

The 8th Summit

Brief Note of the Chairman of the 14th ECO Council of Ministers

(Dushanbe, 14 September, 2004)

Annex-VI

By H.E. Mr. Talbak Nazarov,

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Tajikistan and Chairman of the 14th COM meeting

*Honourable Presidents,
Heads of Delegations,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It is an honour and privilege for me to briefly report on the productive deliberations of the 14th meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) held on September 12, 2004, to this august body, the Heads of State/Government/Delegation of ECO member states. The meeting discussed and deliberated in detail the issues on its agenda.

Within the framework of its agenda, the meeting reviewed ECO reports; approved/ adopted some documents and gave its decisions on some ECO activities.

The 14th COM:

- a. Considered the report of the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) on the measures of promoting the efficiency of ECO and decided that the CPR may further discuss the report and submit its views to the 15th COM meeting. The EPG was set up by the 13th COM meeting held last year in June 2003 in Bishkek to submit its recommendations to this meeting.
- b. Approved the modalities for Establishment of ECO Special Fund for Reconstruction of Afghanistan and instructed the Secretariat to open an account and begin with the necessary implementation as envisaged in the modalities as soon as possible.
- c. Approved the reports of the 13 Meetings of Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) (79th to 91st) held since last 13th COM meeting, ECO's Budget for 2004, ECO Secretariat's Audit Report for 2003, the recommendations of the Selection Committee for nine ECO Awards 2004 winner from member states, the report of 14th Meeting of Regional Planning Council (RPC) along with the ECO's Annual Calendar of Events for 2004-2005, Work Programme of the Secretariat for 2004, and renewal of the term of one Director.

While approving the ECO Secretariat's budget for 2004, urged the member states to pay their un-paid contributions to the budget of ECO Secretariat for the previous years and for the year 2004. They also requested that the COM Chairman may consult the concerned member states on the issue of unpaid contributions.

- d. Appointed the ECO Audit Board comprising three member states, namely Iran, Pakistan and Turkey for another three years.
- e. Reviewed the reports of the ministerial meetings held after 13th COM in the field of trade, industry, finance & economy and transport and reiterated its commitment to facilitate the implementation of the Trans-Asian Railway main line project.
- f. Considered the papers prepared by the Secretariat on the follow-up of the implementation of the decisions of 13th COM and 7th Summit meetings, the status of ratification of the ECO signed agreements and the implementation of the decisions of the previous sectoral Ministerial meetings and asked the Secretariat to also follow up of the implementation of the decisions of the 14th COM, 8th Summit and sectoral Ministerial meetings on a regular basis and submit similar reports to the next COM meeting for its consideration. In

this connection, the Council asked the member states to implement agreements, especially on the Trade & Development Bank and Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA).

- g. Also deliberated extensively on a number of other issues including joint action to combat drug trafficking, terrorism, increasing role of the private sector, resolution on cooperation between ECO and UN, and the change of reference to the Turkish Muslim Community of Cyprus in ECO documents.
- h. Discussed draft Dushanbe Declaration 2004 in the light of the views of the member states and approved it for submission to the 8th Summit meeting of Heads of State/Government/Delegation for adoption. The said Declaration will be released after its adoption by the Heads of State/Government/Delegation, Your Excellencies, on the conclusion of the Summit today.

Excellencies,

Now, I would like to avail of this opportunity to express my gratitude for the cooperation, hard work and valuable contribution of my colleagues in the Council of Ministers meeting. Also, I would like to express my appreciation of the assistance given by the ECO Secretariat under the able guidance of the Secretary General for facilitating the conduct of the 14th COM meeting.

Thank you for Your Excellencies' kind attention.

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