

# The 66<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting

## Report

( Tehran – July 29, 2002 )

The 66<sup>th</sup> meeting of Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) held in the ECO Secretariat on Monday July 29, 2002, was chaired by H.E. Mr. Mirzoev Ramazan Zaripovitch, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan in Tehran. The Permanent Representatives/Representatives of the Transitional Islamic Government 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 as well as ECO Secretary General alongwith ECO staff attended the meeting. The list of participants is placed at **Annex-I**.

Since the 66<sup>th</sup> session was the first CPR meeting which H.E. Seyed Mojtaba Arastou attended as the Secretary General of ECO, the Chairman and the Permanent Representatives extended their felicitations and full support to him in the fulfillment of his duties. H.E. Seyed Mojtaba Arastou, in return, thanked the Chairman of the CPR and the Permanent Representatives for their support and expressed his commitment to do his best in advancing the objectives of the Organization. He also appreciated the efforts of the ECO staff towards realization of ECO activities and its overall objectives.

### **Agenda Item No.1**

#### Adoption of the Agenda

CPR adopted the proposed agenda, placed at **Annex-II**, with some additions.

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

#### Adoption of the draft report of the 65<sup>th</sup> meeting of CPR

CPR adopted the draft report of 65<sup>th</sup> meeting which would be circulated among Member States separately.

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

#### Preparation for 12<sup>th</sup> COM and 7<sup>th</sup> Summit meetings

The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey confirmed that the 12<sup>th</sup> Council of Ministers (COM) and the 7<sup>th</sup> Summit meetings would be held in Istanbul, Turkey on October 09-14, 2002. The Republic of Turkey also confirmed that an ECO Business Forum would be organized in Istanbul on the sidelines of the 12<sup>th</sup> COM and 7<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit meetings.

CPR, while thanking the Republic of Turkey for hosting the said meetings, urged the Member States to confirm their participation in the said meetings at the highest possible level and furnish to the Secretariat composition of their respective delegations alongwith their flight schedule.

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

#### Preparation for 4<sup>th</sup> Ministerial meeting on Transport & Communicaitons

The Republic of Turkey reconfirmed to host the 4<sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial meeting on Transport & Communications in Izmir, Turkey on September 26-27, 2002 to be preceded by Senior Experts meeting on September 24-25, 2002.

CPR agreed to recommend the draft agenda which was circulated by the Secretariat on July 07, 2002 for consideration of Ministerial meeting and urged the Member States to confirm their participation in the meeting and furnish to the Secretariat the composition of their delegations alongwith flight schedule.

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

##### Reconstruction of Afghanistan

CPR discussed the list of priority areas of Afghanistan for its reconstruction as provided by the Embassy of Afghanistan in Tehran and asked the Member States to indicate areas ECO may support, keeping in view its expertise and financial capacity. CPR further asked the Secretariat to prepare a paper in this regard and submit the same to CPR for necessary action. Member States were also requested to provide information about the areas in which they can be helpful to Afghanistan in the task of its reconstruction. This information would be used by the Secretariat for preparing the said document.

Furthermore, IR of Iran offered to organize a training course in management for Afghan officials to upgrade their skills.

#### **Agenda Item No. 6**

##### Implementation of Economic Cooperation Strategy for ECO Region (Strategic Paper by the Secretariat)

CPR requested the Member States to convey their views on the paper prepared by the Secretariat, entitled "Evaluation of ECO Projects/Programmes: Achievements and Challenges and on the need to effect any amendment in the present basic document of Economic Cooperation Strategy of ECO.

Furthermore, CPR asked the Secretariat to prepare a consolidated report incorporating the views of the Member States on the subject and submit it to CPR.

#### **Agenda Item No. 7**

##### Updated reports on the follow-up of the three Ministerial meetings on Transport & Communications, 1<sup>st</sup> Ministerial meeting on Commerce/Foreign Trade and 1<sup>st</sup> Ministerial meeting on Energy/Petroleum

The CPR decided that (a) the Secretariat shall submit to the CPR, on a quarterly basis, a report on the implementation status of the decisions of the Ministerial meetings, (b) member states may convey their views on the Secretariat's report circulated vide its note No. DPR/SPR-21/01/2002.19 of 21 January, 2002 which would be consolidated by the Secretariat and (c) first such follow up report by the Secretary General would be submitted in September 2002.

