

THE ENERGY CHARTER SECRETARIAT

Introductory Comment by Energy Charter Secretariat:

The ECS report for the Belgrade Conference is in preparation. Based on preliminary work and the findings of the report presented to the Kiev Conference, there are some areas that warrant the attention of ministers and heads of delegations at the Belgrade Conference. Improved energy efficiency makes a major contribution to reducing the environmental impacts of energy use, which has important impact on the global, regional and local environment. There is a need for much closer integration of energy efficiency into environmental policies and programmes. Improved energy efficiency is not a panacea for all the world's environmental problems, but it can be a major element in alleviating these problems.

The following draft statement reflects the current views of the ECS as to how the statement on energy efficiency would be written.

Draft Statement on Energy Efficiency and the Environment

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations at the Belgrade Conference,

- 1 Recognize that the adverse environmental consequences of producing and using energy can in part be addressed and often significantly minimised through effective efforts to fully integrate energy efficiency improvements throughout the energy cycle;
- 2 Consider that the Kiev Statement on Energy Efficiency together with the Energy Charter's Protocol on Energy Efficiency and Related Environmental Aspects (PEEREA), for many countries offer a long-term framework for integrating energy efficiency policy and programme developments into overall energy and environmental policies;
- 3 Note the report "Delivering Energy Efficiency" on the progress in implementation of energy efficiency provisions of the Kiev Policy Statement and the Aarhus Declaration, prepared by the Energy Charter Secretariat in cooperation with other International Organisations, which details the progress made since the Kiev Conference both in national energy efficiency policies and in international cooperation;
- 4 Decide to:

The following elements represent the preliminary areas of action identified. The exact content under each item, as well as other possible issues, should be detailed and written in the time frame decided by the WGSO for the preparation of the Belgrade Conference:

- a. *Integrate energy efficiency considerations into existing and new national and international environmental policies;*
- b. *Integrate energy efficiency into the full range of global climate change measures;*
- c. *Enhance the role of energy efficiency measures in the flexible mechanisms of Joint Implementation and the Clean Development Mechanism;*
- d. *Ensure cooperation between environmental and energy ministries in the area of energy efficiency;*
- e. *Improve the division of responsibility between various Governmental institutions acting on energy efficiency and environment;*
- f. *Enhance the role of the civil society and NGOs in ensuring integration of energy efficiency and environmental measures;*
- g. *Give a high priority to the reform of energy prices and the removal of environmentally harmful subsidies, in order to support energy efficiency and environmental policies;*
- h. *Consider the role of environmental taxation and tax shifts to ensure efficient use of energy while supporting labour creation policies;*
- i. *Monitor and report on the progress in the context of the Environment for Europe process.*