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PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE SIXTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
“ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE”

PARTNERSHIPS

DELIVERING ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Executive Summary¹

Proposed category I document²

Submitted by the Energy Charter Secretariat

¹ The text in this document is submitted as received from the authors.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Energy efficiency policies started after the first oil crisis in 1973 (initially as energy saving initiatives) and have delivered important results until now. But they can, and should, deliver more. Globally there is a widely held view that good energy efficiency policies have the potential to make a real difference, and this is especially true throughout much of Europe in 2007. More than ever, energy efficiency is seen as crucial to addressing energy-related issues that societies face at the local, regional, national and global level. Whether it is to reduce the cost of energy to consumers, improve competitiveness, reduce harmful environmental effects, or to enhance national energy security.

2. The main drivers for improving energy efficiency in Europe* are energy security, economics, and concerns about global climate change. Historically, energy efficiency policies became rigorous in the 1970s because of concerns for energy security after two major oil crises. Today, energy security is an ever greater concern, as economies become more and more dependent on imported supplies of variable reliability and on an energy infrastructure that is prone to technical failure or weather.

3. The European region leads in the promotion of energy efficiency and in addressing global climate change. The two are intertwined. In Europe, there cannot be an effective global climate change strategy without a major component of improved energy efficiency, and by implication, a focus on energy demand. A relatively small group of countries, together with the European Commission, is at the vanguard of advocating a more ambitious approach to energy efficiency.

* The region includes for the purpose of this report all of Europe (west, central and east), the former Soviet Union and Australia, Canada, Japan and the United States are added.

That small group has expanded in the past decade and many countries now have undertaken innovative work.

4. This report focuses on ways of delivering improved energy efficiency. Since even before the convincing arguments for an accelerated energy efficiency approach was discussed and approved at the Aarhus Environment for Europe Conference in 1998, participating countries, including transition countries, have seen the need to adapt their policies and their delivery institutions. The policy foundation is a necessary condition for successful implementation, although even the best-designed policy will not guarantee results. Real results from energy efficiency require a long-term commitment from governments, and will not be a quick fix over a few years. Implementing energy efficiency measures is complex because it affects all consumers in all sectors of the economy, involves a wide array of technologies, depends on end-use energy prices that provide consumers with market signals which motivate them to save energy, and requires effective policies that work effectively within a market approach.

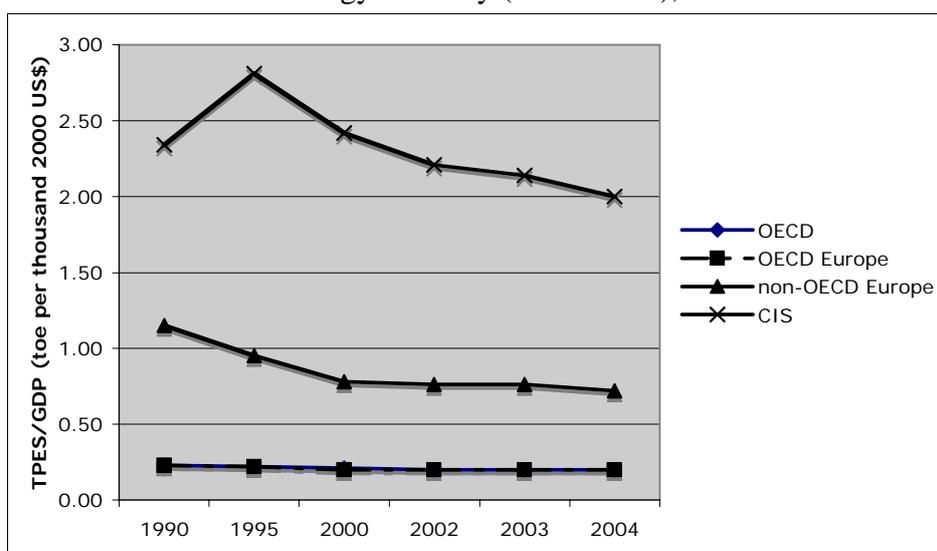
II. SHOWING RESULTS – WHAT THE NUMBERS REVEAL.

