



ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (ECO)
SECRETARIAT
(TEHRAN)

Statements

By

Heads of International Organizations

(The 19th Meeting of the Council of Ministers, 22 December, 2010, Istanbul)

- 1) Developing 8 (D-8)
- 2) International Road Union (IRU)
- 3) Organization of Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)
- 4) International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- 5) Turkish State of Northern Cyprus

Council of Ministers Meeting of Economic Cooperation
Organization
December 22, 2010
Istanbul, Turkey

Distinguished Chairman,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey,
H.E. Prof. Ahmet Davutoğlu ,
Distinguished Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen

At the outset, I would like to convey my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Government of Turkey for inviting D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation to the 11th Summit of ECO. By this opportunity, I would like to congratulate Turkey as the new Chairman of ECO and wish every success during this important mission. I am confident that under Turkey's guidance fruitful outcomes will be brought for the welfare of ECO Countries.

Today, we are witnessing very positive growth in most of the developing countries after the recent global economic crisis which has drastically tampered our economic performance, industrial development, foreign trade, social welfare etc. In roughly one year after the onset of the crisis, economic growth and trade volume have been restored soundly to approximately its pre-crisis level, and despite encompassing vulnerability, the global economy continues to recover.

This revitalization will show its effect in the activities of regional organizations among developing countries such as ECO, D-8, ASEAN etc. as well. During these two days, ECO is holding its 11th Summit with

targets up to 2015.

Since its establishment in 1997, D-8 has made substantial achievements: Visa Agreement has already entered into force among our Member Countries, Preferential Trade Agreement and Customs Cooperation Agreement are at the edge of implementation, Offer lists have prepared and exchanged among all Member Countries, Working Group of Director General of Civil Aviation has signed a MoU, D-8 Secretariat has completed all its legal, structural and personal infrastructure, 15 Working Groups have been actively working particularly on trade, food security, industrial cooperation, transportation and energy.

Allow me dear colleagues to inform you about an important development of D-8: we signed a MoU with OIC this October to activate joint economic cooperation. Our aim is to encourage the development of joint programs and projects in all sectors through utilization of the human and material resources of both organizations. Today, I, as the Secretary General of D-8, would like to state our intention to sign a similar MoU with ECO as well. I consider the advantages to bring all our sources together so as to create better opportunities for our Member Countries. Therefore, I propose to improve relations between two organizations with a strong start of MoU.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my best wishes to ECO and Member Countries for further developing economic cooperation among them. I believe that this cooperation will also be beneficial to all developing countries.

Thank you for your attention.

19th MEETING OF ECO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
AND
11th ECO SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE
ECO-IRU SILK ROAD TRUCK CARAVAN
CONNECTING EUROPE AND ASIA

Ciragan Palace, Istanbul – 23 December 2010

SPEECH BY IRU SECRETARY GENERAL, MR MARTIN MARMY

Thank you Mr Chairman,

Excellencies,

It is not only an honour but a pleasure for me to be here today to address your august assembly on the vision and the means to improve economic cooperation and trade development which have always been the main objectives of your organisation.

Economic development in a globalised world requires the facilitation and security of trade and road transport everywhere. Since 1948, these have been the priorities of the International Road Transport Union and its 180 Member Associations in 74 countries, including all the ECO countries.

Road transport, which is always available to everyone, everywhere, is the only mode capable of better distributing wealth and uniting people. In today's global economy, it has also become a vital production and distribution tool as it is the unique mode of transport which can interconnect door-to-door every company with every world market.

This is why any penalty on road transport is an even bigger penalty on the economy and society as a whole.

While several ECO countries are landlocked to sea transport no country is landlocked

The development of trade between ECO countries and along the Silk Road corridor through the ECO region could become of strategic importance for interconnecting each business of this region to the main world markets.

In fact, with its major ports in the Indian Ocean, Persian Gulf, Mediterranean, Black and Caspian Seas, with its unique position as a gateway between Europe with its 500 million consumers and Asia where two-thirds of the world's population live, invent, develop, produce and trade, the ECO region is well located to better seize the numerous opportunities resulting from the globalisation of trade.

