Energy provided a detailed road map for the development of eco-design and labelling requirements for several priority energy-using product groups as well as a concept for the development of a long-term energy strategy for Azerbaijan. All draft legislative documents were discussed and agreed within the specially created Inter-Ministerial Working Groups (IMWG). Furthermore, broad stakeholder
consultations were organised enabling business and civil society representatives to contribute to the draft legislative texts developed. EU4Energy succeeded in improving the knowledge and capacity of officials from the energy efficiency department of the MoEAz. Officials from other relevant Ministries also participated in the dedicated capacity-building workshops and training sessions organised.

**EU4Energy governance in Azerbaijan in numbers**

410 officials participating in workshops, webinars and capacity building events

15 workshops, webinars and capacity building events

9 deliverables - technical reports and legislative proposals drafted

14 country missions

In **Belarus**, technical assistance was provided to the Ministry of Energy and the Energy Efficiency Department of the State Committee for Standardization in the areas of electricity and natural gas markets reform, energy efficiency and improvement of the investment climate. EU4Energy prepared and followed up on concrete proposals and recommendations to align electricity and natural gas market reforms to best international and EU practices. In the area of energy efficiency, EU4Energy worked with the Ministry of Energy and the Energy Efficiency Department to scale up energy efficiency investments and developed concrete proposals on establishing a State-owned Super Energy Service Company (ESCO) company. EU4Energy effectively worked to improve stakeholder participation in the process of energy-related legislation development, with various stakeholders confirming that project activities have created a positive momentum towards increasing transparency and improving cooperation at ‘government agency to government agency’ level, as well as at ‘government agency to civil society and business’ level. Stakeholders have witnessed better cooperation between State authorities in the decision-making process. The project successfully improved the capacity and knowledge of officials on energy performance contracting and ESCO as well as on best practices in implementing electricity and natural gas markets reforms.

**EU4Energy governance in Belarus in numbers**

420 officials participating in workshops, webinars and capacity building events

16 workshops, webinars and capacity building events

13 technical reports and legislative proposals drafted

14 country missions
CONSOLIDATION EXPANSION OUTREACH (CONEXO)

Adopted by the Energy Charter Conference in 2012, the CONEXO policy has aimed to enlarge and externalise the Energy Charter Process since that time. The Secretariat’s supporting activities for the CONEXO policy during 2020 were carried out within the framework of the Conclusions of the Review under Article 34(7) of the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT), which included a provision to thoroughly review CONEXO in 2020. Additionally, in light of the commencement of the modernisation of the Treaty, which was due to commence in early 2020, the Conference decided to institute temporary pauses both on the commencement of formal accession processes and on inviting countries to accede to the ECT until the review of the CONEXO policy would be finalised.

This unprecedented decision by the Conference, which came into effect on 10 December 2019, placed substantial limitations on the Secretariat’s deliveries such as the completion of accession reports, supporting the accession process of countries already engaged in the ECT accession process, and signings of the International Energy Charter. It should be recalled that those activities constituted the bulk of the Secretariat’s efforts with CONEXO in previous years. In practical terms, this resulted in countries such as Uganda, which notified the Conference of its formal request to accede to the ECT on 9 December 2019, seeing its request for Treaty accession postponed until further notice.

Taking into account the above-mentioned limitations, the Secretariat’s efforts during 2020 with regards to CONEXO primarily focused on the implementation of the Conclusions of the 2019 Review. In this context, the Secretariat prepared a range of documents and in-depth discussion papers intended to assist the Conference with its efforts to review the CONEXO policy. These works facilitated substantial discussion during the June and October meetings of the Strategy Group, with discussions set to continue in 2021.

Despite the limitations placed on the Secretariat’s conventional efforts with regards to CONEXO, and noting also the extraordinary challenges created in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Secretariat continued some efforts in order to maintain effective contact with important countries and other actors engaged within the CONEXO policy. Although the pandemic resulted in the postponement of the National Energy Summit in Nigeria in March, cooperation between the International Energy Charter and the West African region continued to flourish. A national expert from Benin spent three months on secondment to the Secretariat to work on a technical report on energy efficiency, as part of the cooperation with ECOWAS under the AGoSE technical assistance project. ECOWAS provided its non-objection to the extension of the EU-funded AGoSE project, which covers energy governance in West Africa. The AGoSE project is generating substantial interest in the Energy Charter Process in West Africa, with a number of countries in the region already seeming ready to apply for an ECT accession invitation once the current moratorium is lifted.