#### **Agenda Item No. 8**

##### Matters pertaining to ECO Shipping Company

CPR considered the minutes of the first meeting of the established Committee to work on the matters pertaining to ECO Shipping Company (ESC) and agreed that the concerned Member States may continue their informal consultations to finalize the issue for a decision at 4<sup>th</sup> ECO Ministerial meeting on Transport & Communications to be held in Izmir on September 26-27, 2002.

**Agenda Item No. 9**Considering of the Work Programme of ECO for 2002

Since the Work Programme was received by the Member States recently, CPR decided to defer its endorsement till its next meeting.

**Agenda Item No. 10**Coordination and resultant problems concerning ECO passenger as well as container trains

CPR asked the Secretariat to prepare a report on issues delaying the Almaty-Tehran-Istanbul passenger and container trains considering the views of the Member States expressed during the meeting or forwarded to the Secretariat earlier.

**Agenda Item No. 11**Consideration of draft MOU with UN Economic Commission for Europe (UN-ECE)

CPR decided that the Working Group to assist CPR would meet at 1000 hours on (Monday) August 05, 2002 at ECO Secretariat to work on the extract placed in brackets in the draft MOU with UN-ECE circulated earlier to the Member States and submit the result to the next CPR meeting for approval and authorizing the Secretary General to sign it.

**Agenda Item No. 12**ECO Awards

CPR agreed that the Selection Committee of the ECO Awards for 2002 would meet at the ECO Secretariat on August 27-29, 2002 and approved that the members of the Selection Committee from seven Member States (Afghanistan and ACAMS) should be provided a round trip airfare ticket on the shortest possible route from the Special Support Fund (SSF) with a ceiling determined by the 64<sup>th</sup> CPR meeting.

CPR also requested the Member States to look into their list of nominees provided earlier to the Secretariat and in consultation with their respective capitals reduce their nominations to one candidate in each category / field.

**Agenda Item No. 13**List of high priority ECO events to be supported by Special Support Fund (SSF)

As recommended by 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of WGSO, CPR approved the list of ECO events with high priority for which no hosts were available for extending full hospitality to participants by utilizing SSF. The said list is placed at **Annex-III**.

**Agenda Item No. 14**Administrative matters

CPR extended the tenure of:

- i. Data Base Officer, Mr. Ghani Mir from Pakistan, for two months i.e. from July 26, 2002;
- ii. Russian Interpreter, Mr. Murat Khasenov from Kazakhstan, for two months i.e. from August 1, 2002.

CPR requested that member states may submit additional nominations for all the posts announced by the Secretariat.

CPR did not discuss the issue of hiring a Local Persian-English Interpreter as was requested earlier by the Embassy of Transitional Islamic Government of Afghanistan, Tehran.

The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey expressed the concern of his government over under-representation of Turkey in the ECO Secretariat.

#### **Agenda Item No. 15**

##### Establishment of Trade & Development Bank and ECO Reinsurance Company

CPR requested the Member States to take necessary steps for early establishment of ECO Trade & Development Bank (ETDB) and ECO Reinsurance Company (ERC).

#### **Agenda Item No. 16**

##### Silence Procedure in the Organization to conclude certain issues

Due to lack of time, no discussion took place on this issue. This may be included in the agenda of any one of the future CPR meetings.

#### **Agenda Item No. 17**

##### Follow-up of the recommendations of 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of WGSO

CPR decided that the Secretariat should prepare a report on the activities of Working Group of Senior Officers (WGSO) in the last 2 years and submit it to 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of WGSO.

#### **Agenda Item No. 18**

##### Any other business

The Secretary General, while appreciating the arrangements made by the Government of the IR of Pakistan, informed CPR that he represented the ECO delegation in the 1<sup>st</sup> ECO Ministerial meeting on Agriculture, held in Islamabad on July 23-25, 2002. Utilizing the opportunity, he also paid calls on H.E. the President, H.E. the Foreign Minister and other high dignitaries of the Government of Pakistan.

Moreover, Secretary General informed the CPR that after assuming the charge as Secretary General of ECO, he also called on H.E. the President and H.E. the Foreign Minister of IR of Iran and held bilateral meetings with the Permanent Representatives in Tehran.

#### **Agenda Item No. 19**

##### Date of next meeting

CPR agreed to have its next meeting on at 1000 hours on (Tuesday) August 20, 2002.

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