

The 72nd CPR Meeting

Report

(Tehran – Tuesday, January 14, 2003)

The 72nd meeting of Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held at the ECO Secretariat on January 14, 2003, under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Selahattin Alpar, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey, Tehran. 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 as well as the ECO Secretary General along with the ECO staff attended the meeting. The list of participants is placed at **Annex-I**.

The Chairman thanked the member states for their concurrence to change the date of the 72nd meeting of CPR from 12 January to 14 January 2003 due to the official visit of Turkish Prime Minister to Iran.

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 71st CPR meeting

CPR adopted the report of the 71st meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives. The Secretariat circulated the slightly amended adopted report vide its note No. SG/CPR/2003/0060 dated January 18, 2003.

Agenda Item No. 3

Follow-up of the implementation of the decisions of 12th COM, 7th Summit and Istanbul Declaration

CPR appreciated the report prepared by the Secretariat on the “Follow-up of the implementation of the decisions of 12th COM, 7th Summit and Istanbul Declaration”. The Secretary General informed the meeting that the report will be submitted to CPR meetings regularly and it will be more comprehensive finally.

On the other hand, CPR requested the Secretariat to readjust the report in a way to intimate the implementation of the decisions of the Council of Ministers meeting and the 7th Summit meeting, Istanbul Declaration. The CPR stressed that focus of the Secretariat should be on the follow up of the decisions of the Summit and the COM meetings and the actionable points contained in the Istanbul Declaration, which are the agreed documents. These should be clearly differentiated from the important points contained in the statements the Heads of delegation, ECO Secretary General and the Heads of the ECO Specialized Agencies and Regional Institutions. It was also agreed that the points contained in various statements would be included in the Secretariat’s updated follow up reports only once more.

The Permanent Representative of Afghanistan informed the CPR that the Foreign Minister of Afghanistan during a meeting with Secretary General in Tehran invited officially the Secretary General, the Chairman and the delegation of CPR to Kabul to discuss the ECO's participation in the reconstruction of Afghanistan. CPR while agreed with the visit requested the Secretary General to inform the member states about the result soon after the visit.

Agenda Item No. 4

Draft Budget of ECO Secretariat for 2003

CPR approved the Secretariat's budget for the year 2003 amounting to US \$ 2,021,145 on behalf of the Council of Ministers. The said amount includes 5% portion for the ECO Feasibility Fund. The approved budget was circulated vide a Secretariat's note No.ACC/BUD/2003/0081 dated January 19, 2003, and it will be submitted to the 13th meeting of Council of Ministers for formal approval as laid down in the ECO basic documents.

Agenda Item No. 5

Harmonization of the timeframe of various ECO meetings and schedules, preparation for the 13th meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC).

Permanent Representative of Kyrgyz Republic informed that Government of Kyrgyz Republic would hold the 13th meeting of Council of Ministers on June 4, 2003, in Bishkek and requested the member states to confirm their concurrence with the date of the meeting.

As there was no volunteer to host the 13th meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC), CPR agreed to hold it at the Headquarters of the Secretariat in Tehran.

The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran informed the meeting that the relevant authorities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would be consulted over the date and hosting the meeting. The result of the consultation will be informed to the Secretariat in due course.

CPR agreed that the Secretariat would continue to organize/hold the events/meetings not held in year 2002 until the 13th RPC meeting adopted the new calendar of events. The list of the events not held in 2002 is placed at **Annex-III**.

Agenda Item No. 6

Preparation for the 2nd ECO Ministerial meeting on Energy/Petroleum (January 19-20, 2003).

- a. Draft agenda of the meeting
- b. Confirmation of the member states for participation.

The Secretariat informed the member states that the meeting has been postponed due to lack of quorum. The Representative of Iran as a host country informed the fresh date to be May 2003 tentatively. The Representative of Iran also pointed out that holding the 4th HLEG meeting on Oil and Gas Pipelines before the second Ministerial meeting tentatively March/April 2003 is advisable. Because the Ministerial meeting may make a good use of the results/recommendations of the 4th HLEG meeting.

Agenda Item No. 7

Appointment of the new Secretary General and Deputies Secretary General ECO.

As per the decision of 10th meeting of the Council of Ministers, the post of ECO Secretary General for the term 2003-2006 would be held by Kazakhstan. Thus, CPR requested Kazakhstan to make a nomination for the post of Secretary General as soon as possible so that it could be submitted to the 13th Council of Ministers meeting to be held in the Kyrgyz Republic on June 4, 2003, for appointment.

CPR requested the three founding member states also to nominate candidates for the posts of Deputy Secretary General for the next three-year term so these nominations could also be approved by the 13th Council of Ministers meeting in June 2003.

