

The 79th CPR Meeting

Report

(Tehran, 7 July, 2003)

CPR/79th/2003/3

The 79th meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held at the ECO Secretariat on July 7, 2003. H.E. Mr. Selahattin Alpar, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey inaugurated the meeting as Chairman and then as in keeping with the ECO rules passed on the chairmanship of the Council to H.E. Mr. Medet Sadyrkulov, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic.

2. 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***.

Agenda Item No.1

Adoption of the Agenda

3. CPR adopted the following agenda for the 79th meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR):

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Assumption of new Chairmanship and farewell to the former CPR Chairman.
3. Follow-up of the implementation of the decisions of 12th COM, 7th Summit and Istanbul Declaration.
4. Post 13th COM meeting and future strategy.
5. Eminent Persons Group (EPG).
6. Preparations for the 2nd Ministerial meeting on Commerce/Foreign Trade, July 15-17, 2003, Islamabad.
 - a) Programmes of the preparatory meetings and the meeting.
 - b) Confirmation of participation.
 - c) Draft agenda.
 - d) Draft Islamabad Communiqué
 - e) List of documents
7. ECO Secretariat's Audit Report for 2002.
8. ECO Calendar of Events for 2003 & 2004 and the list of events to be supported by the Special Support Fund.
9. Administrative matters:
10. Any other business.
11. Date of the next meeting.

Agenda Item No. 2

Assumption of new chairmanship and farewell to the former CPR Chairman.

4. Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey, H.E. Mr. Selahattin Alpar, made a brief statement on the occasion of transfer of chairmanship of CPR to the Kyrgyz Republic from the Republic of Turkey. He thanked the member states, the ECO Secretary General and staff for support and cooperation they had extended to him during his chairmanship. He also wished success to the new Chairman, H.E. Mr. Medet Sadyrkulov.

5. The Secretary General applauded the contribution and the skillful conduct of the former Chairman H.E. Mr. Selahattin Alpar while promoting consensus and team spirit during CPR meeting. In particular, he mentioned the helpful role of the former Chairman to prepare well for the 12th COM and 7th Summit held in October 2002, Istanbul (Turkey).

6. The member states also expressed their deep and profound thanks to H.E. Mr. Selahattin Alpar for the contribution he had made during his chairmanship of CPR. After taking over the chairmanship, H.E. Mr. Medet Sadyrkulov, the Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic, also made a brief statement and thanked the former Chairman for his contributions for the success of CPR meetings. He also assured the Council that with the cooperation of the member states and the Secretariat, ECO would continue to move forward to achieve its goals and objectives.

Agenda Item No. 3

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

7. The Secretary General observed that the 12th COM and the 7th Summit meetings held at Istanbul in October 2002, the Secretariat had prepared the follow-up reports on implementation of the decisions of these meetings and been submitting them to CPR. Each CPR meeting had considered these reports and taken appropriate decisions. This was a very useful mechanism and, therefore, should be continued for future COM meetings. The Secretary General proposed that the mechanism used for the follow-up of the implementation of decisions of the 12th COM and 7th Summit should be used for the 13th COM meeting as well. He suggested that the 1st report in this regard may be prepared by the Secretariat and submitted to the next CPR for consideration. CPR, while appreciating the proposal by the Secretary General, agreed that a permanent item with regard to this mechanism should be kept in the agenda of next CPRs.

Agenda Item No. 4

Post 13th COM meeting and future strategy.

8. CPR thanked the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic for hosting the 13th COM meeting where the Council took important decisions.

Agenda Item No. 5

Establishment of Eminent Persons Group (EPG)

9. CPR recalled the decision of the 13th COM meeting to set up an Eminent Persons Group (EPG) consisting of the member states with a specific timeframe and targets and in collaboration with ECO Secretary General submit its recommendations to the 14th COM meeting on measures to promote efficiency and effectiveness of ECO.

10. In this regard, CPR asked the Secretariat to prepare Terms of Reference (ToR) with regard to the establishment of EPG. ToR may include background experience and qualifications of person to be nominated as a member of this group, the work EPG is expected

to carry out and the dates and venues of the EPG meetings. After the adoption of ToR by CPR, each member state will nominate one eminent person keeping in view the agreed criteria of nomination.

