

The 73rd CPR Meeting

Report

(Tehran – Sunday, February 2, 2003)

1. The 73rd meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held at the ECO Secretariat on February 2, 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 Transitional 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**.

2. CPR bid a farewell to the former Deputy Secretary General, Dr. Ahmet Tıktık and expressed their gratitude for the efforts he spent to promote ECO during his tenure and wished him success in his new career. CPR also welcomed the new Deputy Secretary General, Mr. Orhan Isik, and also wished him a success in his new assignment.

3. The former DSG Dr. Tıktık was also awarded a commendation letter by the Secretary General during the meeting for his good services rendered in the Secretariat.

Agenda Item No.1

Adoption of the Agenda

4. CPR adopted the following agenda for the 73rd meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR):

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Adoption of the draft report of the 72nd CPR meeting.
3. Follow-up of the implementation of the decisions of 12th COM, 7th Summit and Istanbul Declaration.
4. Contributions of the member states to the Secretariat budget.
5. Preparation for the 13th meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC).

- a) Date of the meeting.
- b) Draft agenda of the meeting.
- c) Confirmation of the member states for participation.
- d) Working papers for the meeting.

6. Appointment of the new Secretary General and directing staff.
7. International Activities:

- a) Consideration of Draft MoU with UN Economic Commission for Europe (UN-ECE);
- b) Draft MoU between ECO and World Customs Organization (WCO).

8. Any other business.
9. Date of the next meeting.

Agenda Item No. 2

Adoption of the draft report of the 72nd CPR meeting

5. CPR adopted the report of the 72nd meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives with some changes. The adopted report was circulated vide Secretariat note No. SG/CPR/2003/0186 dated February 3, 2003.

Agenda Item No. 3

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

6. CPR appreciated the Secretariat's readjusted report on the "Follow-up of the implementation of the decisions of 12th COM, 7th Summit and Istanbul Declaration" bearing No.COM,SUM/12th, 7th/2003/3 dated January 29, 2003.

7. After consideration of the report, CPR urged:

- i) The participating countries for an expeditious follow up action on the decisions pertaining to the ECO Shipping Company, taken at the 12th COM meeting with a view to ensuring its early and effective operationalization.
- ii) The Secretariat to prepare a report on how to increase the efficiency of the ECO-CCI and organize the ECO Trade Fairs regularly and effectively. This report would be discussed at the 74th or 75th meeting of the CPR.
- iii) That ECO Trade and Development Bank and ECO Reinsurance Company should be established at the earliest. Iran, Pakistan and Turkey were requested to complete the procedural formalities for establishment of the Bank and the Company.
- iv) That the Experts Level meeting to reconcile the inconsistencies between the TTA and TTFA, which was to be held in Istanbul on 3-4 February, 2003, but was postponed due to lack of quorum, may be rescheduled at the earliest.

8. It was pointed out that the above issues would be discussed by the 13th RPC meeting and would also be included in the agenda of the next CPR meeting for follow up.

9. CPR urged that ECO's participation in the reconstruction of Afghanistan especially finalization of the establishment of ECO Special Fund by the financial experts of the member states should also be handled in an urgent manner.

10. The Secretary General informed the CPR that upon an invitation ECO delegation led by him and the representative of the current Chairman of COM would visit officially Afghanistan on February 13-16, 2003, to discuss with the Government of Afghanistan the ECO's participation in reconstruction of Afghanistan. He will present his report on the visit to the next CPR meeting on return.

Agenda Item No. 4

Contributions of the member states to the Secretariat budget

11. The Secretariat circulated a list of the unpaid contributions of some of the member states for the years 1999, 2001, 2002 and contributions of all the member states for 2003.

12. The Secretary General informed CPR that the Secretariat was facing difficulties in carrying out its functions due to shortage of fund. CPR urged the member states to reflect to their capitals expeditiously for the unpaid contributions for the past mentioned years and the contributions for 2003, so the said amounts could be transferred to the Secretariat as soon as possible.