5. Showing quantitative results is a slow process because of the time lag between developing policies and noting the results, and also because recent data are reported and centralized with a certain delay. However, some trends have clear implications for both energy and environment policymakers.

6. Since 1990, primary energy production has increased 12.2 % in OECD Europe, but has decreased in the CIS 7.2%. But in CIS countries, there was a collapse in the early 1990s and since 1995 primary energy production has been steadily increasing.

7. Energy intensity -- which includes energy efficiency, fuel switching and structural changes, but is often used as a proxy to determine the level of energy efficiency improvements -- has improved in all regions. Between 1990 and 2004, it decreased 13 % in OECD Europe, it decreased 14.5 % in CIS countries and decreased 37.4 % in non-OECD Europe. It is shown in the following diagram.

Energy Intensity (TPES/GDP), 1990-2004

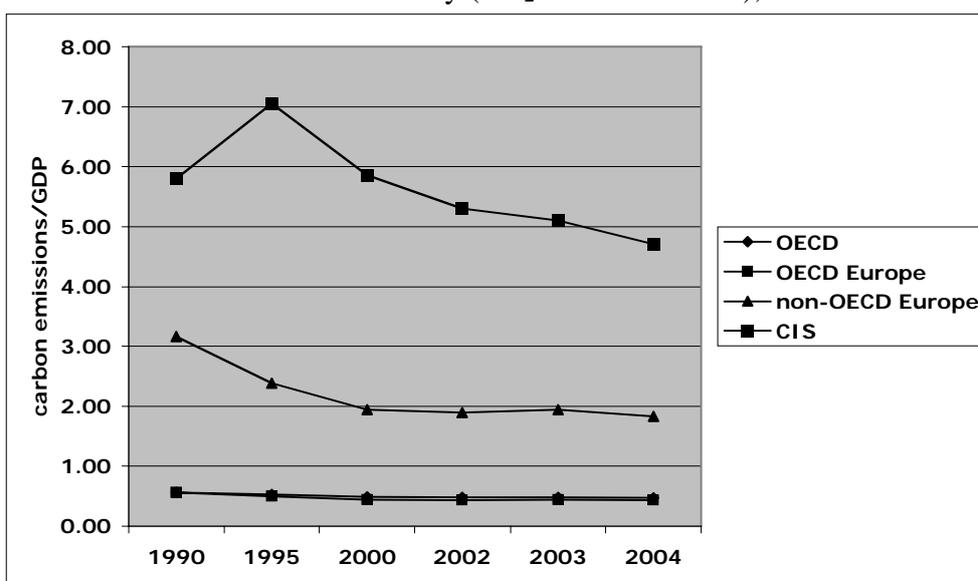


Source: IEA database

8. Carbon emissions have increased in OECD countries but not in non-OECD Europe or the CIS. In OECD Europe, total CO₂ emissions increased 4.4 % between 1990 and 2004. They decreased 30.9 % in the CIS and 31.4 % in non-OECD Europe, due initially to the economic decline and later on to the economic restructuring and technological improvements. In the CIS, however, emissions have increased since 2000.

9. Carbon intensity, the carbon used per unit of economic activity, however, has decreased in all regions as shown in the following diagram, although it is less pronounced in the OECD region.

Carbon Intensity (CO₂ emissions/GDP), 1990-2004



Source: IEA database

III. THE GROWING PRIORITY FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY

10. At the international level, the support for energy efficiency has never been stronger. The European Union, the International Energy Agency, various bodies of the United Nations and the major international financial institutions (IFIs) all strongly endorse greater energy efficiency. The Kyoto Protocol and its flexible mechanisms put a high priority on energy efficiency, even if there has not been the uptake that was expected.

UN Commission for Sustainable Development, 2006

Energy efficiency provides a win-win opportunity with many benefits including greater industrial competitiveness, better energy security and substantial reductions in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions in a cost-effective way. There is considerable scope for improving energy efficiency in households, the transport sector and industry, including the energy industry, by changing consumption and production patterns, behaviours and lifestyles.

