

**ENERGY CHARTER
SECRETARIAT**

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Brussels, 26/27 November 2012

Related documents: CC 443, CC 458

DECISION OF THE ENERGY CHARTER CONFERENCE

Subject: Binding customs tariff standstill regime

[The Energy Charter Conference at its 23rd Meeting held on 26th/27th November 2012] *duly adopted* the decision regarding the binding customs tariff standstill regime in CC 443 (Annex).

Keywords: Binding Customs, tariff, standstill regime

DECISION

The Energy Charter Conference, at its 23rd Meeting on 26 November 2012 in Warsaw, Poland, has taken the following decision regarding the possibility to move to a binding tariff standstill regime for import and export customs duties:

1. The Energy Charter Conference acknowledges the work done by the Secretariat in compilation of the Transparency document summarising the customs regime of the ECT members that will serve the basis for discussion of the possibility to move to a binding tariff standstill regime for import and export customs duties.
2. The Conference takes note of the general interest delegations have shown in discussions at the Trade Experts meeting on 18 September 2012 and Trade and Transit Group to consider the possibility to move to a binding tariff standstill regime for import and export customs duties on selected items. The Conference appreciates the delegations' participation in and contribution to the Trade Experts meeting and their submission of the information on the applied and bound customs duties rates to the Secretariat. The Conference urges those delegations that have not provided the necessary information to provide it as soon as possible.
3. The Conference acknowledges the difficulties of conducting substantive discussion on products to be moved to Annexes EM II and EQ II in the absence of participation of all delegations in the discussion at the appropriate technical level.
4. Taking into account the report by the Chairman of the Trade and Transit Group and the discussion at the Trade Experts meeting in September 2012, the Conference finds it necessary to continue the discussion on the possibility to move to a binding tariff standstill regime for import and export customs duties in 2013 with a view to having a proposal on a possibility to move selected items to Annex EM II and EQ II by the end of 2013.
5. The Conference requests all the delegations to designate experts at the appropriate technical level of trade and energy expertise to participate in the subsequent meetings of Trade Experts.
6. The Conference mandates the Secretariat, based on the Transparency document, to conduct discussions within the Trade Experts meetings and the Trade and Transit Group with a view to subsequently presenting a recommendation to the Conference on the possibility to move any items from the ECT Annexes EM I and EQ I to EM II and EQ II in 2013.

Keywords: Binding Customs tariff standstill regime