

The 51st CPR Meeting

Report

(Tehran – Wednesday, 10 January, 2001)

1. The 51st Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held in the ECO Secretariat on Wednesday, 10th January, 2001. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Dr. Seyed Mohammad Hossein Adeli, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Economic Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. 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 Representatives of ECO Cultural Institute, as well as 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 Council adopted the proposed Agenda with some amendments. The adopted Agenda is placed at **Annex – II**.

3. In the line of the wishes of the Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the following two items were included, initially, in the Agenda:

Publication of the second edition of ECO, Road and Railway Networks Maps.

Establishment of the Permanent Exhibition Shopping Centre for products of ECO Member States in each of the Member Countries, in the fields of Industry, Agriculture and Engineering Technical Services.

Due to time constraints, the above items could not be discussed and it was decided that they be included in the Agenda for the next CPR Meeting. Moreover, the Council decided to refer Item 3(i) above to the Working Group to study the issue and submit its findings to the CPR.

Agenda Item No. 2

Adoption of the Report of the 50th Meeting of the CPR

4. The Council adopted the Report of its 50th Meeting, held on 26th November, 2000 with the exception of the paragraphs 7 and 8 under the Agenda item No.6. The Council requested Azerbaijan to present new formulation to substitute the existing paragraphs 7 and 8 and convey the same to the Secretariat for incorporation in the report of 50th meeting of the CPR.

Agenda Item No. 3

Finalization of the Head of Accounts for Traveling Expenses of the Budget of the ECO Secretariat for Fiscal year 2001

5. The CPR considered the break-up of the expenses incurred in 2000 under this Head and approved the amount proposed by the Secretariat for the year 2001. The said Budget will be circulated among the Member States separately.

Agenda Item No. 4

Finalization of the proposed draft Budget of the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) for the fiscal year 2001

6. The Executive Director of the Institute briefed the CPR on the draft Budget for 2001. The Council considered the Summary Record of the meeting of the Working Group held on 20th December, 2000.

7. The Council agreed that pending the receipt of final response from Pakistan the Institute may utilize funds available from the savings of previous years up to three months period for the year 2001 on the basis of the Budget approved for the year 2000 as provided in ECI's Financial Regulations' Article 6.3.

Agenda Item No. 5

Statement of utilization of funds of the Budget of ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) for 1999

8. The Council took note of the Statement of the utilization of funds of the Budget of ECI for 1999.

Agenda Item No. 6

Preparation for the Meeting of the Working Group of Senior Officials to examine ways and means to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of ECO and its Regional Institutions and Specialized Agencies

9. The Council agreed that the said meeting should be held on 5-6 February, 2001 in Tehran and requested the Islamic Republic of Iran for the Agenda of the meeting.

10. While giving positive response to the request for the Agenda, the Islamic Republic of Iran called upon the Member States to confirm high-level participation in the meeting at an early date.

Agenda Item No. 7

Preparation for the 11th Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC)

11. The Council agreed that the 11th RPC meeting should be held in early March 2001 in Tehran. The Islamic Republic of Iran will propose exact dates for circulation to the Secretariat.

The Council endorsed the draft Agenda of the meeting, which had been circulated by the Secretariat.

Agenda Item No. 8

Date and Venue of the 11th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM)

12. The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan informed the meeting that the Government of Tajikistan had volunteered to host the 11th Council of Ministers meeting in Dushanbe in the first 10 days of May, 2001.

13. While appreciating the Government of Tajikistan's offer to host the 11th meeting of the COM, the Council requested Tajikistan to specify exact dates so that the Member States may inform their Governments.

Agenda Item No. 9

Preparation for the Second Phase of DCCU

14. The Council agreed that the Secretariat may complete the necessary formalities for early approval of the second phase of the DCCU Project by UNDCP.

The Council also agreed that;

- the Member States may continue providing information and other relevant documents to the Secretariat and
- the Secretariat may finalize the “Provisional Country Profiles” and the “Drug Trends Report 1999-2000” which was prepared within the framework of the first phase of the DCCU Project.

Agenda Item No. 10

External Relations of ECO

15. Cooperation between ECO and organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC);
Cooperation between ECO and the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council.

16. The Council decided before starting cooperative relations with any other regional organizations including the BSEC and the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council, the ECO Secretariat should prepare a strategy paper on ECO. This strategy paper may incorporate ways and means to further consolidate ECO as well as specify the type and scale of relations with other regional organizations.

17. The Council pointed out that if considered necessary by the Secretariat a consultant may be hired for undertaking this strategy paper. Even the Member States may make good use of their experts in preparing the said paper.

Agenda Item No. 11

Any other Business

i) Status of Ratification of TTFA among the ECO Member States

18. The Council was informed that so far only Azerbaijan, Pakistan and Tajikistan have ratified the TTFA and its Annexures. Further it was said that at least six Member States should ratify it for entry into force.

19. The Council urged the Member States who had not ratified the TTFA to complete the procedural formalities so that the Agreement may be implemented.

ii) Status of Ratification of the Charter of ECI

20. Upon the request of the ECI Representative who was present at the meeting for the discussion of the ECI's Budget for 2001, the Council also urged the signatory Member States to ratify the Charter of the Institute and invited the non-signatory Member States to sign the Charter.

iii) Assignment of the Assistant Directors

21. The Secretary General informed the Council that he had assigned Assistant Director Mr. Syed Rizwan Ahmad from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as the Chief de Cabinet of the Secretary General w.e.f. 6th January, 2001 and Mr. Ali Sabzalian, as the Assistant Director for Coordination.

22. The Representative of Turkmenistan informed the Council that Mr. Chary Nurmuhammed who was appointed as Assistant Director from Turkmenistan would not assume the job in the Secretariat and requested the Council to reserve this post for Turkmenistan.

23. The Council agreed to keep this post for the time being for Turkmenistan and requested for a nominee as soon as possible.

iv) Nomination for Vacant Post of Programme Officer

24. The Secretary General requested the Member States to send appropriate nominations for the post of Programme Officer (Category II, Grade P-3), which was announced by the Secretariat earlier.

v) Workshop of ECO Energy Charter Treaty Cooperation

25. The Representative of the Republic of Turkey informed the Council that the said Workshop would be held on 15-16 January, 2001 in Turkey and requested the Member States, who had not confirmed their participation, to do so in due time.

Agenda Item No. 12

Date of the next Meeting

26. The Council decided to hold its next meeting in February 2001. The exact date will be notified to the Member States in due course.

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