

FOREWORD



Energy problems besetting the Middle East with its wealth of oil and natural gas have long been ignored. The West also tended to view the Middle East through the lens of the energy supplier/energy consumer relationship and the associated problems, rather than comprehending the Gulf and its neighbours as a region with serious energy-related problems and its own energy issues.

Thus, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung in Amman is proud to co-organize the Arab Institute for Security Studies' international conference on "Energy Security in the Middle East and the Gulf Region", which attempts to cover the topic in both an innovative and thorough manner, thereby covering major issues related to the global economy, security challenges, water, and renewable energies. Moreover, major legal aspects and issues of regional cooperation are to be addressed.

I wish the distinguished experts on the field and all participants of this conference a fruitful exchange of thoughts. I am confident that the conference will have a strong impact on the future work of all of us.

Dr. Martin Beck
Resident Representative of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung to Amman (Jordan)

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martin Beck".

FOREWORD



The security of energy supply remains the most important objective of any energy policy either at national or multilateral level. It is possible to argue that such security can be achieved by eliminating short-term or long-term risks that arise from energy use, production and imports.

For most energy producer countries energy export is one of the main sources of revenue. For this reason a sharp decline in energy prices can directly affect their economy. But the volatility of the oil market also damages energy consumer countries. In the case of consumer countries abnormally low oil prices while providing short term benefits may cause long term damage by diminishing incentives to invest, not only in hydrocarbon production, but also in energy savings and carbon-free alternatives.

For all these reasons it has become necessary to recognise the concept of energy interdependency, rather than energy independency, as the objective of any energy security of supply policy. This new concept has forced stake-holders and decision makers to reflect on how to manage this interdependency by complying with some common rules to achieve a shared objective while at the same time respecting the legitimate interests of each national state.

The Energy Charter Treaty and its related instruments comprise a unique and efficient instrument which contributes on a multilateral basis to the objective of energy security. By addressing and promoting the best practices developed over more than twenty years by fifty one Signatory countries and twenty four Observer countries, the Energy Charter Treaty facilitates more stable governance in the energy sector.

The Middle East and Gulf Region is of growing importance in the context of energy supply and security. However major investment is required to facilitate the development of the available resources. Most countries of the region have Observer status to the Energy Charter Treaty. Yet to fully benefit from the Treaty it is necessary to actually accede to the Treaty. Furthermore the more countries that are full members of, and participate in, the Treaty, the more the region as a whole will benefit.

The Energy Charter Secretariat is therefore welcomes the opportunity to participate in this conference promoted by the Arab Institute for Securities Studies through the Conference on Energy Security in the Middle East and the Gulf Region.

Ambassador Andre Mernier
Secretary General of the Energy Charter Secretariat