



**Marie Rimmer CBE, MP**  
Member of Parliament for St. Helens  
South & Whiston  
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA  
Tel: 020 7219 4847/01744 752075

### **Withdrawal from the Energy Charter Treaty:**

I appreciate the concerns raised about the ECT being used by fossil fuel companies to sue governments for introducing climate policies. I believe the Government needs to set out when it will follow the example of other major European countries and commit to withdrawing from the treaty.

It is clear that the ECT is a major barrier to effective international action to tackle the climate crisis, with energy companies using the treaty's investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) provisions to challenge plans to move to net zero. In particular, where companies are able to claim their investments in fossil fuel extraction are being damaged by government intervention, they can use the ECT to sue for damages or use the threat of lawsuits to deter governments from acting. We have seen, for example, the case of RWE suing the Netherlands for €1.4 billion over the phase-out of coal and of UK oil company Rockhopper, which won a case against Italy over a ban on offshore drilling.

Since proposed reforms to the ECT were put on hold in November, the Government has said it is monitoring developments among parties to the treaty and assessing the situation around modernisation. However, several European countries have announced their withdrawal from the treaty and the European Commission has now proposed a co-ordinated withdrawal of EU member states, stating that the treaty is not compatible with European climate goals.

As the Climate Change Committee has said, with prospects for reform of the treaty uncertain, it represents a risk to the UK's climate transition and to the taxpayer. I can therefore assure constituents that I will continue to support efforts to press the Government on the crucial concerns constituents raise on this issue, including if new clause 7 is selected for debate when the Energy Bill returns to the floor of the House of Commons on 5 September.

More widely, I can also assure constituents that I oppose any ISDS clauses in future trade deals that deter action to protect the environment.

**Marie Rimmer CBE, MP**

### **Constituency Office:**

Marie Rimmer CBE, MP, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Century House, Hardshaw Street, St. Helens WA10 1QU, 01744 752075,  
[marie.rimmer.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:marie.rimmer.mp@parliament.uk)  
Website: [www.marierimmer.co.uk](http://www.marierimmer.co.uk)