11. For countries in the EU and other IEA countries participating in the Environment for Europe process have by and large accepted that energy efficiency is a major component of overall energy policy. The priority has been sharpened by the recently renewed emphasis on energy security. And undoubtedly, heightened public awareness of global climate change has been a major factor. Nonetheless, evidence from the IEA and elsewhere indicates that many countries are not putting a high enough priority on energy efficiency, and this is true for renewable energy as well.

12. Some of the participating countries have not had the traditional energy security concerns, largely because of abundant domestic supplies of oil and gas, in particular. And transition economies have not been driven by the obligation of meeting Kyoto GHG emissions targets because of the economic collapse in the 1990s. Their greatest concern in applying the Kyoto Protocol has been to make the flexible mechanisms of the Protocol work in their favour to finance much needed energy efficiency schemes.

IV. POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

13. Many countries have reacted to the higher priority by making improvements in energy efficiency policy. The changes, however, are really driven largely by the European Union and its ambitious policy developments. Various communications (Green Paper on Energy Efficiency, Action Plan on Energy Efficiency, on energy policy, on climate change) have been used, as well as major directives that have required EU member states to prepare energy efficiency action plans. This policy drive affects more than half of the participating countries.

14. Even if not all EU member states are giving energy efficiency the same policy priority, the EU requires a core policy that is significantly more rigorous than many of them have had in the past. Thus, the EU is an important driver in developing national energy efficiency strategies, even in countries that would not normally give it such attention.

From the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Progress in improving energy efficiency has been slow. Low tariffs, the slow pace of industrial re-structuring and more limited access to debt finance undermine the incentives for energy efficiency and push it down the priority list of investment options. Policy support is generally positive but this is rarely backed up with resources and targeted financial support for energy efficiency is extremely limited.

EBRD Energy Operations Policy on the early and intermediate transition economies

15. Overall in CIS countries, the policy developments have generally been less ambitious. While they refer to energy efficiency and often integrated it into energy laws, there is a less comprehensive approach taken in CIS countries than in most EU countries. The priority is lower and the approaches are less elaborated and often poorly resourced. According to the EBRD, progress in CIS countries has been impeded by a combination of low tariffs, scarce financing and an ageing industrial structure.

16. All EU member states have quantitative targets as a result of the recently approved Energy End-Use Efficiency and Energy Services Directive. Several of those countries had specific targets prior to this Directive. Under the Directive, member states will plan to achieve a minimum annual energy savings target of 9% by the ninth year in the period from 2008 to 2016. The energy savings targets are indicative rather than mandatory and therefore not legally binding. However, it is felt by many analysts that if the Directive is fully implemented, then the target should be reached. For example, it estimates that if the 2006 Action Plan on Energy Efficiency is fully implemented, energy demand will decrease 13 % by 2030 from today's demand.³

17. Of non-EU transition countries, Belarus, Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine have quantified targets. For example, in Belarus, the target in the current period (2006-2010) is to reduce energy intensity by 15-20% compared to 2005.

18. It has long been argued that energy efficiency, to be truly effective, needs to be integrated into other economic and social spheres of policy, from industrial development to transport to environment and, essentially, all spheres of responsibility under government. Major concentration has been on integration with environmental policy, particularly global climate change. Improved energy efficiency is seen as a major instrument in climate change strategies and all Annex 1 countries to the Kyoto Protocol confirm its importance. Almost all national or regional energy efficiency strategies also make the direct link with climate change policy.

19. There has been progress on appropriate energy pricing that will encourage greater energy efficiency. Energy prices overall have come to the fore in the past years because of major price increases for petroleum products in particular. The world price of crude oil shot upwards, reaching record levels mid-2006 before lowering again. Prices are still at historically high levels

³ *Ibid.*, p. 11.

that make it difficult for importing countries. The same has been true for natural gas prices. The EBRD, in its 2006 transition report⁴, stated that there has been significant progress in the reform of energy pricing, and gave quite good marks to all transition economies in price liberalization.