The Chairman/Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey informed the CPR that Turkey nominated Mr. Orhan Isik, for the post of Deputy Secretary General for the remaining period of the tenure of Dr. Ahmet Tiktik which was going to expire on August 12, 2003, and for another three year term then after.

CPR appointed Mr. Orhan Isik, for the post of Deputy Secretary General for the remaining period of the tenure of Dr. Tiktik. This appointment shall be submitted to the 13th meeting of the Council of Ministers for formal approval. Mr. Orhan Isik will assume his post w.e.f. January 15, 2003.

CPR also decided to recommend to the 13th meeting of the COM, for their approval, the appointment of Mr. Orhan Isik to the same post of Deputy Secretary General for another three-year term following the expiry of the said remaining period.

CPR agreed that this item should be kept in the agenda until the next Council of Ministers meeting.

Agenda Item No. 8

International Activities:

a. Consideration of Draft MoU with the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UN-ECE)

Having considered the result of the meeting of the Working Group held on January 5, 2003, CPR requested the Secretariat to prepare a simple framework draft MoU as done in case of other international organizations. The Secretariat agreed to circulate the draft MoU received initially from ECE so that it could be taken up in the next CPR.

b. Consideration of draft MoU with World Customs Organization (WCO)

Since some member states could not get the views from their capitals on the draft, the issue was deferred to the next meeting.

c. Recent Developments in External Relations of ECO

The Secretary General informed the CPR about the following international meetings which ECO participated following the 7th Summit meeting held in Istanbul:

- i) Fifth WTO Geneva Week Meeting, Geneva – 4-8 November, 2002.
- ii) UNESCAP Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development – 13-15 November, 2002.
- iii) UNIDO 26th Session of the Industrial Development Board, Vienna, Austria – 19-21 November, 2002.

- iv) 10th Ministerial Council Meeting of Organization of Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) – Porto (Portugal), 6-7 December, 2002.
- v) UNESCAP 5th Asian Pacific Population Conference, Bangkok – December 11-18, 2002.

CPR while appreciated the Secretary General for the efforts he made in international arena requested him to report to member states about the ECO's participation in international activities regularly. CPR also requested the Secretary General to inform the member states when he goes to foreign mission and who will be in charge to act on behalf of him. The CPR, while recognizing the importance of developing ECO's external relations, remarked that the focus of ECO's attention should be on the enhancement of cooperation within the ECO member states.

Agenda Item No. 9

Matters concerning the ECO College of Insurance.

CPR, while thanking the proposals made by the Dean, pointed out that the Dean of the ECO College of Insurance may be requested to amend the report as it did not adequately respond to queries of some member states. In specific, Pakistan delegation noted that the presentation of the Dean, circulated to the member states did not fully answer the questions made in 71st CPR. The questions were:

- i) Operation of the decision making procedures regarding the management of College.
- ii) The status of the High Council of College, its composition, meetings etc.
- iii) Admission policy of the College.
- iv) Sponsorship of the College by an Iranian university.

Upon the availability of the report the Dean will be invited to next CPR to present his views on the issue.

Agenda Item No. 10

Budget of the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) for 2003.

CPR approved the budget of ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) on behalf of the Council of Ministers. On the other hand, CPR requested the ECO Cultural Institute to promote the Institute's cultural activities not only in Tehran but also in other member states.

Agenda Item No. 11

Any other business

CPR agreed with the following proposals of delegation of Pakistan:

- i) Institutionalizing periodic meetings of the Ministers of Finance and Economic of the member states in the same manner as of the other ECO ministerial meetings in the field of trade, transport, energy and agriculture.
- ii) The Secretariat may re-circulate the Summary Report of the 7th Summit along with the statements of the head of states/delegations.
- iii) Intimation by the member states to the Secretariat their alternate Permanent Representatives to CPR.
- iv) Preparation and submission of a report to the CPR at its 74th meeting, by the Secretariat on the status of ECO Feasibility Fund and modality for its utilization.

The Secretary General also, under this item, informed about status of calendar of events for 2002 and about the second phase of Drug Control Coordination Unit (DCCU) which commenced its operation in December 2002 with the following staff:

Ser. No.	Name	Designation
i	Mr. Zafer Topkaya	Programme Officer
ii	Mr. Abdolreza Heirani Nobari	Computer Operator
iii	Mrs. Saltanat Kermalieva	Tri-Lingual Translator

Agenda Item No. 12

Date of the next meeting

CPR decided to hold its next meeting at 1000 hours on Sunday, February 2, 2003.

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