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Speaking points for the International Energy Charter Forum

17 December, 9:00-13:15h

- Uzbekistan signed the Energy Charter Treaty in 1995.
- Today, we are glad to be part of this important event. It is also a pleasure to meet at this Forum other founding members of the Treaty as well as new comers (like Jordan).
- The purpose of today's event is to look behind in order to apply the lessons learnt to the future.
- The challenges of today are predominantly not the same as the challenges 24 years ago, when the Treaty was negotiated. The members of the Energy Charter Treaty have to work together on shared challenges, bringing positive results.
- Therefore, while the ECT has been very helpful so far, in order to continue being a key instrument it should adapt to the new needs and challenges.
- For Uzbekistan, a doubly landlocked country (surrounded by other landlocked countries), good relations with neighboring countries are extremely important.
- The Energy Charter Treaty, which was also acceded to by Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Turkmenistan, enhances ties between Central Asian countries and strengthens cooperation in the whole region. It facilitated investment and energy transit in the region.
- Central Asia is one of the world's most dynamically developing regions which plays a strategic role and has significant human and high economic potential, including excellent natural and industrial resources.
- Central Asia's growing involvement in global economic processes requires closer cooperation between the regions, including, sharing experience in energy efficiency and introducing green technologies.
- As you may know, on 23 November, Brussels hosted European Union-Central Asia ministerial meeting attended by the foreign ministers of Kazakhstan,

Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and the European Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

- The agenda focused on a new draft of the EU Strategy on Central Asia.
- Following the plenary session, the EU and Central Asian countries adopted a joint communiqué which stressed the importance of adopting a new strategy in early 2019 *“to guide the development of region-to-region relations in a way that brings mutual, tangible and long-term benefits.”*
- In this regard, I would like to stress the role of the International Energy Charter by supporting the work of the dedicated Task force on regional energy cooperation in Central and South Asia. I believe that the Energy Charter will be also instrumental in terms of facilitating energy cooperation between the EU, Japan and countries of Central Asia.
- Uzbekistan is ready to be involved in the modernisation discussions in order to keep the ECT an effective instrument.
- Thank you!