V. DELIVERING ENERGY EFFICIENCY: THE INSTITUTIONAL SITUATION

20. Good delivery of energy efficiency measures at any level of government requires an effective delivery mechanism and the resources to undertake the implementation. Most participating countries have an implementing organization. Often this organization is closely affiliated with the ministry responsible for energy or for environment, either integrated within the ministry or as a body owned by the ministry.

21. There have been improvements in the institutional capability to implement programmes, but in many transition countries, it is still a slow process.

22. For many countries, the question about adequate resources is vital and there is often a shortage of funding for the measures themselves, as well as for the organizations to deliver them. And there is a need for both stronger capacity and resources for enforcement. This is true in both transition and non-transition countries.

23. There are many non-governmental bodies that play a vital role in promoting energy efficiency, sometimes even in delivering programmes. Whether they are representing the various energy efficiency industries (insulation, control systems, lighting, district heating, cogeneration, etc.) or advocating certain positions to promote energy efficiency at the EU level or in IFIs, their voice has grown and they have been instrumental in improving the awareness of the importance of energy efficiency and the decisions made at the national, regional or the international levels.

VI. DELIVERING ENERGY EFFICIENCY: POLICY INSTRUMENTS

24. The full range of policy measures is being used to improve energy efficiency in all countries to varying degrees. The measures range from information/advice to financial instruments and regulatory measures (both mandatory and voluntary). What has proven most effective over the years is a judicious combination of mandatory measures combined with information or with financial incentives. Measures implemented on their own have proven less effective.

25. Financing energy efficiency measures remains a major concern. Many transition countries are finding it difficult to provide adequate financial resources and they are being aided by various global funds and other financing mechanisms by International Financial Institutions. The flexible mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol open some opportunity, but they have so far failed to finance many energy efficiency projects and thus have not lived up to their expectations.

⁴ EBRD, *Transition Report 2006*, London, 2006, pp.4-5.

A joint EBRD and EIB climate change initiative

The EBRD and the European Investment Bank (EIB) established the Multilateral Carbon Credit Fund (MCCF) as a key instrument in their strategy for combating climate change. Fully subscribed, with €165 million in commitments, the MCCF is one of the few carbon funds dedicated specifically to countries from Central Europe to Central Asia.

Shareholder countries can purchase carbon credits from emission reduction projects financed by EIB or EBRD to meet their mandatory or voluntary GHG emission reduction targets. Countries can also participate via the MCCF in green investment schemes. This is an innovative way to facilitate government-to-government trade in carbon credits, whereby the selling country uses the revenue from the sale of carbon credits to support investments in climate-friendly projects.

Carbon credits can be generated from a large variety of project types, all of which reduce or avoid GHG emissions and are of interest to the MCCF including, *inter alia*, energy efficiency in industry (co-generation) and larger projects in the residential sector (double glazing, insulation).

Source: www.ebrd.com

26. Many transition countries, however, depend on only a few instruments and do not maximize the potential available in, for example, mandatory minimum energy performance standards, appliance labelling and voluntary programmes.

VII. DELIVERING ENERGY EFFICIENCY: SECTORAL ISSUES

27. Apart from transportation, the sector that has been the single greatest focus has been buildings. This has been a priority for EU countries and for others. The potential for energy savings is high and buildings and appliances account for about 24 % of total CO₂ emissions reductions to 2050 according to a recent IEA study⁵.

28. Recent analysis shows that there is significant potential to reduce the energy consumption in lighting. Australia has announced its intention to ban incandescent light bulbs and now the EU is considering the same. An IEA study states that the emissions from lighting globally is 1,900 Mt of CO₂, which is 70% of the emissions of global passenger cars and more than the emissions from aviation⁶.

29. The industrial sector is important for energy savings and emissions reductions. Large industry in the EU is participating in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) and there are plans to expand the trading system to more sub-sectors within the industrial sector.

30. Transport is gaining in priority for many reasons, including the increasing effect it is

⁵ IEA, *Energy Technology Perspectives*, OECD, Paris, 2006, p. 144.

⁶ IEA, *Light's Labour's Lost, Policies for Energy-efficient Lighting*, OECD, Paris, 2006, p. 31.

having on GHG emissions. This has been a challenge for government for decades, because of the high dependence on fossil fuels and the lack of many cost-effective alternatives. This is changing but it is slow to make any significant headway.

