

# The 4<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting

## Report

( Tehran – 16 March, 1997 )

Adopted No. CON/CPR-4/97/ Dated 16-03-1997

1. The Fourth Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held at the Secretariat on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 1997 under the chairmanship of Ambassador of Turkmenistan. The Representatives of Islamic State of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan Republic, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey, Turkmenistan, Republic of Uzbekistan and the Secretary General of ECO attended the meeting. The list of participants is attached as Annex-I

### Agenda Item 1

#### Opening of the Meeting and adoption of the Agenda

2. The Council adopted the Agenda proposed by the Secretariat for the meeting with an amendment. The adopted Agenda is attached as Annex-II.

### Agenda Item 2

#### Adoption of the Report of the Third Meeting of the CPR

3. The Council adopted the Report of its third meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 1997 as prepared by the Secretariat. The adopted Report is being circulated by the Secretariat separately.

### Agenda Item 3

#### Preparations for the proposed Extraordinary ECO Summit meeting in Ashgabat (dates, draft agenda, other arrangements)

4. The Chairman and the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan informed the council that All Member States had concurred, in principle, with the dates 13-14 May, 1997 for the Extraordinary Summit meeting to be held in Ashgabat.

5. To make necessary ground work for the Extraordinary Summit meeting and upon the invitation of the Chairman of CPR (the Representative of Turkmenistan), the council decided that high level Experts meeting/s be held in Ashgabat on 7-9 April, 1997 to discuss the issues of transportation, communication, oil and gas pipelines. The outcome of the high level expert's meeting/s will be submitted to the Seventh meeting of the Council of Ministers for adoption. The Council requested the Secretary General to communicate the decision to the member States immediately.

6. The Council also decided to amend the agenda item proposed by the Government of Turkmenistan to be included in the Agenda of the Extraordinary Summit meeting. The amended Agenda item reads as follows:

“Measures to develop ECO regional transport and communication infrastructures and the system of transnational pipelines”

7. The Council further recommended that the Seventh meeting of the ECO council of Ministers shall also act as the preparatory meeting of Ministers for the Extraordinary Summit meeting. However, in case it was necessary, an informal ministerial level meeting may be held in the morning of 14<sup>th</sup> May, 1997 to finalize the documents to be adopted by the Summit.

**Agenda Item 4**Annual Calendar of ECO Events for 1997-98 as proposed by RPC

8. The Council considered the draft Calendar of ECO Events for 1997-98 adopted during the RPC, and endorse it in principle for submission to the forthcoming meeting of Council of Ministers with the following observations:

- If any Member State failed to convene the meetings envisaged in the ECO Calendar of Events for 1997-98, ECO Secretariat may hold that meeting in its premises to avoid postponement of ECO Events to the end of the year.
- In the activity number 6 under the Transport and communication Directorate titled “workshops on land transport conventions” to be organized by the technical assistance of ESCAP, the Member States of ECO may be divided into two groups instead of three. The new grouping would be:
  - Group-1: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey
  - Group-2: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan
- Turkey agreed to withdraw its earlier offer to host meeting of the Ad-hoc Committee of Experts on ECO road, Transport Permits scheduled to take place in Turkey in April 1997 provided Republic of Kazakhstan volunteers to host it along with the meeting of ECO Customs and Transport authorities on:
  - a) ECO Transit Permit Format, and its Operational Rules.
  - b) Transit Transport Framework Agreement, scheduled to be held in Almaty in May 1997
- The Extraordinary Summit meeting along with the meetings of the high level experts in the field of meetings of the high level experts in the field of transport, communication and energy may be reflected in the ECO Calendar of Events for 1997-98.

**Agenda Item No.5**Work Program of the Secretariat for 1997-98

9. The Secretary General fully briefed the meeting on the components of the proposed work program of the Secretariat for 1997-98. The Council took note of the presentation of the Secretary General and approved the work program with the following amendments:

- **i)** To include the preparatory work related to the Extraordinary Summit meeting to be held in Ashgabat.
- **ii)** To separate the follow up/ review meeting on Eco Air and ECO Shipping Company into two different meetings.

**Agenda Item 6**Secretariat's proposals regarding amendments in some Articles of the Staff Regulations

- a) Article 24.3 of the Staff Regulations concerning the Daily subsistence Allowance (DSA)
- b) Salary Scale of the Staff employed under Category-III
- c) Article 14.1 concerning the special bonus to be granted to the members of Category-III staff.

10. The Secretary General briefed the Council in detail on the amendments proposed by the Secretariat to the said Articles of the Staff Regulations, and stated that these changes were necessary for the proper functioning of the Secretariat. He also emphasized that

every effort will be made to implement the foreseen activities of ECO for 1997 within the limits of the present budget allocations.

11. The Council of Permanent Representatives favourably took note of the proposed amendments and deferred the decision on the matter to its next meeting.

### **Agenda Item 7**

#### Consideration of the draft Agenda for the Seventh meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers

12. The Council finalized the draft Agenda for the forthcoming meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers and meeting of the Senior Officials scheduled to be held on 28-29 April and 27 April, 1997 respectively. The draft Agenda have been circulated vide Secretariat's Note No. CON/CPR-4/97 dated 16<sup>th</sup> March, 1997. The finalized Agenda are placed at Annexes-III and IV.

### **Agenda Item 8**

#### Modalities, scope and nature of the observer status and consideration of requests already received for grant of observe status.

13. The Council discussed the issue and decided that an open-ended working group be formed to formulate modalities, scope and procedures for granting observer and/or dialogue partner status to the prospective applicants. The Secretariat was asked to convene the meeting of the open-ended working group and present the outcome to the next meeting of the CPR.

14. In view of the above mentioned decision, the Council agreed not to include the requests for the grant of observe status in the Agenda of the Seventh meeting of ECO Council of Ministers.

### **Agenda Item 9**

#### Consideration of the work of the committee of Experts on ECO's Scale of Assessment

15. The Council decided to discuss this issue in its next meeting.

### **Agenda Item 10**

#### Relations with International Organizations

- a) BSEC
- b) IDB
- c) INMARSAT
- d) UNDP
- e) ASEAN

16. The Council decided to discuss this issue on its next meeting.

### **Agenda Item 11**

#### Any other business

17. No issue was discussed under this item.

### **Agenda Item 12**

#### Date of the Next Meeting

18. The Council decided to hold its next meeting shall be held on 13<sup>th</sup> April, 1997 at 1000 hours.

### **Agenda Item 13**

#### Adoption of the Report

19. The Report of the CPR shall be submitted to the Fifth meeting of the CPR for adoption.

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