

The 74th CPR Meeting

Report

(Tehran, Monday, March 03, 2003)

1. The 74th meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held at the ECO Secretariat on March 9, 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 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**.

Agenda Item No.1

Adoption of the Agenda

2. CPR adopted the following agenda for the 74th meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR):

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Adoption of the draft report of the 73rd CPR meeting.
3. Follow-up of the implementation of the decisions of 12th COM, 7th Summit and Istanbul Declaration.

a)ECO Shipping Company.

b)ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECO-CCI).

c)ECO Trade & Development Bank and ECO Reinsurance Company.

d) ECO TTA & TTFA.

4. Contributions of the member states to the Secretariat's budget.

5. Preparation for the 13th meeting of Council of Ministers.

a)Date of the meeting.

b)Confirmation for participation.

6. Appointment of the new Secretary General and the directing staff.

7. Reconstruction of Afghanistan - Visit of the Secretary General to Afghanistan.

8. Status of the ECO Feasibility Fund and modality for its utilization.

9. List of ECO events to benefit from the Special Support Fund (SSF).

10. Institutionalized meetings of the Finance/Economy Ministers of the ECO member states.

11. Administrative matters.

12. Any other business.

13. Date of the next meeting.

Agenda Item No. 2Adoption of the draft report of the 73rd CPR meeting

3. CPR adopted the report of the 73rd meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives with some changes. The adopted report was circulated vide Secretariat note No. SG/CPR/2003/0378 dated March 12, 2003.

Agenda Item No. 3Follow-up of the implementation of the decisions of 12th COM, 7th Summit and Istanbul Declaration

4. CPR appreciated the Secretariat for its monthly update of the follow up report on the implementation of the decisions of 12th COM, 7th Summit and the Istanbul Declaration. In this context, the Council made the following recommendations:

a) ECO Shipping Company (ESC).

5. With a view to ensuring early and effective operationalization of ESC, Pakistan recommended that the extra-ordinary General Assembly meeting of the company which could not be held in February 2003 may be held in the second half of April 2003 in Pakistan. Pakistan also recommended that prior to the said meeting, a representative of the Company from Pakistan might come to Tehran to discuss the issues presently confronting the Company to facilitate the work of its proposed extraordinary General Assembly meeting.

b) ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECO-CCI).

6. CPR requested the Secretariat to submit a report on ways and means of increasing the efficiency of ECO-CCI at the next meeting of CPR. The Permanent Representative of Iran informed the meeting that Iran would also volunteer for the seat of the Secretariat of ECO-CCI in Iran and a formal proposal in written form would be submitted to the Secretariat shortly for circulation among the member states.

c) ECO Trade & Development Bank and ECO Reinsurance Company.

7. CPR recalled that the agreement of ECO Trade & Development Bank and Reinsurance Company has already been entered into force because it has been ratified and the instruments of ratification have been deposited by all three signatory member states namely Iran, Pakistan and Turkey. However, up to now no concrete steps had been taken for the establishment and operationalization of the two institutions. Some legal issues still needed to be addressed by some member states. Therefore, CPR urged the concerned member states to resolve the legal issues related to the establishment of the two institutions. After eliminating the legal hurdles, the Permanent Representatives of the signatory member states may hold meetings to pave the way for an early establishment of the two institutions. The issue was decided to be included in the agenda of the next meeting of CPR.

d) ECO TTA & TTFA.

8. The Representative of Turkey informed CPR that in view of the importance and urgency, the concerned authorities would be approached to propose new date for the meeting on reconciliation between TTA and TTFA to be hosted in Istanbul before the 13th RPC.

Agenda Item No. 4

Contributions of the member states to the Secretariat budget

9. The Secretariat distributed a list of the unpaid contributions of the member states to the Secretariat's budget for the years 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003 during the meeting. While reviewing the said list, CPR requested the member states to reflect the seriousness of this vital issue to their capitals for expediting transfer of the necessary funds to the ECO budget.

10. CPR directed the member states to pay their contributions for the years 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002 by end of March 2003 and for the year 2003 prior to the 13th meeting of Council of Ministers to be held on June 11, 2003.

