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Our ref: MCSL2023/20681

7 November 2023

Dear George,

Thank you for your email of 26 September on behalf of your constituents regarding the UK's membership of the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT).

The UK has been a strong advocate for ECT modernisation, to align it with modern energy priorities, international treaty practice and commitments on climate change.

Since the UK and other Contracting Parties reached an agreement in principle to modernise the ECT in June 2022, formal adoption of the modernised Treaty has been paused indefinitely. Several EU Member States have announced intent to withdraw, and the European Commission has called for the EU to withdraw in full, meaning that there is no clear route to ECT modernisation.

We are therefore reviewing our membership of the ECT in the event that modernisation is not adopted in November. The review will carefully consider the views of stakeholders in business, civil society and Parliament to inform the UK's approach and will consider options including withdrawal.

The Government will keep Parliament informed for relevant developments regarding the UK's position.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Yours ever,

RT HON CLAIRE COUTINHO MP
Secretary of State for Energy Security & Net Zero