Another strong signal of endorsement of the Energy Charter Process by the states of West Africa was reflected in the fact that ECT accession candidate country, the Gambia, submitted a request to assign an official from the Gambian Government as a staff-on-loan to the Secretariat during the year. The Gambian official was assigned to work on the EIRA profile of the Gambia, the Model Instrument on Management of Investment Disputes, as well as regional energy cooperation in West Africa. The Gambia completed its Accession Reports in 2019 and was considered one of the front-running countries for ECT accession prior to the moratorium on accession adopted by the Conference at the end of that year.
ENERGY INVESTMENT RISK ASSESSMENT (EIRA)

On 6 October 2020, the Energy Charter Secretariat launched the third edition of its flagship publication, the Energy Investment Risk Assessment (#EIRA2020). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the launch took place virtually. The event was opened by Mr Samir Valiyev, Deputy Minister of Energy of Azerbaijan and Vice-Chair of the Energy Charter Conference for 2020. It was attended by high-level representatives of governments, diplomatic missions, international organisations, financial institutions, industry, professional associations and mass media.

“It is my pleasure to announce that despite the existing challenges caused by the pandemic, the unified efforts of the governments of countries participating in EIRA2020, the external parties and the staff of the Energy Charter Secretariat contributed to the completion of this valuable product. I believe that the report is a valuable source for state institutions, the energy industry, legal and consulting firms, think tanks and academia and other researchers.”
Mr Samir Valiyev, Deputy Minister of Energy of Azerbaijan

EIRA examines risks to energy investment that can be mitigated by adjusting legal and regulatory frameworks. The publication benchmarks the performance of countries against international best practices and guides them on improving the investment climate. It highlights the strengths and areas for improvement in each country, gives recommendations to improve results, and assists policymakers in designing risk mitigation plans.

#EIRA2020 assesses 30 countries spanning Africa, Asia, the Americas, and Europe. 26 of these have participated in the previous editions of the report, and four are new entrants: Colombia, Guyana, Sierra Leone and Tajikistan. More than 215 legal and energy experts, members of academia, financial institutions, think tanks, business consultants and accountants contributed information to develop the report. All the experts volunteered for the project on a pro bono basis.

“While the investments are generally increasing, the political and regulatory risks remain the biggest problem for making long-term investments..., both made by large investors and by domestic consumers. This is in line with what EIRA highlighted again.”
Mr Henning Häder, Policy Director, Eurelectric

#EIRA2020 builds on the findings of its predecessor. It highlights the progress made by public authorities in translating commitments to actions and gives attention to the implementation of projects, programmes and secondary regulations, between April 2019 and April 2020. The report contains a new annex that summarises the actions taken by governments to mitigate the EIRA risks and address the improvements suggested in the previous editions. Depending on the progress made in each country, the annex categorises the work done as fully implemented, partially implemented, ongoing, or pending.

The country profiles also include new information from Orbis Crossborder Investment on energy projects and deals completed from 2015-2020 in the participating countries. The purpose of this data is to give readers background information on the investment trends in the participating countries, the target industries that received the most attention, the number of projects and deals completed in this timeframe, and their value.

“I would like to thank the Secretariat and all those who put efforts in these risk assessments, it is very fascinating to me, I think it is very helpful.... We strongly encourage that this continues and is broadened, and that more energy producing countries participate in the annual surveys and assessments.”
Mr David J. Bertoch, Executive Counsel, ExxonMobil Corporation
A new website (eira.energycharter.org), launched in September 2019, simplified the data collection process. Government focal points and external parties were able to complete the EIRA questionnaire online and also use the website to provide the supporting documents.

The EIRA website provides the latest information on the energy sector of the participating countries. It offers extensive and up-to-date information on the legal and regulatory environment of the assessed countries, with all changes being tracked and recorded to the greatest extent possible. For some countries, EIRA is one of the first reports to analyse these changes.