VIII. OVERALL CONCLUSIONS

31. There have been many accomplishments over the last few years. There is a better policy and legislative foundation that will produce good results in the future. There is momentum and the policy drivers of climate change and energy security are putting energy efficiency higher up the political agenda. Both energy and environment policymakers should feel confident that there will be strong improvements in energy efficiency in this region. Nevertheless, while there are encouraging signs, governments need to devote adequate resources and political commitment in order to ensure that those results are forthcoming. For more results to be delivered in a timely and cost-effective manner, however, there are still many areas of policy, regulation and implementation that need to be improved.

32. The main conclusions in this report are:

- (a) While there has been good progress in Europe, the results are uneven and the gap is growing in efforts to promote energy efficiency between EU countries and those of the CIS.
- (b) Energy efficiency policies are improving and the regular update of policies to reflect changing circumstances and priorities is welcome. The priority for energy efficiency at the international level has never been higher. This is also true at the national level, although the level of commitment depends on national circumstances, such as for the energy security situation or concerns about global climate change. There is some evidence of an imbalance in the priorities for energy efficiency and renewable energy, with many cost-effective energy efficiency opportunities being overlooked.
- (c) The European Union is a major driver in promoting energy efficiency and global climate change strategies and this extends well beyond its border of 27 countries.
- (d) Implementing energy efficiency policies is complex and requires a good delivery mechanism (implementation agencies or set of agencies) together with the necessary human and financial resources. Too often, national efforts are under-resourced, particularly in many transition countries. There are signs of improvements but they are slow to materialize, given the benefits that can be expected. Good implementation also means the best use of available stakeholders from local authorities, industry groups, energy supply companies, energy service companies and non-government organizations.
- (e) The full range of policy instruments is being used throughout the region: from information to financial incentives, fiscal policies and regulatory measures. However, these instruments are not used equally or uniformly throughout the region. Many transition countries, especially in the CIS, have not fully developed their use of the range of instruments, either for the lack of policy commitment or

for the lack of resources.

- (f) There is a need to better exploit the benefits that improving energy efficiency brings to the environment, both at global level by mitigating climate change and at local level by reducing local pollutants. The potential is significant and improved energy efficiency can play a major role.
- (g) It is necessary to better integrate energy efficiency into the full range of national and regional policies and programmes of global climate change measures, and in particular in the implementation of the flexible mechanisms of Emissions Trading, Joint Implementation and the Clean Development Mechanism.
- (h) Joint Implementation and the Clean Development Mechanism have not lived up to their expectations in funding energy efficiency projects and, while the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) must try and remedy this, participating countries also need to actively pursue how those flexible mechanisms can be better utilized to promote energy efficiency.
- (i) The continuing reform of energy prices and the removal of environmentally harmful subsidies should be encouraged in order to support energy efficiency and environmental policies. Appropriate energy signals play a major role in encouraging consumers to undertake energy efficiency actions.
- (j) There is good work being undertaken in the buildings sector, for district heating and cogeneration and for appliances. The EU is giving a high priority to all three areas and a comprehensive set of measures is in place and now being implemented.
- (k) The transport sector remains a major concern in all participating countries. It is a complex growing sector, mostly dependent on fossil fuels and, thus, the sector where GHG emissions are increasing significantly.
- (l) All countries need to ensure they have good monitoring and evaluation systems set up in order to regularly assess the progress being made in their energy efficiency policies and programmes.
- (m) No country in the region can be complacent. There is considerable scope for more action, even in the countries that have relatively strong policies and programmes. And those countries are generally the first to admit they can and should do more.
- (n) International co-operation is very important in promoting energy efficiency. The international community provides valuable policy momentum, the comparative analytical foundation, capacity development, technology development and financing. It also allows countries to learn from each other, as is the case in peer reviews for the Energy Charter. International co-operation can be for the entire region (or even global) or for sub-regions. International co-operation is still needed to support the capacity building in some of the countries that have been lagging behind.