11. The representatives of Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan observed that the amounts calculated by the Secretariat as their contributions for the years 2000 and 2001 were not in accordance with the UN scale of assessment. The representative of Afghanistan informed CPR that his Government had appealed to UN for review of the scale of assessment for Afghanistan.

12. The Secretary General informed the member states that during the preparation for the draft budget for 2003, the Secretariat circulated the UN Resolution on scale of assessment for the years 2001, 2002 and 2003. The contributions were calculated for seven member states according to the said UN Resolution. The Secretary General explained that if there were any change in the UN scale of assessment for any of the seven member states for any of these years, the Secretariat should have received information to this effect officially from the concerned member state for the subject year(s). In such cases, the Secretariat would readjust the contributions of the seven member states according to the new information.

13. CPR asked the Secretariat to prepare a timetable since 1998, showing the UN scale of assessment and contributions of the member states for circulation among the member states before the next meeting of CPR.

14. The Secretariat during the meeting also distributed the new addresses and account numbers of the ECO Secretariat in Tehran and London in various banks.

15. CPR asked the Secretary General to write letters to the concerned authorities in the capitals of the member states requesting them to help expedite payment of the unpaid contributions of the member states. It was agreed that a report on the status of unpaid contributions of the member states may be submitted to the next meeting of COM as well.

16. CPR also decided to keep this item in the agenda of CPR meetings until all contributions were paid.

Agenda Item No. 5

Preparation for the 13th meeting of Council of Ministers.

- a) Date of the meeting.
- b) Confirmation for participation.

17. The Secretary General informed CPR that the Foreign Minister of Kyrgyz Republic visited the Secretariat on March 8, 2003 and briefed him on ECO's activities/developments carried out since the 7th ECO Summit held on October 14, 2002 in Istanbul. During the

meeting the Minister handed over a letter to the Secretary General proposing to host the 13th meeting of COM on June 11, 2003 in Bishkek.

18. During the meeting, the Secretariat distributed a copy of the letter of the Foreign Minister of Kyrgyz Republic vide its note verbale No.SG/13thCOM/2003/0344 dated March 9, 2003.

19. CPR requested the member states to send this information to their capitals and provide confirmation of their participation as soon as possible.

20. CPR also requested the Secretariat to prepare the draft agenda and annotations/ working papers for the meeting and circulate the same to the member states.

Agenda Item No. 6

Appointment of the new Secretary General and the directing staff

21. CPR called upon the Republic of Kazakhstan to present their nominee for the post of Secretary General so that the nomination could be submitted to 13th COM meeting to be held on June 11, 2003. CPR also pointed out that if the nomination was not going to be done in time then the member states should have an emergency formula to proceed with for the appointment of the new Secretary General of ECO.

22. The representative of Kazakhstan informed CPR that his government would convey the nomination by the next CPR meeting.

23. CPR also requested Iran and Pakistan to nominate their candidatures for the posts of Deputy Secretary Generals for approval by the next COM.

Agenda Item No. 7

Reconstruction of Afghanistan - Visit of Secretary General to Afghanistan.

24. The Secretary General briefed CPR on his visit to Kabul on February 13-18, 2003 which he undertook to discuss with the Afghan officials ECO's participation in the reconstruction of Afghanistan. He informed CPR that he held meetings separately with (a) the President (b) Foreign Minister (c) other ministers of Afghanistan i.e. Trade, Transport, Communications, Mines & Industry, Public Works, Reconstruction and Urban Development & Housing. (d) Ambassadors of some member states to Afghanistan i.e. Iran, Turkey and Tajikistan. The Secretary General also pointed out that a comprehensive report on his visit was circulated to member states vide Secretariat note No.SG/RPC/13th/2003/0291 dated March 1, 2003.

25. While appreciating the information given by the Secretary General for his visit and for the report circulated to member states, CPR requested the Secretary General to (i) give the main conclusion of the visit and his recommendations for ECO's participation in the reconstruction of Afghanistan (ii) take the required steps to hold the meeting of the financial experts to work on the modalities of ECO Special Fund as soon as possible (iii) prepare an updated paper on ECO's participation in the reconstruction of Afghanistan taking into account new developments in this respect and circulate it to the member states and (iv) keep this item in the agenda of the next CPR meeting.