It has an interactive webpage that projects the year-on-year trajectory of each country’s performance and risk level. Moreover, the website hosts a Question Explorer that provides detailed findings on each question and highlights the key changes observed on them. The answers to the EIRA questionnaire can be searched by country, year, indicator and sub-indicator. Finally, the online Library featured on the website contains over 1,800 primary policy and legal documents for the countries that have participated in the EIRA project so far. Some of these documents are exclusively available on the EIRA website.

The Energy Charter Secretariat is making constant efforts to expand the scope of EIRA, and introduce new and meaningful content. As EIRA is evolving, the addition of these new aspects brings it a step closer to one of its key objectives – tracking the progress of countries over time.
Since its inception in early 2013, the Knowledge Centre promotes the visibility of the Energy Charter Process, raises awareness on Energy Charter Treaty issues, and contributes to the Secretariat’s expansion efforts.

The Knowledge Centre Executive Training Programmes are aimed at sharing knowledge and organising information workshops on the Energy Charter Treaty. In 2020 the Knowledge Centre delivered a virtual training on energy transit for the government officials of Mongolia to support UN ESCAP activities to strengthen sub-regional connectivity in East and North-East Asia through effective economic corridor management. For this purpose, the Secretariat developed a training module comprising learning materials, reference reading and case studies on energy security and the role of transit, as well as organisational and regulatory aspects of natural gas transit. An interactive session brought together over fifty participants from the government of Mongolia involved in the implementation of the Economic Corridor Programme, including representatives of the Investment Research Centre under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Energy and other related agencies and policy institutes working on energy.

In October the Energy Charter Secretariat, in cooperation with the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Secretariat, organised a technical workshop on the topic of “Perspectives and Challenges of Regional Electricity Markets: Harnessing Trade and Investment Opportunities”. The event brought together over forty government officials and energy experts from eight ECO Member States, and international and regional organisations. The objective of the workshop was to discuss international experiences on integration of power markets as well as the challenges and perspectives of developing ECO Regional Electricity Market (ECO REM). The representatives of the ECO countries, and international and regional organisations discussed further steps on establishing ECO REM which offers multiple benefits to participating states in terms of energy security, resource complementarity and economies of scale.

In close cooperation with the Ministry of Energy of Azerbaijan, the Knowledge Centre organised the Baku International Energy Charter Forum in October. The Forum addressed the topics of clean energy transition and sustainable energy in two main sessions. Reputable experts from Austria, Azerbaijan, Japan, IRENA, SolarPower Europe, Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency and the International Energy Charter shared best practices and lessons learnt on integration of renewable energy sources and promotion of energy efficiency measures. Over 180 participants, including high-level government officials and leading experts from 40 countries, international organisations, energy companies, academia as well as mass media, took part in the event.

In November, the Knowledge Centre co-organised the annual meeting of the China Electricity Council (CEC)-International Energy Charter Joint Research Centre via videoconference. The event brought together the members of the Steering Committee, Academic Board, representatives of CEC along with its member organisations and the Energy Charter Secretariat with the aim to highlight the role of the Energy Charter Treaty in promoting energy transition.

Additionally, the Knowledge Centre maintains an active relationship with academic institutions through Memoranda of Understanding as of 1 January 2020. In 2020, an online lecture was organised for the graduate students of the University of Groningen to share the ECT’s provisions and the activities of the Secretariat. The Centre continued to coordinate different activities related to publications, public outreach, library and archives.
“Transition to renewables in power generation, transport, heating and cooling: modern challenges and trends” was discussed at the Baku International Energy Charter Forum which was held on 28 October 2020 via videoconference. The Forum was jointly organised by the Ministry of Energy of Azerbaijan and the Energy Charter Secretariat. Over 180 participants, including high-level government officials and leading experts from 40 countries, international organisations, energy companies, academia as well as mass media, took part in the event.

The Forum participants were welcomed by the Chair of the Energy Charter Conference HE Parviz Shahbazov, Minister of Energy of Azerbaijan, Dr Urban Rusnák, the Secretary-General of the International Energy Charter, and Ms Cristina Lobillo Borrero, Director of Energy Policy, Directorate-General for Energy of the European Commission. High-level officials from Albania, Romania, the United Kingdom, Ukraine, Iran, the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) further elaborated on the common benefits of accelerating energy transition worldwide.

