

The 59th CPR Meeting

Report

(Tehran – October 22, 2001)

1. The 59th meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) held in the ECO Secretariat on Monday October 22, 2001, was chaired by H.E. Dr. Seyed Mohammad Hossein Adeli, Deputy Foreign Minister 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 and Turkmenistan as well as the Secretary General alongwith the ECO staff attended the meeting. The list of the participants is placed at ***Annex-I***.

Agenda Item No.1

Adoption of the Agenda

CPR adopted the proposed agenda which is placed at ***Annex-II***.

Agenda Item No. 2

Adoption of the draft report of the 58th meeting of the CPR

CPR adopted the report of its 58th meeting which will be circulated among member states separately.

Agenda Item No.3

Preparations for the 1st ECO Ministerial meeting on Agriculture (October 23-25, 2001, Islamabad)

The meeting scheduled to be held on October 23-25, 2001 in Islamabad has been postponed due to lack of quorum. The host country (IR of Pakistan) will inform the fresh dates for the subject meeting.

Agenda Item No. 4

Implementation of the decisions of the 11th COM meeting

While appreciating the report prepared by the Secretariat on the implementation of the decisions of the 11th COM meeting, CPR asked for:

- the member states who have not done so, to send their views on the said report to the Secretariat;
- the Secretariat update the report and circulate it among member states before the end of 2001.

In accordance with the decisions of the 11th COM meeting, CPR considered the list of ECO Calendar of Events for 2001 with a view to reducing the number of events. It then agreed that the revised list of events prepared by the Secretariat may be followed, taking into account the proposals and views of the member states, with the approval of CPR.

Agenda Item No. 5

Implementation of the decisions of other Ministerial meetings

While appreciating the report prepared by the Secretariat on the implementation of the decisions of the three Ministerial meetings on Transport, first Ministerial meeting on Trade and the first Ministerial meeting on Energy, CPR asked the member states to send their comments to the Secretariat by the end of November so that the latter could update the report and submit it to CPR before December 31, 2001.

Agenda Item No. 6

Matters pertaining to ECO Shipping Company (ESC)

The Secretary General informed the meeting that the report on the changes made in the Articles of Association and Procedures of the Audit Board as well as the existing legal, financial and auditing systems of ESC to be submitted to CPR, is under preparation.

Agenda Item No. 7

Implementation of the Technical Assistance Agreement (Grant) of IDB

Since some member states were still awaiting information from their capitals, CPR deferred this item to its next meeting. It was noted that the text of the signed Agreement was not subject to any change, and only its Appendices concerning the Terms of Reference for the Feasibility Study on Interconnection of the ECO member states' Power System were to be finally endorsed.

Agenda Item No. 8

Consideration of the Audit Report for the fiscal year 2000

CPR considered the Audit Report for the year 2000 and agreed to submit it to the next Council of Ministers (COM) meeting, for approval.

However, as pointed out by the Audit Board in its report, CPR:

- requested the ECO Secretariat to be careful in estimating funds for the heads of account in order to present high savings at the end of the year.
- requested member states to pay their contributions for the budget on time.
- Establish a procedure for purchases by the Secretariat over a certain amount (to be given in Rials).

brief the next CPR meeting on how it plans to utilize the savings accrued from the previous budgets.

Agenda Item No. 9

Preparations for the forthcoming ECO Day on November 28, 2001

For the forthcoming ECO Day on November 28, 2001, CPR supported following activities and programmes proposed by the Secretariat:

- Appropriate messages be obtained from Heads of State/Government and Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the member states;
- The Secretary General to hold a Press Conference;
- The Secretary General host a reception on November 28, 2001 at the Secretariat.

CPR also agreed that:

- The member states may provide the messages of their Heads of State/Government and Ministers of Foreign Affairs before the ECO Day on November 28, 2001 so that all these message could be compiled in one document for publication.
- In cooperation with ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) some cultural events including exhibitions, music programmes, etc. be possibly arranged to mark the Day.

ECI may also deliberate on how to raise public awareness of ECO in an effective manner on the ECO Day and come up with a proposal in this regard.

Agenda Item No. 10

Cooperation between Drug Control Coordination Unit (DCCU) of ECO and consultation programme on control of narcotic Drug of Colombo Plan (DAP)

CPR agreed that before initiating cooperation between DCCU of ECO and Consultation Programme on Control of Narcotic Drug of Colombo Plan (DAP), ECO Secretariat should review and study the matter in greater depth and especially look into the utility and benefits of such cooperation. A report on this may be submitted to CPR in its next meeting.

Agenda Item No. 11

Draft Budget of ECO Secretariat for 2002

CPR referred the draft Budget for 2002 of ECO Secretariat to the Working Group to assist CPR to study it and submit the result to CPR for approval. The date of the meeting of the said working group meeting will be determined in consultation with member states.

Agenda Item No. 12

Administrative matters

i) Post of Programme Officer (Project Research) Category-II, P3

ii) Extension to resident staff of ECO Secretariat

The Secretary General briefed the CPR that the Selection Panel:

- recommended that Mr. Mozaffar Torabi from IR of Iran may replace Mr M. Javed Rezayat, who was appointed for this post but could not join the Secretariat.
- recommended four months extension to Social Secretary to the Secretary General, Category-II, P2 Mr M. Harandi from IR of Iran; Translator, Category-II, PI Mr M. Irvani from IR of Iran; and Computer/Telex Operator, Category-II, P1 Mr. Saeed Abedini from IR of Iran.
- CPR appointed Mr. Torabi for the post of Programme Office (Project Research) Category-II, P3 with immediate effect and approved four months extension (from 1-11-2001 to 28-2-2002) for M/s Harandi, Irvani and Abedini.

Agenda Item No. 13

Any other business

- Appointment of the President of ECO Cultural Institute (ECI);

The tenure of the President has expired on October 10, 2001. Until the appointment of new President, Executive Director may exercise the financial authority in collaboration with an official to be appointed by the IR of Iran.

- [Status of the remittance of share contributions from the contributing member states for ECU Cultural Institute \(ECI\);](#)

After the briefing from the representative of ECI on the status of the remittance of share contributions from the contributing member states, CPR urged those member states who had not paid their contributions/arrears so far, to do so at the earliest.

- [List of the ECO Events/Meetings to benefit from Special Support Fund \(SSF\) for 2001](#)

The proposal of the Secretariat to include an event in SSF list was withdrawn since the event might be postponed due to lack of quorum.

- [3rd ECO Special WG meeting \(September 3-5, 2001, Van, Turkey\)](#)

CPR took note of the additional report on unusual events which marked the proceedings of the meeting.

- [Other issues](#)

CPR pointed out that Secretariat may submit an updated report on the implementation of the UNDP Capacity Building Project of ECO Secretariat and future cooperation with UNDP, especially in the areas of trade and transportation to the next CPR meeting.

CPR decided to reactivate the Contact Group of ECO Ambassadors, established by the 9th ECO COM meeting.

Agenda Item No. 14

Date of the next Meeting

CPR decided that, *due to the holy month of Ramadan*, the next meeting be held at 1530 hours on Monday, November 26, 2001.

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