

The 82nd CPR Meeting

Report

(Tehran, October 27, 2003)

CPR/82nd/2003/4

The 82nd meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held at the ECO Secretariat on October 27, 2003, under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Medet Sadyrkulov, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic. 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

2. CPR adopted the following agenda for its 82nd meeting:
 1. Adoption of the agenda.
 2. Adoption of the draft report of the 81st meeting of CPR.
 3. Follow-up of the implementation of the decisions of 13th COM and 7th Summit meetings.
 4. Status of mandatory contributions of the member states to the Secretariat budget.
 5. Eminent Persons Group (EPG):
 - i) Revised ToRs.*
 - ii) Nominations.*
 6. Fair distribution of posts between the founding members and new members as of a ratio of their contribution to the ECO budget.
 7. ECO Calendar of events for 2003 & 2004 and the list of events to be supported by the Special Support Fund.
 8. Preparation for the 14th meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC) to be held in Turkey on December 4-6, 2003.
 - a) Draft agenda of the meeting.*
 - b) Confirmation of the member states for participation.*
 - c) Working papers for the meeting.*
 9. 6th Specialized Tasks Group meeting (6th SETG) held on August 17-18, 2003 - Consideration of the selection of a consultant.
 10. Approval of ToRs of two pre-feasibility consultancies in connection with reconstruction of Afghanistan.
 11. Briefing on meetings participated by ECO staff recently.
 12. Draft ECO budget proposals for 2004.
 13. Administrative matters.
 - i) Appointments*

- ii) Criterion for membership of the selection panel.*
- 14. Any other business.
 - i) ECO day (November 28)*
- 15. Date of the next meeting.

3. After adoption of the above-mentioned agenda by CPR, the Chairman welcomed the new Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Pakistan H.E. Mr. Iqbal Ahmad Khan who was attending CPR meeting for the first time since his arrival in Tehran. The ECO Secretary General and the Representatives of the other member states also joined the Chairman in welcoming the new envoy and assured him of their full cooperation to him.

4. In response, the Permanent Representative of Pakistan H.E. Ambassador Mr. Khan expressed his thanks for the welcoming remarks by the Chairman, the Secretary General and the other distinguished Ambassadors/ECO Permanent Representatives. He further assured them that in keeping with the active and deep commitment of Pakistan to the objectives and purposes of ECO, he would continue to play an active role in the CPR meetings.

Agenda Item No. 2

Adoption of the draft report of the 81st meeting of CPR.

5. CPR adopted the report of its 81st meeting with some amendments. The adopted report was circulated vide Secretariat's note No.SG/CPR/2003/1853 dated October 29, 2003.

Agenda Item No. 3

Follow-up of the implementation of the decisions of 13th COM and 7th Summit meetings.

6. The Secretariat had circulated the revised and updated report on the "Follow-up of the implementation of the decisions of 13th COM and 7th Summit meetings vide note No.PR/13th COM/2003/1698 dated October 1, 2003. CPR appreciated the updating of the follow up report and requested the Secretariat to transmit the same to focal points in the member states.

Agenda Item No. 4

Status of mandatory contributions of the member states to the Secretariat budget.

7. CPR decided that the Secretariat should hold a meeting with the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to resolve the disputed segment of the mandatory contributions to be paid by Azerbaijan in accordance with the new UN Scale of Assessment. In this regard, the attention of CPR was invited to the comprehensive report submitted by the Secretariat vide note No.ACC/BUD/00061301 dated June 14, 2000, as well as report concerning Azerbaijan contributions (1999-2000) note No.ACC/Contr./2003/1734 dated October 6, 2003. In deference to the wishes of CPR, the Secretariat also agreed to prepare general information report with regard to the status of the budget as well as the current position of payments on account of the mandatory contributions by each member state.

Agenda Item No. 5

Eminent Persons Group (EPG):

j) Revised ToRs.

8. CPR appreciated the ToRs prepared by the Secretariat in light of the recommendations of the Working Group met on October 8, 2003. The Secretariat circulated the ToRs vide note verbale No.PR/EPG/2003/1751 dated October 9, 2003.