The Forum addressed the topics of clean energy transition and sustainable energy in two main sessions. Reputable experts from Austria, Azerbaijan, Japan, IRENA, SolarPower Europe, Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency and the International Energy Charter shared best practices and lessons learnt on integration of renewable energy sources and promotion of energy efficiency measures. The event was concluded by the remarks from the Vice-Chair of the Energy Charter Conference Mr Samir Valiyev, Deputy Minister of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
ACTIVITIES IN 2020

JANUARY 2020

29 January 2020
An Energy Efficiency Action Plan discussed in Azerbaijan

28-30 January 2020
Belarus hosts EU4Energy and EIRA meetings
From 28-30 January 2020, officials from the Energy Charter Secretariat travelled to Minsk, Belarus, to monitor implementation of the recommendations in the Energy Investment Risk Assessment (EIRA) report and to discuss the development of a legislative basis for the natural gas market.

FEBRUARY 2020

21 February 2020
The International Energy Charter strengthens ties with Benin
On 21 February 2020, Energy Charter Secretary-General Dr Urban Rusnák visited the Embassy of the Republic of Benin in Brussels, upon the invitation from the Ambassador. Ambassador Zacharie Richard Akplogan welcomed the Secretary-General to discuss the current collaboration between the Energy Charter Secretariat and the Government of Benin.

24 February 2020
The International Energy Charter attends EU-Central Asia working lunch
On 24 February 2020, Energy Charter Secretary-General Dr Urban Rusnák took part in the EU-Central Asia working lunch. The event was held in Brussels and brought together the representatives of the European Union’s services such as the European External Action Service, DG Energy and DG Development and Cooperation, and the Heads of Missions of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The topics of discussion focused on potential cooperation in the field of sustainable energy.
MARCH 2020

3 March 2020
Industry Advisory Panel meets in Albania
On 3 March 2020, the Energy Charter Industry Advisory Panel (IAP) held its 43rd Session in Tirana, Albania. The event was hosted by Trans Adriatic Pipeline AG and was attended by Panel members, representatives of energy companies, associations, international organisations, and diplomatic representatives. During the meeting, Mr Rafael Cayuela Valencia, Corporate Chief Economist of Dow Chemical, was presented as the company’s candidate for the position of the IAP Chair. Following a written procedure, the IAP established Mr Cayuela as the new Chair and he took up the post as of 24 March 2020.

13 March 2020
Belarus hosts consultations on the modernisation of the Energy Charter Treaty
On 13 March 2020, the Ministry of Energy of Belarus hosted consultations on the modernisation in the context of potential ratification of the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT). The event gathered over 15 representatives from different ministries and governmental agencies, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection. The consultations started with a welcome speech delivered by Energy Charter Secretary-General, Dr Urban Rusnák, and Director of Strategic Development and External Investment Cooperation at the Ministry of Energy, Mr Zorich.

APRIL 2020

22 April 2020
EU4Energy Webinar – Energy Efficiency in Buildings, Armenia
On 22 April 2020, a technical webinar was organised, in the framework of the EU4Energy support, to developing a consistent energy performance of building calculation methodology in Armenia. The main task of the project is to support the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of Armenia in developing a sound regulatory framework for the energy performance of buildings in line with EU best practices.

27 April 2020
Energy Charter videoconference with Central Asian Ambassadors
On 27 April 2020, the International Energy Charter organised a videoconference to discuss recent developments in Central Asia. Participants included HE Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan Ms Aigul Kuspan, HE Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic Mr Muktar Djumaliev, HE Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan Mr Erkinkhon Rahmatullozoda, HE Ambassador of Turkmenistan Mr Chary Atayev, HE Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan Mr Dilyor Khakimov and the Secretary-General Dr Urban Rusnák.
28 April 2020

The Energy Charter and Turkmenistan hold high-level meeting

On 28 April 2020, the Energy Charter Secretariat, headed by the Secretary-General, held a videoconference with high representatives of the Turkmenistan government led by Mr Y Kakayev, Special Advisor to the President of Turkmenistan on oil and gas matters and by Mr Berdiniyaz Matiyev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. Other participants included Deputy Ministers of Finance, Justice, and Energy, and Deputy Chairmen of Turkmengaz and Turkmenneft State Concerns.

