

International Energy Agency (IEA)

Key features

Type of organisation: Inter-governmental organisation within the OECD framework

Charter/Constitution: I.E.P. Agreement [Agreement on an International Energy Program] (treaty) and OECD Council decision of 15 Nov. 1974

Membership

- Nature: Representatives from governments (generally representatives from energy and foreign affairs ministries)
- Number: 29

Year of establishment: 1974

Headquarters: Paris, France

Secretariat staff: 260

Total budget: €27.4m (2016)

Type of activity: Policy dialogue, data collection and analysis, information exchange, coordination of state responses to oil supply disruptions in oil supply, facilitation of the exchange of technology

Sectors of activity: Energy

Website: www.iea.org

Members

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

Relationship with non-Members

The IEA collaborates with Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Singapore and Thailand through its multilateral Association initiative. The aforementioned Association countries participate in IEA meetings, and work together with IEA member states on energy security, energy policy, data, and technology matters. The IEA also has bilateral cooperation agreements with other major economies.

The European Union also [participates](#) in the work of the IEA.

Mandate

The I.E.P. Agreement is a multilateral international treaty that embodies a set of reciprocal legal rights and obligations to which IEA Members are bound under international law. In broad terms, IEA Members share the collective goal of ensuring a reliable, affordable and clean energy supply. To this end, the I.E.P. Agreement requires Members to stockhold oil and create energy demand restraint policies, which allow Members to effectively respond to major oil supply disruptions. Additionally, Members are required to exchange a variety of energy sector data to improve market transparency and to inform rational energy policy policies. IEA Members are also committed to diversifying their energy supply, exchanging best practices and technology, and working with non-Members, when necessary, to ensure the energy security goals enshrined in the I.E.P. Agreement can be accomplished.

The Governing Board of the IEA, which is made up of representatives from Member states, may place additional binding obligations on Members.

IRC processes that takes place within the organisation

Exchange of information and experiences	Systematically
Data Collection	Systematically
Research and policy analysis	Systematically
Discussion of good regulatory practices	Systematically
Development of rules, standards or good practices	Systematically
Negotiation of international agreements	Systematically
Enforcement: imposition of sanctions	Never
Dispute settlement *	Never
Crisis management	Systematically

* The IEA has a dispute settlement mechanism in place which has never been used

Categories of legal and policy instruments

	Is it taking place within the IO?	Approximate number
Treaties for ratification by States (excluding the founding one)		
Legally binding decisions	√	
Recommendations	√	
Political declarations	√	
Model treaties or law		
Production of technical standards		
Non-binding guidance/best practices document	√	

Interactions with other international organisations active in the field

Mechanisms of interaction	Approximate number of IOs involved	Examples
Develop joint instruments		
MoU or other agreements	√ 13	International Renewable Energy Agency; United Nations Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); UNFCCC Secretariat; World Meteorological Organisation
Participate in co-ordinating institution		
Joint meetings that provide forum for co-ordination	√ 5	
Observe relevant actions of other bodies	√ 2	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Energy Working Group (APEC EWG); International Solar Alliance
Exchange information	√	

IEA history

In 1974, the IEA was established as an autonomous agency within the framework of the OECD. The impetus for creating the Agency was the urgent need for major energy consuming countries to cooperate effectively on a broad spectrum of energy issues, particularly oil supply security, to buffer the effects of the 1970s Oil Crisis. The main policy commitments of the cooperating nations, and the Agency framework are firmly anchored in a binding treaty called the "Agreement on an International Energy Program" (I.E.P. Agreement), which entered into force in 1976.

Since its founding, the IEA has evolved to become the world's premier energy organization, providing authoritative statistics and analysis, examining the full spectrum of energy issues, and advocating policies that will enhance the reliability, affordability and sustainability of energy in its 29 members countries and beyond. In June 2017, the IEA Governing Board invited Mexico to ratify the I.E.P. Agreement and become the 30th member.

Source: Data provided by the IEA to the OECD as part of a data collection exercise, October 2017