Agenda Item No. 6

Preparations for the 2nd Ministerial meeting on Commerce/Foreign Trade, July 15-17, 2003, Islamabad.

a) Programmes of the preparatory meetings and the meeting

11. CPR agreed with the tentative programmes of the 6th HLEG (July 15, 2003), Senior Officials meeting (July 16, 2003) and the plenary session of the Ministerial meeting (July 17, 2003) circulated by the Secretariat vide document No.T&I/2nd MM/2003/1053 dated June 22, 2003.

b) Confirmation of participation

12. The Secretariat distributed the brief information showing confirmation of participation by eight member states and requested the remaining two member states i.e. Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, to confirm their participation in the meeting. The Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan informed CPR that Uzbekistan would be represented by the Ambassador of Uzbekistan based at Islamabad.

c) Draft agenda

13. CPR agreed with the draft agenda of the 6th HLEG and the 2nd Ministerial meeting on Commerce/Foreign Trade which were circulated among the member states by the Secretariat vide its document No.T&I/2nd MM/2003/1053 dated June 22, 2003.

d) Draft Islamabad Communiqué

14. During the meeting, the Secretariat circulated the Draft Islamabad Communiqué to be submitted to the Ministerial meeting for adoption. CPR referred the draft to the Working Group and requested it to submit result of its deliberation to the Ministerial meeting. CPR decided that the Working Group would meet on July 9 -10, 2003, at 1100 hours at the Secretariat.

e) List of documents

15. The Secretariat also circulated a list of all documents sent to the member states for preparation of the meeting (**Annex-II**).

Agenda Item No. 7

ECO Secretariat's Audit Report for 2002

16. CPR established an open-ended Working Group to work on the ECO Secretariat's Audit Report for 2002 and submit the result to the next CPR meeting to be approved on behalf of COM. The open-ended Working Group with the participation of the Iranian member of the Audit Board and the Secretariat's Accountant, as agreed, would meet at 1100 hours on July 13, 2003.

Agenda Item No.8

ECO Calendar of Events for 2003 & 2004 and the list of events to be supported by the Special Support Fund

17. CPR requested the Secretariat to circulate a new version of the revised calendar of events/meetings incorporating proposals of the member states made during the meeting on the dates of various events/meetings.

18. CPR deferred the approval of the calendar of events and the list of events to be supported by the Special Support Fund to its next meeting as some of the member states were awaiting instructions from their capitals.

Agenda Item No.9

Administrative matters:

19. CPR requested that the new Secretary General may make it convenient to arrive in Tehran on August 12, 2003 before the end of the tenure of the current Secretary General to take charge of the post. Later on the Chairman announced that he had received confirmation from the Permanent Representative/Ambassador of Kazakhstan that the new Secretary General would arrive in Tehran before the end of the tenure of the current Secretary General.

20. CPR agreed to extend the tenure of Mr. Fatih Unlu, Director (Agriculture, Industry and Health) and Mr. Ali Sabzalian, Assistant Director (Administration), till the end of September 2003. Since Mr. Fatih Unlu had been re-nominated for the post of Director by Turkey, on his appointment, the tenure of three-year term, when formally agreed, would start w.e.f. 15 August, 2003.

21. CPR also extended the tenure of Mr. Ali Arif, Executive Director of ECI, till the end of August 2003.

22. Furthermore, CPR agreed with the proposal of I.R. Iran to extend the deadline for nomination to the post of Director (Transport & Communications) till July 31, 2003.

23. CPR requested the Secretary General to make the required temporary administrative arrangements to beef-up the Directorate of Transport and Communications so that the work in this priority sector may not suffer.

Agenda Item No.10

Any other business.

a) 2nd ECO Regional Investment Conference, Afghanistan (Kabul), July 27-28, 2003

24. The Secretariat circulated the brief information on confirmation of participation of member states in the event. Since the quorum has been reached, the member states were informed that the meeting would be held as scheduled. The member states who had not confirmed their participation were requested to do so and furnish to the Secretariat the composition of their delegations along with flight schedules.

b) Annual Economic Report for 200

25. The Secretariat circulated a "status report on textual and statistical information provided by the member states for preparation of ECO Annual Economic Report (2001). CPR asked the member states, who had not provided the statistical data to the Secretariat, to do so as soon as possible.

26. CPR agreed with the proposal of the Secretary General that the Secretariat may prepare the report using (i) the available data from the member states; and (ii) the data from IMF, World Bank, UN or other internationally recognized sources if some member states do not provide data in due course. However, the source of the data taken from should be mentioned in the report.

c) MoU between ECO and UNEP

27. The Secretary General informed CPR on the development of relations between UNEP and ECO in the light of decisions of the 1st Ministerial meeting on Environment and the latest decision of the UNEP Council on cooperation with ECO. A note with a new draft MoU which reflects the decisions of the Governing Council of UNEP and the implementation of the Plan of Action was circulated among the member states. CPR agreed to consider the draft MoU in its next meeting for signing by the Secretary General.

Agenda Item No.11

Date of the next meeting.

28. CPR decided to hold its next meeting at 1430 hours on Wednesday, August 6, 2003.

[\[Home\]](#) - [\[Back\]](#)