With a view to improve and further facilitate trade and road transport in this important region, the IRU, jointly with the ECO Secretariat, recently successfully organised the ECO-IRU truck caravan, composed of trucks from 8 ECO countries, which travelled from Quetta to Istanbul. The aim of this caravan was to collect data on the situation of international road transport within the region.

The analysis of the first results of the caravan is clear.

- On the one hand, the results confirm that all the ECO member states have already at their disposal a strong and competitive road transport industry ready to serve the national economies in a highly professional way.
- On the other hand, they confirm that the main real problem faced by international road transport is not the lack of road infrastructure. The main real problem in the ECO region is the totally inappropriate procedures at border crossings, where more than 30% of unjustified payments are requested and more than 40% of driving time is lost.

Based on the IRU's experience, significant improvements can easily be obtained if governments effectively implement the UN Convention on the harmonisation of border crossing procedures and the TIR Convention which have proven their efficiency in other regions for more than 60 years.

Here, I would like to stress strongly and openly that with the help and support of the ECO Secretariat, the implementation by all ECO countries of all these facilitation

As the final words, on behalf of the IRU and its 180 Member Associations in 74 countries, I would like to confirm that the IRU remains at the full disposal of all the governments of the region, including the government of Pakistan, to offer the necessary guidance and technical assistance for the effective functioning of the TIR System in the whole region.

Finally, I would like to express my deep gratitude to the national authorities of the ECO Member States and notably to the ECO Secretary General, H.E. Yahya Maroofi, and his team for their fruitful cooperation with the IRU to further facilitate road transport across the ECO region for a better future.

Thank you for your attention.

Check Against Delivery

**STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR SUMRU NOYAN,
FIRST DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF THE
BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION (BSEC)
PERMANENT INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT
(PERMIS)**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE 19th MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE ECONOMIC
COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (ECO)**

(Istanbul, 22 December 2010)

Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Participants,

I am very pleased to be here at the 19th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), on behalf of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC).

I wish to congratulate the Islamic Republic of Iran for its successful Chairmanship and the results of its committed work. I am certain that the able guidance and the active contributions of the incoming Chairmanship of the Republic of Turkey will also be of great value to the work of this important forum.

BSEC was launched in 1992 by Turkey, on the idea that stronger economic cooperation among the Black Sea countries would enhance peace and stability in the region. The main pillars of this initiative have been inclusiveness, transparency and regional ownership.

Today, BSEC is the most inclusive and institutionalized organization in the Black Sea area. It serves as a forum of cooperation in a wide range of areas and a platform for political dialogue for its 12 Member States, 18 Observers and 16 Sectoral Dialogue Partners of the Organization also participate in its activities.

The success of BSEC is linked to the concreteness and effective implementation of common projects. Within this framework, I wish to highlight two projects of major significance for the countries in the Black Sea area, as well as the Eurasian region. These are the Black Sea Ring Highway project and the project on the development of the Motorways of the Sea in the BSEC region.

The Black Sea Ring Highway project envisages a four lane ring highway system, approximately 7100 km long, to connect the BSEC Member States with each other and the European Road Network to that of Asia. The project on the development of the Motorways of the Sea in the BSEC region, on the other hand, is about strengthening the maritime links among the ports of the BSEC Member States.

These two projects are expected to do much to foster intra-BSEC trade, as well as tourism, infrastructure and transport investments and economic prosperity among the countries of the Black Sea. Most importantly, they will make a concrete difference in the lives of the people of the region and bring them closer together.

In addition to transport, environmental protection and green development are also among the priorities of BSEC. BSEC also focuses on the human dimension of sustainable development and tries to serve as a catalyst to ongoing activities on migration management and combating human trafficking.

BSEC has agreements among its Member States on cooperation in combating organized crime and terrorism. Together with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), BSEC launched a regional project on strengthening the criminal justice response to human trafficking in the Black Sea region. Within this framework, a Regional Action Plan was jointly devised.

As far as energy cooperation is concerned, a main priority is to ensure the stability and security of energy supplies with a BSEC regional energy strategy until 2020.