9. Keeping in view the instructions of CPR, the Secretariat circulated an amended version of the Terms of Reference among the member states vide note No.PR/EPG/2003/1851 dated October 29, 2003.

ii) Nominations

10. CPR decided that the first meeting of EPG should be held at the ECO Secretariat within the next 10-15 days so that EPG's final report becomes available to the member states well in advance of the 14th COM meeting for proper evaluation and discussions among the member states. In this respect, the ECO Secretariat should get in touch with the Eminent Persons so far introduced to the Secretariat by the member states to find a convenient date, direct or through their respective Embassies. The meeting should be convened without waiting for nominations from the remaining countries to avoid any further delay. Other nominees, as and when introduced, may join the meetings. Also, the Secretariat should identify the budgetary line to finance the expenditure to be incurred with regard to EPG meetings in Tehran.

11. The Representatives of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Tajikistan informed CPR that they would send their nominations to the ECO Secretariat shortly. So far, the Secretariat has received nominations from the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Turkey.

Agenda Item No. 6

Fair distribution of posts between the founding members and new members as of a ratio of their contributions to the ECO budget.

12. Under this agenda item the Permanent Representative of Turkey stated that the distribution of posts between the founding member states and the new members were not in accordance with the ratio of their respective contribution to the ECO budget. He offered to provide a paper on the issue and proposed fair distribution of posts between (a) the founding member states and (b) between the founding member states and the new member states in accordance with the ratio of their budgetary contributions.

13. CPR requested the Secretariat to circulate the same among the member states for comments. Further, it requested the Secretariat to consolidate the view points of the member states on the issue when received and present a consolidated report first to CPR and after its approval to EPG for its consideration.

Agenda Item No.7

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

14. In accordance with the decision of 13th COM, CPR approved the Consolidated Calendar of Events/ meetings for 2003 - 2004 along with the list of events to be supported by the Special Support Fund on behalf of the Council of Ministers (COM) as circulated

among the member states vide note No.SG/13th RPC/2003/1699 dated October 1, 2003.

Agenda Item No.8

Preparation for the 14th meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC) to be held in Turkey on December 4-6, 2003.

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

15. CPR approved the agenda of the 14th RPC as circulated by the ECO Secretariat vide note No.SG/RPC/ 2003/1659 dated September 23, 2003. With regard to confirmation of the member states, CPR requested an expeditious follow up by the esteemed Embassies.

16. The Permanent Representative of Turkey informed the meeting that the 14th RPC would be held on December 4-6, 2003, at the Marmara Hotel in Istanbul. The Turkish authorities would pay for boarding and lodging only for five participants, including the leader of the delegation, from each member state between December 3 - 6, 2003. In addition, all delegations would be served reception and transportation facilities at Istanbul Ataturk Airport between December 2 - 8, 2003.

17. In response to a query whether the local hospitality would cover late night departure on December 6 or early departure on December 7, the Permanent Representative of Turkey said that he would consult his government on this issue. Further he informed that as usual the ECO Secretariat delegation could arrive early in Istanbul to supervise preparations for the meeting.

18. CPR appreciated the information given by the Permanent Representative of Turkey and hoped that the arrangements would be excellent as done for such meetings held in Turkey in the past.

Agenda Item No.9

6th Specialized Tasks Group meeting (6th SETG) held on August 17-18, 2003 - Consideration of the selection of a consultant.

19. CPR appreciated the report of the Bids Evaluation Committee of ECO Secretariat distributed during the meeting and requested the Secretariat to circulate another report incorporating the additional options as tabled in the meeting. The options included the following:

- i) The Committee may be authorized to make final selection of the consultant and submit it to the CPR for approval;
- ii) The Islamic Development Bank, with the assistance of the ECO Secretariat, may finalize the selection process and recommend the result to CPR for its final approval. It should be noted that even in the case of ECO making the selection of the consultant, it would need the consent of IDB; or
- iii) A new tender might be announced subject to the agreement of the Islamic Development Bank and its readiness/legal possibility to extend the time of the validity of the grant.

20. The member states while in principle favoured the option No.ii, they desired to get the views of their capitals on the three options before taking the final decision. The matter would be discussed again in its next CPR meeting.