29 April 2020

Introductory webinar on Investment Facilitation Toolbox is held

On 29 April 2020, a technical webinar on the implementation of the Investment Facilitation Toolbox was organised by the Energy Charter Secretariat and the Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade and the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The main purpose of the webinar was the introduction to the content, main principles of, and discussion on potential benefits resulting from the implementation of the Energy Charter Investment Facilitation Toolbox. The webinar was conducted by the Investment Unit of the Energy Charter Secretariat, and the participants included 20 officials representing the Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade and the Ministry of Energy and the PPP Development Agency under the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

MAY 2020

14 May 2020

Energy Charter videoconference with the Azerbaijani Chairmanship

On 14 May 2020, the Energy Charter Secretariat held a videoconference with the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan which is also acting as the entity in charge of the Energy Charter Conference this year. Mr Samir Valiyev, Deputy Minister of Energy and Vice-Chair of the Conference, who led the conference call, was joined by the Ministry officials representing its legal department, the departments of international cooperation, energy efficiency and oil and gas. The Secretariat’s team was led by the Secretary-General and included officials from the Legal, Transit, Energy Efficiency units, and the EU4Energy Programme.

JUNE 2020

4 June 2020

Videoconference with Armenia, the upcoming Energy Charter Conference Chairmanship in 2021

On 4 June 2020, the Energy Charter Secretariat held a videoconference with the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia which will be acting as the entity in charge of the Energy Charter Conference in 2021. Mr Hakob Vardanyan, Deputy Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure and Vice-Chair of the 2021 Conference, who led the conference call, was joined by Mr Tigran Melqonyan, the Head of Energy Department. The Secretariat’s team was led by the Secretary-General Dr Urban Rusnák and included officials from the Legal, Energy Efficiency and Investment units, and the EU4Energy Programme.
Industry Advisory Panel welcomes SolarPower Europe as its newest member

On 19 June 2020, the International Energy Charter Industry Advisory Panel (IAP) welcomed SolarPower Europe as its newest member. SolarPower Europe represents over 200 upstream and downstream organisations from the entire solar value chain. The aim of the organisation is to shape the regulatory environment and enhance business opportunities for solar power in Europe and to ensure that solar energy is the leading contributor to Europe’s energy system.

JULY 2020

3 July 2020

A video call with the Chair of the Energy Charter Conference

On 3 July 2020, the Secretary-General of the International Energy Charter held a videoconference with His Excellency Mr Parviz Shahbazov, Minister of Energy of Azerbaijan and Chair of the Energy Charter Conference in 2020. In keeping with the tradition of ensuring regular updates and communication, the parties discussed a number of matters relevant to both the Chairmanship and the current activities within the Energy Charter Process.

6-9 July 2020

Public communication on the First Negotiation Round on the modernisation of the ECT


In memoriam: Mr Yagshigeldy Kakayev, former Chair of the Energy Charter Conference

The Energy Charter Secretariat was very saddened to learn about the passing away of Mr Yagshigeldy Kakayev, a former Chair of the Energy Charter Conference during Turkmenistan’s Chairmanship in 2017.

Mr Kakayev, who held the position of advisor on oil and gas matters to the President of Turkmenistan, was known as a prominent Turkmen statesman and a long-term high-profile member of the Turkmenistan Government.

Modernisation of the Energy Charter Treaty: The Long Story Told Short

As part of the general discussion, Kluwer Arbitration Blog has launched a week-long series offering different perspectives on the ECT Modernisation Process. The series was opened by an introductory post of the Secretary-General of the International Energy Charter, Dr Urban Rusnák, setting the scene and the historical background leading to the current negotiations.

“I am convinced that the Contracting Parties will be able to raise the common denominator to make the Energy Charter Treaty 2.0 fit for its purpose for the next 25 years.”

Dr Urban Rusnák, Secretary-General of the International Energy Charter

17 July 2020

Investor-State Mediation: An Expert Roundtable

On 17 July 2020, the Energy Charter Secretariat (ECS), together with the International Centre
for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), the International Mediation Institute (IMI), the Singapore International Mediation Institute (SIMI), the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR) and UNCITRAL organised an expert roundtable on investment mediation.

23 July 2020

**EU4Energy – Natural Gas Market Reforms in Belarus**

On 23 July 2020, experts from the EU4Energy project held an online meeting on natural gas market reforms in the Republic of Belarus. From Minsk the meeting was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Energy and Beltopgaz.