I am pleased to note that BSEC's capabilities to finance projects in renewable energy sources and energy efficiency through its financial instruments have been recently enhanced.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Participants,

I have only summarized some of the most vivid examples of the added value of BSEC to our regional cooperation. A lot has been done and is currently underway in other spheres as well. This fosters the spirit of cooperation in our region.

Also, BSEC cooperation in the fields of energy, culture, tourism, transport infrastructure projects, institutional renewal and good governance, border controls, customs procedures and combating organized crime and terrorism all contribute, whether directly or indirectly, to the strengthening of security and stability in the region.

With this in mind, BSEC will continue to pursue its objectives to serve the common benefit of its members. In this process, BSEC is ready to cooperate with ECO.

Thank you.

**Remarks by Mr. Peter Schatzer
Chief of Staff of IOM
on IOM-ECO Cooperation
Istanbul 22 December 2010**

Excellencies,

At the outset I would like to convey the best wishes of Mr. William Lacy Swing, IOM Director General for a successful summit. I also would like to express IOM appreciation for the hospitality provided by the people and government of Turkey – where we have been operating for 20 years, helping to manage regular and in particular irregular migration. I also seize this opportunity to recognize the close working relationship between IOM and the Economic Cooperation Organization on international migration issues, and last but not least let me also underline the active role of ECO's Secretary General in promoting this cooperation.

The relationship between our two organizations is well suited towards further strengthening mechanisms for labour migration; raising public awareness of migration health issues; initiating counter-human trafficking activities; promoting voluntary return and reintegration options for migrants; improving legal and policy frameworks, and supporting inter-governmental dialogue on migration management.

Our partnership and joint activities in Iran and during the Ashgabat Ministerial Conference speak volumes of the potential for effective and collective migration management efforts in a vast region covered by ECO member States.

Allow me to highlight an important fact: international migration has reached record levels and is unlikely to slow in the near future. An estimated 214 million persons reside outside of their country of birth or nationality.

Migration for work has always played a vital role in providing people with a means to sustain themselves, their families and societies. In fact, International as well as regional mobility of people, if managed properly, helps in reducing poverty and inequality, thus directly contributing to the goals of ECO. Policy-makers in countries of origin, transit and destination stand to gain from exploring ways to facilitate development-friendly migration policies in each of its different forms and to enhance its role in fostering development as well as address its negative consequences like human trafficking.

Excellencies,

Migration and Human Trafficking in Kish Island of Iran in March 2008 with the participation of ECO Member States, the attendance at the ECO HLEG (High Level Expert Group) Meeting in Ankara on Terrorism, Drug and TOC in April 2008 and participation in the ECO Interior Ministers Meeting in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan in May 2008. The Ashgabat Declaration recognizes IOM's advisory and consultative position to the ECO Member States regarding Migration Management, Policy and Research, Development, Regional Dialogues and Post-Disaster Recovery Programmes.

Excellencies,

Let me assure you that even closer cooperation between ECO and IOM can contribute to the joint development of the goals of our Member States through projects that would improve migrant livelihoods, reduce poverty through more efficient channelling of remittances, manage borders more effectively to facilitate legitimate movements and to combat human trafficking and improve regional cooperation in post-disaster response and recovery programmes. For such interventions, efforts are being made to generate funds from different donors to do more together.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate IOM commitment to remain engaged with your unique organization in joint interventions which will help Member States to better manage migration in the region and beyond, not only to combat the negative aspects of migration but in particular to reap it's developmental and economic benefits.

Thank you very much....

UNDER SECRETARY MR. AYDUG FAZIL FLOMER
**HEAD OF DELEGATION
TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS
AT THE 19TH COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING OF THE
ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION
ISTANBUL, REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
(22 DECEMBER, 2010)**

DISTINGUISHED MINISTERS,
MR. SECRETARY GENERAL,
YOUR EXCELLENCIES,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

IT IS A GREAT HONOUR FOR ME AND MY DELEGATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 19TH COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (ECO). I EXTEND TO YOU ALL THE HEARTFELT GREETINGS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS (TRNC).

