

The 37th CPR Meeting

Report

(Tehran – Sunday, 12 December, 1999)

1. The 37th Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held in the ECO Secretariat on Sunday, 12th December, 1999. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Abbasali Hasanov, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Permanent Representatives/Representatives of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, 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. Due to holy month of Ramadan, the Council decided to curtail the initial draft agenda. The adopted agenda is given below and enclosed as ***Annex-II***:

1. Adoption of the Agenda.
2. Adoption of the Report of the 36th Session of CPR.
3. Dates, venue and other matters related to the 10th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers and the 6th ECO Summit to be held in the year 2000.
4. Consideration of the ECO Secretariat's budget for the year 2000.
5. The Agenda of 10th RPC Meeting.
6. Matters pertaining to the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI):
The ECI budget for the year 2000.
7. Recent developments concerning External Relations of ECO:
Joint ECO-UNCTAD Cooperation to formulate bilateral/ regional investment agreements among ECO Member States;
8. Latest developments regarding the ECO Calendar of Events/ Meetings.
9. Selection of next Secretary General of ECO.
10. Any other Business.
11. Date of next Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 2

Adoption of the Report of the 36th Session of CPR.

3. The draft report of the 36th Meeting of the CPR was adopted. The adopted report is being circulated separately.

Agenda Item No. 3

Dates, venue and other matters related to the 10th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers and the 6th ECO Summit to be held in the year 2000.

4. The Secretary General briefed the Meeting on the latest situation in this regard. Considering the Kyrgyz Republic's withdrawal as the potential host of the above Meetings, the Council was of the general view that the next ECO Summit should preferably be arranged by one of the Member States who had not yet hosted any of the past Summit Meetings.
5. From among such Members, the Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan stated that, at present, his Government was not in a position to host such an important event. The Representatives from the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, however, suggested that they needed more time to consult their respective Capitals on the subject and they will inform the next CPR Meeting of the outcome.
6. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that in the absence of any volunteer from among the above Member States, they will consider to host the 6th ECO Summit and the 10th COM Meetings.
7. The decision on this subject was, therefore, deferred to the next CPR Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 4

Consideration of the ECO Secretariat's budget for the year 2000.

8. The CPR discussed various aspects of the draft revised budget, which was compiled after incorporating modifications put forth in accordance with the recommendations of the last session of the Working Group and requested the Secretariat to prepare a report on 1999 budget's actual expenditures and submit the same to the Working Group for further consideration.
9. The Council advised the Working Group to go through the proposed budget once again in the light of the actual expenditure made under different heads and submit its recommendations to the next Meeting of the Council.

Agenda Item No. 5

The Agenda of 10th RPC Meeting.

10. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran confirmed that his Government will hold the 10th Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC) from 7 to 10 February, 2000 and one plus four (five) delegates from each Member State will be hosted by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
11. As some Permanent Representatives expressed their wish to have more time to deliberate upon and consult with their Capitals on the Agenda of the 10th RPC Meeting, the matter was deferred to the next Session of the CPR.

Agenda Item No. 6

Matters pertaining to ECO Cultural Institute.

ECI budget for the year 2000

12. The Council reached consensus on the following points:

- The Legal Adviser of the ECO Sectt. should prepare a report on whether there was a legal obligation on the part of the Member States who were signatories to the ECI Charter but had not yet ratified it, to contribute to the ECI budget and submit the same to the Working Group to assist CPR;

- In the light of the Legal Adviser's opinion, the Working Group will discuss the ECI budget for 2000 and submit its recommendations to the next CPR Meeting;

Due to the reservation expressed by the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the proposed new appointment of an Assistant Director in the ECI, the proposal was dropped.

Agenda Item No. 7

Recent developments concerning External Relations Joint ECO-UNCTAD Cooperation to formulate bilateral/Regional investment agreements among the Member States

13. The CPR was informed that the UNCTAD had agreed to earmark an amount of US\$ 51,000 (fifty one thousand US dollars) to organize a training course on "Negotiation of Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) in the ECO Secretariat on 27-30 December, 1999. The CPR authorized the Secretary General to proceed ahead with the project and hold the training course at the ECO Secretariat. Accordingly, two participants from each Member State will be invited to attend the said course and their lodging expenses will be paid out of the above amount.

Agenda Item No. 8

Latest Developments regarding the ECO Calendar of Events/ Meetings for the year 1999.

14. The CPR took note of the document entitled 'revised Calendar of Events for the year 1999' and requested the Secretariat to circulate the draft Calendar of Events for the year 2000 before the next CPR Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 9

Selection of the new Secretary General of ECO.

15. The CPR decided to continue informal consultations on the matter under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr Abbasali Hasanov, Ambassador/ Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan together with the issue of ECO Scale of Assessment from 2001 onwards.

16. Meanwhile, the question of admissibility of the candidature of the Islamic State of Afghanistan was raised in the meeting. The Council requested the Legal Adviser to prepare a legal opinion on this issue to be presented in the next CPR Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 10

Any other Business

17. No issue was discussed under this Agenda Item.

Agenda Item No. 11

Date of next Meeting

18. The CPR decided to hold its next Session at 1000 hours on Sunday, December 26, 1999.

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