**SEPTEMBER 2020**

8 September 2020

**Public communication on the Second Negotiation Round on the modernisation of the ECT**

On 8-11 September 2020, the Second Negotiation Round on the modernisation of the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) was held by videoconference. The session took into account the list of agreed topics for modernisation of the Energy Charter Treaty and the suggested policy options for modernisation of the ECT.

**Launch of the 3rd Energy Investment Risk Assessment Report #EIRA2020**

In September the ECS presented the third edition of its flagship publication, the Energy Investment Risk Assessment (#EIRA2020). The report evaluates legal and regulatory risks to energy investments in 30 countries spanning Africa, Asia, the Americas, and Europe.

25 September 2020

**Energy Charter Secretariat attends the anniversary roundtable of Turkmenistan**

On 25 September 2020, the Secretary-General of the International Energy Charter attended and spoke at a roundtable organised by the Embassy of Turkmenistan in Belgium and devoted to the 25th Anniversary of the Permanent Neutrality of the country. The roundtable discussed the origins, evolution and future of the concept of neutrality in steering Turkmenistan’s foreign policy as well as its various regional and global initiatives, such as those in the areas of trade and investments, energy connectivity, and environment.

30 September 2020

**EU4Energy presents building energy performance calculation methodology Action plan and Road map for Armenia**

On 30 September 2020, an online workshop was organised to present the outcomes the EU4Energy support provided to Armenia in the process of developing a consistent calculation methodology for the energy performance of buildings.

30 September 2020

**Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Brussels visited the Secretariat**

On 30 September 2020, Dr Urban Rusnák, the Secretary-General of the International Energy Charter, received in his office, HE Mr Sadiq Al-Rikabi, the Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Brussels. The Secretary-General briefed Mr Al-Rikabi on the Energy Charter Process and the relations between the Secretariat and the Republic of Iraq which has been an Observer country to the Energy Charter Conference since 2016.

**OCTOBER 2020**

7 October 2020

**Energy Charter Secretariat contributes to the UN ESCAP capacity building activities in Mongolia**

On 7 October 2020, the Energy Charter Secretariat’s Knowledge Centre delivered a virtual training session on energy transit for the government officials of Mongolia to support UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) activities to strengthen sub-regional connectivity in East and North-East Asia through effective economic corridor management.
13 October 2020
Second joint OPEC-ECS-OPEC FUND annual legal workshop
On 13 October 2020, OPEC, the Energy Charter Secretariat and OPEC Fund jointly organised a legal workshop titled “Law of the Energy Transition”. This was the second joint event organised via videoconference, following the very successful first workshop which took place in Vienna, Austria the previous year.

14 October 2020
Promoting integration of power markets in the ECO region
On 14 October 2020, the Energy Charter Secretariat in cooperation with the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Secretariat organised a technical workshop on the topic of “Perspectives and Challenges of Regional Electricity Markets: Harnessing Trade and Investment Opportunities”. The event brought together over forty government officials and energy experts from eight ECO Member States, and international and regional organisations.

International Energy Charter Secretary-General’s statement on energy security in the South Caucasus
In October 2020, during the hostilities between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the Secretary-General of the International Energy Charter was gravely concerned by the escalation of violence between the 2020 and 2021 Chairmanships of the Energy Charter Conference. The Secretary-General urged all parties involved to cease hostilities, to act in line with their international commitments and to refrain from any action that could affect critical energy infrastructure or significantly disrupt or interrupt the energy supply.

28 October 2020
Energy transition is highlighted at the Baku International Energy Charter Forum
“Transition to renewables in power generation, transport, heating and cooling: modern challenges and trends” was discussed at the Baku International Energy Charter Forum which was held on 28 October 2020 via videoconference. The Forum was jointly organised by the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Energy Charter Secretariat. Over 180 participants, including high-level government officials and leading experts from 40 countries, international organisations, energy companies, academia as well as mass media, took part in the event.