AT THE OUTSET, I WISH TO CONGRATULATE H.E. PRESIDENT ABDULLAH GUL AND IN HIS NAME THE PEOPLE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY FOR HOSTING THIS IMPORTANT MEETING AND TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE FOR THE WARM WELCOME AND RECEPTION EXTENDED TO OUR DELEGATION IN THE BEAUTIFUL CITY OF ISTANBUL. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK H.E. MR. MOHAMMED YAHYA MAROOFI, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ECO AND THE ABLE STAFF OF ECO SECRETARIAT, FOR THE TIRELESS EFFORTS IN PURSUIT OF THE COMMON GOALS OF OUR ORGANIZATION.

POLITICAL DISPUTE WHICH AFFECTS THE EVERYDAY LIFE OF ALL TURKISH CYPRIOTS, AS WELL AS THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY IN GENERAL. THEREFORE, FIRST AND FOREMOST I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU IN BRIEF THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN CYPRUS.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS ELECTION, HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT DERVIŞ EROĞLU, SENT A LETTER TO THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL REITERATING HIS COMMITMENT TO THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS AND HIS READINESS TO RESUME THE PROCESS FROM WHERE IT WAS LEFT. PRESIDENT EROĞLU UNDERLINED THAT THE MAIN UN PARAMETERS, NAMELY BIZONALITY, POLITICAL EQUALITY OF THE TWO PEOPLES, THE EQUAL STATUS OF THE TWO CONSTITUENT STATES, AND THE FACT THAT THE SETTLEMENT WILL BRING ABOUT A NEW PARTNERSHIP CONTINUE TO BE THE CORNERSTONES OF ANY SETTLEMENT IN CYPRUS.

DURING THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, ALL OF THE CHAPTERS WHICH HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED BY THE TWO SIDES, HAVE ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSED. DESPITE THE FACT THAT SOME PROGRESS HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED ON CERTAIN ISSUES, THE TWO SIDES ARE YET TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS ON IMPORTANT CHAPTERS SUCH AS PROPERTY, SECURITY AND GUARANTEES AND TERRITORY.

THE TURKISH CYPRIOT SIDE DESIRES AN EARLY COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. SINCE THE START OF THE CURRENT PROCESS, WE HAVE EMPHASIZED THAT A TIMETABLE FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS IS AN IMPORTANT REQUIREMENT WHICH SHOULD NOT BE IGNORED. WE SINCERELY BELIEVE THAT WITH POLITICAL WILL AND COURAGE, SETTLEMENT CAN BE ACHIEVED IN THE SHORTEST TIME.

THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL IN NEW YORK ON 18TH NOVEMBER 2010. DURING THAT MEETING, IT WAS DECIDED TO INTENSIFY THE NEGOTIATIONS IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY THE CORE ISSUES AND TO COME UP WITH A PRACTICAL PLAN FOR OVERCOMING THE MAJOR POINTS OF DISAGREEMENT. MOREOVER, IT WAS ALSO DECIDED TO HOLD ANOTHER MEETING IN GENEVA AT THE END OF JANUARY 2011. THESE DECISIONS ARE SIGNIFICANT IN THE SENSE THAT THE GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE OUGHT TO REALIZE THAT THEY CAN NO LONGER PLAY FOR TIME AND THAT WE WOULD NOT BE SITTING AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE FOREVER.

DISTINGUISHED MINISTERS,
MR. SECRETARY GENERAL,

AT THIS CRITICAL JUNCTURE, THERE IS MORE NEED THAN EVER FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS IN ENDING THE ISOLATION OF THE TURKISH CYPRIOT PEOPLE. THIS WILL, UNDOUBTEDLY, MOTIVATE THE GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE TO ENGAGE SERIOUSLY IN THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, THUS FACILITATE THE SEARCH FOR AN EARLY SETTLEMENT.

TURKISH CYPRIOT PEOPLE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE ECO FOR THE CONTINUED SUPPORT TO OUR RIGHTFUL CAUSE. WE INVITE ALL MEMBER STATES TO FURTHER DEVELOP BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH NORTH CYPRUS TO OVERCOME THE UNJUST ISOLATIONS.

