



**Chris Heaton-Harris**  
Member of Parliament for Daventry  
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA  
Tel: 020 7219 7048

August 2023

*Dear Constituent,*

Thank you for taking the time to contact me about the Energy Charter Treaty and EDM 1279. Members of the Government do not, by convention, sign any Early Day Motions, as doing so is likely to breach the Ministerial Code's rules on collective responsibility.

However, Britain has long advocated modernisation of this treaty, recognising the urgent need to address climate change and align the treaty with modern energy priorities, international treaty practice and climate commitments. In its unmodernised form, the treaty is focused on trade and investment in fossil fuels. Some major renewable energy technologies are outside its scope.

I understand that since the adoption of modernisation was postponed at the Energy Charter Conference in November 2022, my colleagues have been closely monitoring developments on treaty modernisation, including the positions of contracting parties such as the EU. This is an evolving situation, and it is right that Ministers assess it carefully in advance of further international talks. It is also important that the views of civil society, business and Parliament are used to inform an appropriate response.

I am informed that the Government holds regular meetings with members of the treaty modernisation group with future meetings due in the summer and the annual Energy Charter Conference due in late 2023. I am told Parliament will be kept informed of relevant developments regarding the UK's position and have ensured that Ministers are aware of the points you raise.

Thank you for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

**CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY**

Website: [www.heatonharris.com](http://www.heatonharris.com)