

The 31st CPR Meeting

Report

(Tehran – 19 April, 1999)

No. CON/CPR-31/99/Rpt(A) Dated: 12-05-1999

1. The 31st Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held in the ECO Secretariat on Monday, 19 April, 1999. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Vyacheslav Gizzatov, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The Permanent Representatives / 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 placed at Annex-I.

Agenda Item No. 1

Adoption of the Agenda.

2. The draft Agenda proposed by the Secretariat was adopted with some amendments. The adopted agenda is placed at Annex-II.

Agenda Item No. 2

Adoption of the Report of the 30th Meeting of CPR

3. The draft report of the 30th meeting of CPR was adopted as prepared by the Secretariat. The text of the adopted report will be circulated separately.

Agenda Item No. 3

Preparations for the 9th Meeting of COM to be held on 18-21 May, 1999 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

4. The CPR revised the draft agenda of the 9th meeting of COM to be held on 18-21 May, 1999 in Baku Azerbaijan and agreed to include the following items:

- i. Adoption of the amendments to Annex-I and Annex-II of the ECO Staff Regulations (Item No.9).
- ii. Adoption of the Communiqué of 9th Council of Ministers Meeting, Baku (Item No.17).

The revised draft agenda is placed as Annex-III

5. The CPR agreed to finalize the draft Communiqué in its next meeting to be held before the 9th COM meeting.

6. Since the Annexes to TTFA had not been finalized yet, the CPR requested either Azerbaijan Republic to host the 5th Meeting of HLEG in this regard on the sidelines of the Senior Officials Meeting to be held in Baku or the same to be arranged at the Secretariat. The Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan Republic informed that they have already addressed the issue to Baku and now awaiting the reply for hosting the subject Meeting. The CPR decided to take up the issue at its next Meeting.

7. The CPR discussed the Secretariat's Work Programme for 1999 (Item No. 10 COM Agenda) and decided to submit to 9th COM Meeting for approval with some observations.

8. The CPR also discussed the programme of the 9th Meeting of COM and requested from Azerbaijan Republic as host country to explore the possibility to arrange a gathering of Ministers to enable them to have informal exchange of views in the evening of 20 May, 1999.

Agenda Item No. 4

Consideration of the Reports of the Working Group on (a) ECO Scale of Assessment;(b)The Proposal of Pakistan to form a Contact Group of ECO Ambassadors at various international fora where economic issues are discussed.

(a) ECO Scale of Assessment

9. The CPR decided that the Working Group to assist CPR shall meet to complete its work on the ECO Scale of Assessment before the next CPR so that a concrete outcome could be brought before the 9th COM Meeting for approval.

10. The CPR requested the Secretariat to prepare a status report on the budgetary contributions of the Member States for the years 1996, 1997 and 1998 and for the current year for submission to CPR. It was also agreed that such status reports may be prepared twice a year by the Secretariat to be submitted to the CPR.

(b) The Proposal of Pakistan to form a Contact Group of ECO Ambassadors at various international fora where economic issues are discussed.

11. The CPR discussed the draft Terms of Reference of the Contact Group of ECO Ambassadors at various international fora where economic issues are discussed as prepared by the Working Group to assist CPR in its Meeting held on 14th April 1999. It was agreed to take up the same Draft Terms of Reference again in the next CPR Meeting for finalization.

12. The Representative of Uzbekistan stated that they will inform the Secretariat about their position after having received instructions from their Capital.

Agenda Item No. 5

Appointment of the next ECO Secretary General.

13. The CPR took note of the proposals of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Kazakhstan for selection procedure of the next ECO Secretary General and asked the Working Group to assist CPR to take up the issue before the next CPR Meeting.

14. The ECO Legal Adviser will assist the Working Group to ensure that the procedure is in accordance with the provisions of ECO basic documents.

15. The CPR took note of the nominations made by the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic State of Afghanistan for the post of the next ECO Secretary General.

Agenda Item No. 6

Creation of new post of Deputy Secretary General in the ECO Secretariat

16. The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey proposed to increase the number of the posts of the Deputy Secretaries General from two to three in the ECO Secretariat and to take the matter to 9th COM Meeting for approval. In this connection the CPR

requested the Secretariat to prepare a report on the financial and administrative implications of the proposal.

17. Since the Member States wanted to receive instructions from their capitals for the said proposal, the CPR agreed to defer its decision on the proposal to the next CPR Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 7

Consideration of the Islamic Republic of Iran's proposal to review the current status of the restructuring process of the Secretariat.

18. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement regarding the matter. The CPR requested the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to formally convey the statement to the Secretariat for circulation among the Member States.

19. The CPR taking into account the report of the Secretariat which was recently distributed and the above mentioned statement of the Islamic Republic of Iran, deferred the matter for consideration for its next Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 8

Consideration of the Turkmenistan's proposal on establishment of Permanent Secretariat for ECO Transit Trade Committee (TTC).

20. The Deputy Secretary General In-charge made presentation on the subject matter. Since some Member States were still awaiting instructions from their respective Capitals, the CPR deferred the matter to its next Meeting. The CPR also requested the Secretariat to submit its legal opinion on this issue.

Agenda Item No. 9

The recent developments concerning the external relations of ECO.

21. The Secretary General informed the CPR that a brief on recent developments concerning the external relations of ECO was already circulated to the Member States vide its Note No. ECO/CPR-31/99 dated 14th April, 1999. He requested the Member States to convey their concurrence on the draft MOU between ECO and ICARDA by the 1st June, 1999 to enable him to sign the document during his planned visit to ICARDA HQs on 7-9 June, 1999.

22. The CPR took note of the statement of the Secretary General and urged the Member States to convey their concurrence on the said draft MOU at the earliest.

Agenda Item No.10

Any other business

(a) Second HLEG Meeting on Tariff and Non-Tariff Barriers.

23. The Secretary General reiterated the urgency of submitting the country reports on the removal of trade barriers by the concerned Member States required for preparation of working papers for the subject Meeting.

(b) Registration of ECO Documents with UN

24. The Secretary General requested the Member States who had not identified the names of their officials who signed the Transit Trade Agreement and the Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for ECO Businessmen for completing the registration process of the said documents with UN.

(c) ECO Guide Book.

25. The Secretary General informed the CPR that the ECO Guide Book had not been finalized yet, because of the recent comments received from some Member States. The CPR decided that the issue may be taken up by the Working Group.

(d) ECO Awards.

26. The Secretary General requested the Member States, except the Islamic Republic of Iran, to expedite the appointment of their focal points for the ECO Awards Selection Committee and nominate an outstanding research work and/or study in each of the fields mentioned in the Brochure of ECO Awards, before 31st July, 1999.

Agenda Item No.11

Date of next meeting

27. The CPR decided to hold its next meeting on Wednesday 12th May, 1999 at 0930 hours at the Secretariat.

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