MR. CHAIRMAN,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

UNDER THIS SYSTEM, THE PROMOTION OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THE RATIONAL USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES, THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT THAT WILL GENERATE ADDED VALUE AND EMPLOYMENT RECEIVE PRIORITY AS A MATTER OF GOVERNMENT POLICY. OVER THE YEARS, WE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN ESTABLISHING TRADE RELATIONS WITH MORE THAN 70 COUNTRIES ALL OVER THE WORLD.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

HIGHER EDUCATION PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE ECONOMY AND IT IS THE FASTEST GROWING SECTOR IN THE TRNC. THERE ARE SIX EXCELLENT UNIVERSITIES PROVIDING HIGHER EDUCATION TO OVER 43,000 STUDENTS FROM OVER 90 COUNTRIES. THE FEES ARE VERY COMPETITIVE, CLOSE TO 3 PERCENT OF THESE STUDENTS ARE FROM ECO COUNTRIES, OTHER THAN TURKEY. CURRENTLY, LIMITED NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS ARE GRANTED TO STUDENTS FROM ECO COUNTRIES. IN THIS CONTEXT, WE WOULD WELCOME A DECISION BY THE MEMBER STATES, TO INCLUDE OUR UNIVERSITIES IN THE AVAILABLE OPTIONS FOR THE HIGHER EDUCATION OF THEIR YOUTH.

IN ADDITION TO HIGHER EDUCATION, TOURISM, CONSTRUCTION AND AGRICULTURE ARE THE LEADING SECTORS IN THE TRNC ECONOMY. PRIVATE SECTOR AND FOREIGN INVESTMENTS CARRY GREAT IMPORTANCE FOR THESE SECTORS.

IN THIS RESPECT, ENCOURAGEMENT OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT IS AMONG THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVES OF OUR GOVERNMENT'S DEVELOPMENT POLICY. INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES EXIST ESPECIALLY IN THE TOURISM

CONSEQUENTLY, THOSE WISHING TO INVEST IN THE TRNC CAN BE SURE OF A POSITIVE GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE. IN THIS CONNECTION, OUR GOVERNMENT IS KEEN TO WELCOME INVESTORS FROM ECO COUNTRIES. THE RELEVANT MINISTRIES AND OUR STATE PLANNING ORGANIZATION AND THE CYPRUS TURKISH DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT AGENCY (YAGA) WOULD BE AT THE DISPOSAL OF POTENTIAL INVESTORS WHO WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE EXTENSIVE OPPORTUNITIES AND INCENTIVES THAT EXIST IN THE TRNC.

DUE TO THE ISOLATIONS, THE MAIN HURDLE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR ECONOMY CONTINUES TO BE THE LACK OF DIRECT FLIGHTS TO AND FROM NORTH CYPRUS. HOWEVER, WE MAINTAIN AN EFFECTIVE AIR LINK WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD VIA TURKEY.

IN 2009 THE NET TOURISM INCOME OF NORTH CYPRUS WAS 368.6 MILLION US DOLLARS. SHARE OF TRADE AND TOURISM IN THE GNP IS 13 %. THERE ARE A TOTAL OF 127 TOURISTIC ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE TRNC, INCLUDING FIVE STAR HOTELS, WITH A BED CAPACITY OF CLOSE TO 17,000. ACCORDING TO OUR ESTIMATES, MORE THAN 474,000 TOURISTS VISITED OUR COUNTRY IN 2009.

DISTINGUISHED MINISTERS,

BEFORE I CONCLUDE, I SHOULD NOTE THAT THE TRNC HOSTED TWO IMPORTANT ECO EVENTS, NAMELY A WORKSHOP TITLED "AIR AND WATER POLLUTION CONTROL" IN AUGUST 1998 AND ANOTHER WORKSHOP ON

THE MEMBER COUNTRIES AND WAS DUE TO BE RECORDED AND PLACED ON THE ECO'S ANNUAL REPORT. I WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE OUR DESIRE TO HOST THESE TWO IMPORTANT ECO EVENTS IN OUR COUNTRY IN 2011.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

I THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR MOST KIND ATTENTION AND FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT TO OUR JUST STRUGGLE TO SECURE OUR RIGHTFUL PLACE AMONG THE FAMILY OF NATIONS.

THANK YOU.