NOVEMBER 2020

2 November 2020
16th Regional Energy Cooperation Taskforce Meeting takes place
On 2 November 2020, the Energy Charter Secretariat and the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Uzbekistan acting as host and co-organiser this year, held in virtual fashion the 16th Meeting of the Taskforce on Regional Energy Cooperation in Central and South Asia. The Taskforce, established in 2007, has been meeting ever since on an annual or biannual basis, gathering power sector professionals from the region and discussing matters related to electricity production, its import and export along with related issues on transit, trade and regional cooperation.

3-6 November 2020
Public communication on the Third Negotiation Round on the modernisation of the ECT
On 3-6 November 2020, the Third Negotiation Round on the modernisation of the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) was held. The goal of this round was to explain and clarify the positions and find common ground for the discussion without prejudice to any delegation’s final decision.

9 November 2020
OPEC Secretariat hosts presentation on frameworks for energy investment
On 9 November 2020, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) invited the Energy Charter Secretariat to present the third edition of its flagship publication, the Energy Investment Risk Assessment (EIRA). The EIRA report aims to assist policymakers in reducing policy, regulatory and legal risks to investments in the energy sector.

12 November 2020
Beijing Research Centre holds its annual meeting
On 12 November 2020, China Electricity Council (CEC)-International Energy Charter Joint Research Centre held its annual meeting via videoconference. The event brought together the members of the Steering Committee, Academic Board, representatives of CEC along with its member organisations and the Energy Charter Secretariat.

Vice-President and Secretary-General of CEC Mr Yu Chongde and Secretary-General of the
International Energy Charter Dr Urban Rusnák opened the meeting by stressing the importance of continued cooperation despite the challenges related to COVID-19.

DECEMBER 2020

Fifth Investor-State Mediator Training
There is increasing interest in the potential for mediation to resolve Investor-State disputes. This three-day interactive, practice-based Investor-State Mediator Training, designed jointly by the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR), the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), the International Mediation Institute (IMI) and the International Energy Charter, covered the context of investor-State disputes within the ISDS landscape and provided experienced mediators with knowledge and skills to mediate investment disputes including stakeholder mapping and analysis, process design, co-mediation and intercultural considerations.

8 December 2020
COGEN Europe becomes the 67th member of the Industry Advisory Panel
On 8 December 2020, the International Energy Charter Industry Advisory Panel (IAP) welcomed COGEN Europe as its 67th member.

COGEN Europe represents 13 national associations and 50 organisations in the entire value chain of the cogeneration industry.

16-17 December 2020
The 31st Meeting of Energy Charter Conference held under the Chairmanship of Azerbaijan
On 16 and 17 December 2020, more than thirty Contracting Parties to the Energy Charter Treaty convened for the 31st Meeting of the Energy Charter Conference, the governing and decision-making body for the Energy Charter Process. The Meeting of the Conference extended over two days starting with the Statutory Session primarily dedicated to the main priorities of the year: modernisation of the Treaty and implementation of the 2019 Review conclusions. During this Session, the Contracting Parties noted the progress in these priorities reached in 2019, as reported by the relevant Chairs of the subsidiary bodies. The principal outcome of the Contracting Parties’ conclusions was the need for continuation of efforts aimed at reaching further milestones and eventual outcomes concerning the priorities in 2021.

Energy Charter Award 2020
At the Ministerial Session of the 31st Meeting of the Energy Charter Conference, the Vice-Chair delivered the Energy Charter Award for 2020. Ms Carmen Sofia Sanz Estébanez was voted this year to be the recipient of the Award. Ms Sanz Estébanez has been inseparable from the Energy Charter Process since 2012 when she was appointed as a Spanish delegate.

21 December 2020
Industry Advisory Panel holds its 44th meeting
On 21 December 2020, the International Energy Charter Industry Advisory Panel (IAP) held its 44th Session. The event, which took place via videoconference, was hosted by SOCAR and was attended by the Panel members, and representatives of energy companies and associations.
**PUBLICATIONS RELEASED IN 2020**

**25 March 2020**

**In-Depth Review of the Energy Efficiency Policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

The In-depth Review of the Energy Efficiency Policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan was conducted in 2019 and published in 2020. This review report was prepared by the Energy Charter Secretariat in cooperation with the Ministry of Energy of Azerbaijan. The peer review team was composed of officials from countries that are parties to the Protocol on Energy Efficiency and Related Environmental Aspects (PEEREA), and the Energy Charter Secretariat.

