

The 3rd CPR Meeting

Report

(Tehran – 5 February, 1997)

Adopted No. CON/CPR-3/97/Rpt Dt. 16-03-1997

1. The Third meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held at the Secretariat on 5th February, 1997 under the chairmanship of Ambassador of Turkmenistan. The Representatives of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan Republic, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Republic of Uzbekistan and the Secretary General of ECO attended the meeting. The list of participants is attached as *Annex-I*.

Agenda Item-I:

Adoption of Agenda

2. The Council adopted the agenda proposed by the Secretariat for the meeting which is attached as *Annex-II*.

Agenda Item-2:

Adoption of the Report of 2nd meeting of CPR

3. The Council adopted the Report of its second meeting held on 22nd January, 1997. The adopted Report is being circulated by the Secretariat separately.

Agenda Item No.3

ECO's Annual Calendar of Events for 1997-98

4. The Council took note of the draft .4nnual Calendar of ECO Meetings/Events for 1997-98 prepared by the ECO Secretariat and decided to refer it to the meetings of the Technical Committees for further consideration. The Technical Committees were asked to consider this issue raking into account the following guidelines:

(a) TO optimize the Calendar by keeping the number of meetings at a reasonable level, maximizing however the number of workshops. educational seminars. or training programs.

(b) A geographical re-distribution in order to enable all interested Member States to host ECO meetings.

(c) Member States volunteering to host meetings may reconfirm their commitment to hold the scheduled events in their territory

(d) In view of the new structure of ECO try to pass certain responsibilities to the Economic Directorates of the Secretariat.

Agenda Item-4:

Location and Status of Drug Control Coordination Unit (Continuation of last meetings discussion)

1. The Council continued its in-depth discussion on the matter. Following the interventions of Representatives of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan two main trends have emerged:

(a) One view expressed by the majority of the, Member States supporting the creation of DCCU, favoured its up gradation to Assistant Director level.

(b) The second view supported by only one Member State that the creation of Drug Control Coordination Unit and its up gradation to Assistant Director level was not necessary at this stage.

6. Due to lack of consensus, the Council recommended that the issue may be taken up as a separate Agenda item during the Seventh meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers to be held in Tehran on 28-29 April, 1997.

7. Concerning the UNDCP project proposal to assist ECO Secretariat in establishing a Drug Control Coordination Unit (DCCU), the Council urged the Member States to expedite their views/comments on the matter to enable the Technical Committee on Drug Cooperation scheduled to meet on 25th February, 1997 to take up the issue for final consideration.

Agenda Item 5 Budgetary matters

(a) Selection of Auditors for Audit of the Financial Year 1996.

8. The Council discussed the issue and as required under Article 18.5 of the Financial Regulations of the ECO Secretariat called upon the three founding Member States to make their nominations to the Audit Board being in charge of auditing the accounts for the financial year 1996, latest by the end of March 1997. The meeting of the Audit Board may be held in the ECO Secretariat sometime in May 1997. The exact dates of the meeting will be communicated to the respective Member States in due course.

(b) Budgetary Contributions of Seven New Member Countries.

9. Upon the proposal of the Chairman of the CPR, it was decided that as an interim arrangement, UN Scale of Assessment be taken into account to work out the contribution of each new Member State for the Budget of 1997. Any adjustment if required will be done under the budget for financial year 1998. The Permanent Representatives of five Central Asian States of ECO present in the meeting, agreed to this formulation. The Representatives of Afghanistan and Azerbaijan stated that they will seek instructions from their respective capitals. ECO Secretariat was requested to calculate the contribution according to UN Scale and circulate it to the seven new Member States.

(c) Nominations on Committee of Experts for ECO's Scale of Assessment:

10. Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan made their nomination to the Committee of Expert for ECO's Scale of Assessment. Having the required quorum (nominations from six Member States namely: Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Turkey and Turkmenistan) the Council decided that the Committee will hold its first meeting upon the receipt of requisite documentation/material and exact date of the meeting from the ECO Secretariat.

(d) Status Report on General Reserve Fund:

11. The Council took note of the status report on General Reserve Fund prepared and circulated by the Secretariat vide its Note No. 4cct/701022 dated 29th January, 1997.

Agenda Item-6: ECO-ASEAN Cooperation

12. The Secretary General briefed the meeting on his talks with the Secretary General of ASEAN held in Singapore on 11th December, 1996 and requested the Council to make decision on the following issues:

- (a) Size of ECO senior officials delegation to visit the ASEAN Member States.
- (b) Date of the visit.
- (c) Countries to be visited.

13. The Council considered it convenient that for the first visit, the delegation shall preferably comprise of two representatives from ECO Secretariat, one representative from the country chairing the Council of Ministers, three representatives from the founding members and one from among the other member states of ECO. The member states were requested to make their nominations from among officials directly dealing with the work of agreed areas of cooperation between ECO and ASEAN and convey it to the ECO Secretariat not later than 20th March, 1997. Nevertheless, the composition of the delegation for the first visit may be finalized by CPR upon the receipt of nominations.

14. The Council also observed that the cost of the visit will be borne by the respective Member States having a representative in the said delegation. The cost of the officials of the Secretariat will be borne by the ECO Secretariat.

15. It was agreed that the first visit be limited to two Members States of ASEAN namely Singapore and Indonesia.

16. The Secretary General also informed the Council that as for the realization of contacts between the private sectors of the WHO Organizations as directed by the Ministers, he has corresponded with the Chief Executive of ASEAN Chamber of Commerce informing him that ECO Chamber of Commerce will contact them for follow up action. ECO Chamber of Commerce has also been informed about this communication to follow up the matter. He added that any results were awaited and will be brought to the attention of CPR in due course.

Agenda Item-7:

IDB's proposal to hold a Seminar on Export Capabilities of Central Asian countries members of ECO

17. The Council took note of the proposal and while welcoming it in principle requested the ECO Secretariat to obtain and circulate more detailed information to the Member States on the objectives and other aspects of the Seminar. This issue will be taken up by the CPR; in its next meeting.

Agenda Item-8:

Any Other Business

18. Under this agenda item, the Secretary General informed the meeting of the following:

- (a) All Member States attended the meeting of the CPR as envisaged in the regulations, at appropriate level (Ambassadors / Permanent Representatives or Charge d' affaires) and actively participated in the discussions of the third meeting of the CPR, which is highly appreciated.
- (b) A revised working paper for the 7th meeting of the RPC had been circulated vide Secretariat's Note No. CON/RPC/70292S dated 03-02-1997 " which will be the basic document for the discussions of the said meeting. He requested the distinguished Permanent Representatives to convey the same to their respective Governments.
- (c) The Ambassadors of Kazakhstan and Turkey presented their Credentials as Permanent Representatives to ECO to the Secretary General.
- (d) Turkey had formally endorsed the proposal of Turkmenistan to hold an Extraordinary ECO Summit meeting in May 1997.

(e) As circulated vide Secretariat's Note No. CECL~/CTF/702646 dated 4th February, 1997, Pakistan had withdrawn its earlier offer to hold the second ECO exhibition in Mc1rch 1997.

Agenda Item 9

Date of the Next Meeting

19. The Council decided that its next meeting shall be held on 16th March, 1997 at 1330 hours.
20. The Report of the CPR shall be submitted to the fourth meeting of the CPR for adoption.

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