

# The 32<sup>nd</sup> CPR Meeting

## Report

( Tehran – 12-13 May, 1999 )

NO.CON/CPR-32/99/Rpt(D) Dated: May 13, 1999

1. The 32nd Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held in the ECO Secretariat on May 12-13, 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, 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. The adopted agenda is placed at [Annex-II](#)

### **Agenda Item No. 2**

#### Adoption of the Report of the 31st Meeting of CPR.

3. The draft report of the 31st meeting of CPR was adopted with a minor modification in para-15. The text of the adopted report will be circulated separately.

### **Agenda Item No. 3**

#### Preparations for the 9th Meeting of COM to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan Republic.

##### a. Review of the 9th COM agenda.

4. The CPR revised and endorsed the draft agenda of the 9th Meeting of ECO Council of Ministers (COM) to be held on 18-21 May, 1999 in Baku, Azerbaijan Republic. The revised agenda is placed at [Annex-III](#).

##### b. Finalization of the draft Communiqué.

5. The CPR discussed and amended the draft Communiqué submitted by the Working Group. The amended draft Communiqué which is placed at [Annex-IV](#) will be submitted for adoption to the 9th Meeting of COM.

##### c. Briefing by the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan Republic.

6. The Permanent Representative of the Azerbaijan Republic informed the CPR that preparations for holding the 9th COM meeting were finalized and an informal meeting at ministerial level would be held on the evening of 20 May, 1999.

##### d. Any other matters.

7. The Secretary General informed the CPR about the intention of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan to invite some International/Regional Organizations to the 9th meeting of COM with which ECO enjoys working relations.
8. The CPR approved that the Republic of Azerbaijan may invite the International/Regional Organizations to the 9th meeting of COM in compliance with the list already approved by the 14th meeting of CPR. The CPR also agreed to include EC-TRACECA in the said list upon the request of the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan Republic.
9. The CPR also reviewed the draft scenario for the 9th meeting of the COM and made some suggestions in this regard.

#### **Agenda Item No. 4**

##### Next meeting of HLEG to finalize the Annexes of TTFA

10. Due to short notice regarding the meeting, it was decided to postpone the meeting of HLEG to finalize the Annexes of TTFA. Therefore the Secretariat scheduled the meeting to be held on 15-16 June, 1999 in the Secretariat on non-hospitality basis.

#### **Agenda Item No. 5**

##### Consideration of the Report of the Working Group on:

##### **a. ECO Scale of Assessment**

11. The CPR concurred with the recommendation of the Working Group that the Member States who did not convey their views on the Pakistani proposal for ECO Scale of Assessment should do so expeditiously and requested the Secretariat to prepare a status report on the issue for submission to the 9th meeting of COM in Baku. Hence, it was agreed to keep the issue in the agenda of the 9th meeting of COM.

##### **b. The proposal of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to form a Contact Group of ECO Ambassadors at various International fora where economic issues are discussed.**

12. The CPR revised and approved the Terms of Reference of the Contact Group prepared by the Working Group. The revised text of the Terms of Reference which is placed at Annex-V will be submitted to 9th meeting of COM for approval under agenda item "Any other business".

13. The representative of Uzbekistan stated that there is no need for this kind of Contact Group at this stage.

##### **c. The modalities, scope and procedures for granting observer/dialogue partnership status in ECO.**

14. The CPR decided to postpone the issue to be considered at a later stage.

##### **d. Selection procedure for the next ECO Secretary General.**

15. The CPR revised the draft document on selection procedure of the ECO Secretary General as prepared by the Working Group and decided to submit it along with the reservations to 9th meeting of COM for finalization and approval. The revised text of the document is placed at Annex-VI.

16. The CPR agreed to include this item in the agenda of the 9th COM titled as "Issue of the next Secretary General of ECO."

**e. Finalization of ECO Guide Book.**

17. The CPR decided that the Secretariat will circulate the last version of the ECO Guidebook which incorporates the recommendations of the Working Group. If no objection received from the Member States by 1 July, 1999 the circulated version of the Guidebook will be considered as final.

**Agenda Item No. 6**

Turkish proposal aiming at creation of a new post of Deputy Secretary General in the ECO Secretariat

18. The CPR after reviewing the report of the Working Group supported in principle the proposal of the Republic of Turkey on creation of a new post of Deputy Secretary General and decided to include this issue in the draft agenda of the 9th meeting of COM. Accordingly the required amendment in Annex-I of ECO Staff Regulations will be submitted to the 9th meeting of COM for approval. The CPR also decided that the appointment of new Deputy Secretary General would be effected soon after the 10th COM meeting. The budgetary provision for the post would be made in ECO Secretariat's budget for the year 2000.

19. The CPR agreed to request the COM to authorize it to prepare in consultation with the Secretariat the necessary report regarding the responsibilities, job description, financial implications and any other matters related to creation of the new post of Deputy Secretary General.

20. The representative of Uzbekistan stated that the inclusion of this issue in the agenda of the 9th COM meeting is premature and agreed that the matter be discussed in the senior officials meeting preceding the 9th COM meeting.

**Agenda Item No. 7**

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

21. The CPR discussed the proposal of Islamic Republic of Iran and recommended that Islamic Republic of Iran may prepare a short guideline in consultation with the Secretariat to enable the completion of the remaining issues regarding restructuring process.

22. The CPR suggested that the proposal may be discussed in the 9th COM meeting in connection with the agenda Item No.6(b) of the same meeting.

**Agenda Item No. 8**

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

23. The representative of Turkmenistan referring to the decision of the 8th COM meeting requested that the consideration of the Turkmenistan's proposal on establishment of Permanent Secretariat of ECO Transit Trade Committee be included in the agenda of the 9th meeting of COM. The CPR observed that the above proposal should be studied in details, taking into account the legal opinion of the Secretariat and its financial implications. Therefore it was decided to refer this issue to the Working Group for further study.

**Agenda Item No. 9**

Any other business

24. The Secretary General requested the Member States who had not yet paid their contribution for the past year 1998 to take necessary action. He also pointed out the current financial situation of the Secretariat and urged the Member States to expedite the payment

of their contribution for 1999.

**Agenda Item No. 10**

Adoption of the Report of 32nd CPR meeting

25. The CPR adopted the report of the 32nd meeting.

**Agenda Item No. 11**

Date of next meeting

26. The CPR agreed to hold its next meeting on Monday 21st of June, 1999 at 0930 hours in the Secretariat.

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