

The 16th Council of Ministers

Turkish Proposal with regard to the Establishment of Regional Centres

(Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, 04 May, 2006)

Annex-V

It is noticed that many regional centres are established or proposed without proper functions or prospects.

There is a race among the member states to host these centres in their own countries. This promotes competition instead of cooperation among members.

Development of certain rules and principles for the establishment and activities of these centres is advisable. In this respect, the following criteria are proposed:

- It should be functional. There must be a clear benefit and willingness to do it among the members.
- It should not create any financial burden on the members and ECO budget. That means it will be financed entirely by the host country.
- Preparation and implementation of yearly action plans which will at least include two meetings, workshops or courses.

CPR could be tasked by the COM to study this issue and develop necessary rules and regulations for their establishment.

ECO Secretariat is requested to prepare a background paper on this issue and provide information on ECO regional centres' quantity, quality and country.