



UNECE Roundtable on gas supply, transit and demand Statement by the Energy Charter Secretariat

- The Energy Charter Secretariat expresses its appreciation to UNECE for its work in the energy field.
- The Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) is the only legally binding multilateral instrument which offers specific rules designed to deal with energy investment and energy transit by fixed infrastructure. After the adoption in 2015 of the International Energy Charter declaration the Energy Charter has left its ancient East-West history and became truly global.
- Please be informed that, in recognition of the importance of transit provisions, the Energy Charter Conference, the decision-making body of the Energy Charter, tasked the Energy Charter Secretariat to start a consultation process on the scope of a Multilateral Framework Agreement on Energy Transit. This builds upon the basic transit provisions of the Energy Charter Treaty.
- For the Energy Charter Secretariat it is crucial to identify the needs of countries in order to assess the necessity to have such a regulation or not. Therefore the Secretariat undertakes three actions, to which you can also contribute:
 - o The Energy Charter Secretariat is now working closely with the Contracting Parties to the Energy Charter Treaty to identify any specific needs and challenges related to transit, including but not limited to access to infrastructure, types of market regulation, cross-border cooperation between TSOs or transit tariffs.
 - o Views and opinions of non-member countries are important to take into account as well. If we don't know what the needs are we might miss substance to build upon.
 - o Today's roundtable is a great opportunity to learn more about the perspectives of exporting and importing countries on the issue of transit. You are welcome to communicate to us any specific issues your country or your country's industry would like to be addressed in a multilateral transit instrument.
- As part of this consultation process, Turkmenistan as the chair of the Energy Charter Conference in 2017, will be hosting a two-day Forum on energy transit on 30-31 May in Ashgabat.
- Finally, the Energy Charter Secretariat is working on energy security from a broad perspective. To contribute to rule of law in a globalizing energy market we are happy to further extend our cooperation with UNECE. We stand ready to assist countries interested in our work or in the regulatory environment which the Energy Charter Treaty provides.

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