Agenda Item No. 8

Status of ECO Feasibility Fund and modality for its utilization.

Agenda Item No. 9

List of ECO events to benefit from Special Support Fund (SSF).

Agenda Item No.10

Institutionalized meetings of the Finance/Economy Ministers of the ECO member states.

26. CPR decided to defer agenda items No.8, 9 and 10 to its next meeting.

Agenda Item No. 11

Administrative matters.

27. a) Upon the recommendations of the selection panel which met on the same day at 0945 hours, CPR:

i) Appointed w.e.f. March 15, 2003 Mr. Fatih Unlu, the nominee of the Republic of Turkey, as Director (Agriculture, Industry and Health) at the ECO Secretariat to serve the remaining part of the tenure of the former Director Mr. Metin Kilci (till August 14, 2003) who resigned on February 15, 2003.

ii) Re-appointed Mr. Murat Khasenov (a national of Kazakhstan) as Russian Interpreter at the ECO Secretariat for a four-year term with effect from August 01, 2002.

b) CPR, in principal, agreed that henceforth it would hold its sessions at 1430 hours at the Secretariat.

c) Observing that the participation/level to this CPR meeting was not at appropriate level, CPR urged that all member states should participate at the CPR meetings at Ambassadorial level. Moreover, (i) from now on when the Secretariat circulated the date of the meetings of CPR, the member states should confirm their participation at Ambassadorial level. (ii) if any member state could not participate at the Ambassadorial level to CPR meetings, the said member state should inform the Secretariat in advance.

d) CPR asked the Secretariat to find out the reason why the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan or his deputy could not participate in meeting.

Agenda Item No. 12

Any other business.

a) The 13th meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC).

28. CPR agreed that the RPC meeting would be held on April 20-22, 2003, at the ECO Headquarters and asked the Secretariat to circulate a note to inform the member states about the date and the venue immediately.

29. CPR asked the member states to confirm their participation to the meeting and furnish the Secretariat with composition of their delegations along with their flight schedules at the earliest.

b) CPR asked the Secretariat to circulate the new version of the draft MoU between ECO-UNECE to the member states. The draft would be considered in the next CPR meeting.

- c) CPR also asked the Secretariat to circulate the full summary record of the 7th ECO Summit meeting held on October 14, 2002 in Istanbul with statements of the Heads of States/delegations.
- d) The Representative of Turkey informed that the workshop on Waste Water Management and Treatment Technology would be held on June 18-21, 2003 in East Mediterranean University of Magosa. He requested the member states to confirm their participation in the workshop to the Secretariat. CPR agreed with the request of the representative of Turkey that the workshop should be included in the list of ECO events to benefit from SSF.
- e) The Secretary General informed CPR that:
 - (i) He held a meeting with the UNDCP Tehran representative on February 22, 2003 at the Secretariat to discuss promotion of coordination and cooperation for implementation of the second phase of the ECO-UNDCP Project for Drug Control Coordination Unit (DCCU) which started in December 2002. The Secretary General informed the member states on the requirement and importance of having more cooperation between the focal points of DCCU and ECO Secretariat. He also informed that the completion of the implementation of the project on time is also important. Therefore, he requested the focal points of the member states to have more contact and provide the relevant information to the Secretariat in due course. He also requested the Embassies in Tehran to convey the matter to their focal points.
 - (ii) The Governing Council of UNEP in its 38th meeting held in Nairobi in February 2003, inter alia, requested the Executive Director to (i) establish and reinforce linkages and partnerships among other relevant United Nations bodies, development banks, and Bretton Woods institutions to enable the regional offices and Economic Cooperation Organization member countries to deliver the relevant programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme in the region effectively" (ii) submit a progress report on the implementation of the present decision to the next meeting of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

This was for the first time that UNEP had adopted such a decision. ECO would continue to cooperate with UNEP to implement the decisions. Copies of the UNEP decisions were circulated to the member states earlier.

Agenda Item No. 13

Date of the next meeting

30. CPR decided to hold its next meeting at 1430 hours on Monday, April 14, 2003.

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