13. It was agreed that the matter be kept in the agenda of CPR so that the Secretary General can inform CPR about the status of payments of contributions of member states.

14. Azerbaijan reiterated that the basis of calculation of the contributions of member states for the past years should be done according to the UN Scale of Assessment. CPR, regarding the appeal of Azerbaijan, requested that Azerbaijan may discuss resolving the issue with the Secretariat as soon as possible.

15. Kyrgyz delegation stated that they agreed with the figure of their contribution and they would pay it as soon as possible.

Agenda Item No. 5

Preparation for the 13th meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC).

- a) Date of the meeting.
- b) Draft agenda of the meeting.
- c) Confirmation of the member states for participation.
- d) Working papers for the meeting.

16. Brief information showing the list of documents dispatched to member states for the preparation so far was distributed at the meeting.

17. The Secretary General informed CPR that the Secretariat had informed the member states that the meeting of 13th RPC will be held on March 1-3, 2003, in the ECO Secretariat and the draft agenda of the meeting was circulated to member states. He also informed that so far the working papers in the fields of Trade and Investment, Agriculture, Industry and Health, ECO Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions, Drug Control and International Relations, Project Research and Energy, Minerals & Environment had been circulated and the remaining would be circulated shortly.

18. CPR, while thanking the Secretariat for the preparation, requested the member states to confirm their participation in the meeting as soon as possible and furnish the composition of their delegations along with the flight schedules.

Agenda Item No. 6

Appointment of the new Secretary General and directing staff

19. The Secretariat distributed a consolidated list of ECO staff completing their term of office in the year 2003 bearing No.ADM/PER/2003/01 dated January 25, 2003.

20 The CPR requested (a) Kazakhstan for an early intimation of their nominee for the post of Secretary General and (b) Pakistan and Iran for an early intimation of their nominees for one post each of Deputy Secretary General.

Agenda Item No. 7

International Activities

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

21. CPR, after thoroughly discussing the draft MoU as worked out by the working group, decided that a simple framework draft MoU may be prepared and submitted to CPR for consideration. Turkey offered to prepare a preliminary draft MoU on cooperation between the two organizations for the Secretariat to distribute among the member states.

b. Draft MoU between ECO and World Customs Organization (WCO)

22. CPR approved the draft MoU between ECO and WCO and authorized the Secretary General to sign it.

Agenda Item No. 8

Any other business

a) The CPR decided that the Secretariat, with the help of a consultant and/or another international organization, will prepare and submit to the CPR by April 2003, a paper highlighting the importance and benefits of ECOTA for the member states. The paper would focus on (a) how much increase in the intra regional trade will be caused by ECOTA, (b) the expected increase in the GDPs of the member states of ECO as a result of ECOTA; (c) the expected increase in the efficiency of the economies of the ECO member states as a result of ECOTA; (d) any other benefits of ECOTA for the ECO member states. The paper would be submitted to the member states by April 2003, so as to give adequate time to them for its study before the Second Ministerial Meeting on Commerce/Foreign Trade to be held in Pakistan in July 2003.

b) Kyrgyz delegation informed that the Charter of ECI had been ratified by the Kyrgyz Government on January 15, 2003.

c) The Secretariat circulated brief information on the 1st ECO Regional Investment Conference to be held in Kish on February 17-18, 2003. Since the quorum was reached, the meeting would be held as scheduled.

d) CPR decided that the renewal of the tenure of Mr. Murat Khasenov, Russian Interpreter from Kazakhstan, would be taken up first by the selection panel before next CPR. Therefore, CPR extended his tenure until the next CPR meeting.

Agenda Item No. 9

Date of the next meeting

23. CPR decided to hold its next meeting at 1000 hours on Sunday, March 9, 2003. The Selection Panel will meet prior to CPR meeting on the same day.