Agenda Item No.10

Approval of ToRs of two pre-feasibility consultancies in connection with reconstruction of Afghanistan.

21. CPR deferred this item for consideration to its next meeting.

Agenda Item No.11

Briefing on meetings participated by ECO staff recently.

22. This agenda item was also deferred by CPR to its next meeting.

Agenda Item No.12

Draft ECO budget proposals for 2004.

23. CPR directed the Secretariat to convene the meeting of the Working Group on the budget of the ECO Secretariat for 2004 within the next 10 days and also coordinate finalization of the date for the Group's meeting with the member states as soon as possible.

Agenda Item No.13

Administrative matters.

i) Appointments

ii) Criterion for membership of the selection panel.

24. CPR approved Mr. Morteza Khalaj (in place of Mr. Abolfazl Alikhani) as the Director (Transport & Communications) with effect from November 4, 2003.

25. The Selection Panel discussed on the morning of October 27, 2003, the selection/appointment for two posts of Steno-Secretary Category-II (P-1 & P-2) falling vacant on 20.11.2003 and 26.11.2003 respectively. The Selection Panel agreed upon the following:

1. To appoint Ms. Mine Karahan (Nominee of Republic of Turkey) to the post of Steno-Secretary (Category-II, P2) for a term of four years w.e.f. February 1, 2004. Therefore, Ms. Mine Karahan will continue to work at her present position till January 31, 2004;
2. To appoint Mr. Ali Ahmed Chaudhry (Nominee of Islamic Republic of Pakistan) for the post of Steno-Secretary (Category-II, P1) for a term of four years w.e.f. February 1, 2004.
3. The tenure of Mr. Rafiq Ahmed, present incumbent of Steno-Secretary (Cat.II, P2) thus may be extended upto 31.1.2004 i.e. for a period of two months. Pakistan agreed, in principle, with the extension of Mr. Rafiq Ahmed and indicated that they will

communicate their consent in this regard later on. In case Mr. Rafiq's extension is not approved, the effective dates mentioned in sub-paras 1 & 2 above will be changed accordingly."

26. CPR approved the above-mentioned recommendations submitted by the Selection Panel.
27. CPR did not discuss the sub-item (ii) relating to criterion for membership of the selection panel.

Agenda Item No.14

Any other business.

i) ECO day (November 28)

28. The Chairman informed the participants about the ECO Day falling on November 28, 2003. In this connection, he highlighted the planned activities as done in the past. In particular, he informed that the ECO Secretariat would undertake the following activities in connection with the ECO Day celebrations this year:

Invitations:

- a. Ambassadors of ECO Member States, Heads of International/Regional Organization based in Tehran, dignitaries / ambassadorial figures, important personalities from the local government dealing with different aspects of ECO activities and head of focal points in the relevant Ministries.
- b. Prominent Journalists, Television and Radio Team as well as foreign correspondents based in Tehran.

Messages on account of ECO Day:

- c. The messages to Heads of EOC member states from the Secretary General.
- d. Messages from Honourable Heads of ECO member states and Honourable Foreign Ministers of ECO member states to the Secretary General.
- e. The exchange of goodwill messages among the Foreign Ministers of ECO member states.
- f. Publication of special issue of ECO Bulletin with coverage of ECO Day messages.

Calls:

- g. A courtesy call on the Foreign Minister of the Islam Republic of Iran by the Secretary General.

Broadcasts:

- h. A short speech by the Secretary General on the Iranian National Television and Radio on ECO Day.
- i. Encouragement by the member states to ensure broadcast of special cultural programmes on National Televisions and Radios and publish material in National Newspapers.
- j. Receptions by Foreign Ministers etc. (especially by the incumbent COM Chairman i.e. the Krygyz Republic).

29. CPR took note of all the proposals presented by the ECO Secretariat with regard to ECO Day celebrations and decided that this year the ECO Day would be celebrated on Sunday, November 30, 2003 instead of November 28, 2003.

Agenda Item No.15

Date of the next meeting.

30. CPR decided to hold its next meeting at 0900 hours on Tuesday, November 25, 2003.

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