**2 April 2020**

**International Energy Charter 2019 Annual Report**


**13 November 2020**

**Energy Investment Risk Assessment – EIRA 2020**

The Energy Investment Risk Assessment (EIRA) is a publication of the Energy Charter Secretariat that evaluates specific risks to energy investment that can be mitigated through adjustments to policy, legal and regulatory frameworks.

Download the 2020 version [here](https://eira.energycharter.org) or from the EIRA website at: eira.energycharter.org
WORKED AT THE SECRETARIAT IN 2020

Staff
Vlatka Anić
Oleksandr Antonenko
Julia Boegaeva
(Transit Co-ordinator)
Margaret Bolan
Kanat Botbaev
Elena Bratikova
(Secretary, Office of ASG)
Ardit Cami
Alejandro Carballo Leyda
Bilyana Chobanova
(Project Co-ordinator, EU4Energy)
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Monica Emmanuel
Ruslan Galkanov
Vitali Hiarlouski
David Kramer
(Senior Expert for Investment)
Gökçe Mete
(Principal Co-ordinator of the Knowledge Centre)
Anna Nosichenko
(Financial Controller, EU4Energy)
Mara Novello
Danai Oikonomakou
(Investment Co-ordinator)
Ishita Pant
Anna Pitaraki
Yuriy Pochtovyk
Yves Rayeur
Urban Rusnák
Edward Safaryan
Scott Sutherland
(Office Co-ordinator, Office of SG)
Nidal Tayeh
Marat Terterov

Secondees
Sourou Gislain Laly Chacha

Staff on Loan
Samba Sowe

Trainees
Nataša Rajković
Hongxiang Shi
Nikola Tasić
Maria Cecilia Trimarco
Melodie Mengue Ndemezo’s
Rano Khakimova
Myriam Rigoreau-Belayachi

27 ECS Officials from 22 countries
14 male
12 female

1 ECS Secondee
1 male

1 Staff on Loan
1 male

7 Trainees from 6 countries
2 male
5 female

(position held by former staff in brackets)
# NATIONALITY OF OFFICIALS, SECONDEES, STAFF ON LOAN AND INTERNS (2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<td>The United Kingdom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uzbekistan</td>
<td>2 (incl. 1 Trainee)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Double nationalities are included)
STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANISATION FOR 2021 (AS OF APRIL 2021)

Energy Charter Conference
Chairmanship for 2021: Armenia
Chair: Mr Suren Papikyan (Armenia)
Vice-Chair: Mr Hakob Vardanyan (Armenia)
Vice-Chair: Mr Samir Valiyev
Deputy Minister of Energy, Azerbaijan
Vice-Chair: Bayarmagnai Myagmarsuren (Mongolia)

Strategy Group
Chair: Mr Samir Abdurahimov (Azerbaijan)
Vice-Chair: Vacant

Implementation Group
Chair: Ms Klara Rakhmetova (Kazakhstan)
Vice-Chair: Mr Johan Vetlesen (Norway)
Vice-Chair: Mr Aziz Khamidov (Uzbekistan)

Modernisation Group
Chair: Mr Lukas Stifter (Austria)
Vice-Chair: Mr Orii Sunao (Japan)
Vice-Chair: Mr Guy Lentz (Luxembourg)
Vice-Chair: Mr Samir Abdurahimov (Azerbaijan)
Vice-Chair: Mr Felix Imhof (Switzerland)

Working Group on Governance Issues
Chair: Ms Klara Rakhmetova (Kazakhstan)
Vice-Chair: Mr Towfick Sufian (Yemen)

Budget Committee
Chair: Mr Christian Bühlmann (Switzerland)
Vice-Chair: Vacant

Industry Advisory Panel
Chair: Mr Rafael Cayuela
Corporate Chief Economist and Strategy Director at Dow Europe

Legal Advisory Committee
Chair: Decided ad hoc by the members of the LAC
FURTHER INFORMATION


The Secretariat also publishes an electronic newsletter with details of Energy Charter meetings, activities and developments. If you are interested in receiving this newsletter, please subscribe by visiting the homepage.

For any other queries, please contact the Secretariat at info@encharter.org

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www.twitter.com/Energy_Charter
www.linkedin.com/company/energy-charter

Websites:
energycharter.org
energychartertreaty.org
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