

The 14th Council of Ministers

Welcoming Address of H.E. Mr. Talbak Nazarov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan
(Dushanbe, 12 September, 2004)

Annex-II

*Dear Colleagues,
Distinguished Secretary General,*

Let me cordially welcome you all, participants of the 14th Meeting of Council of Ministers of Economic Cooperation Organization in Dushanbe City, which will celebrate its 80th anniversary, and wish you success in our activity during the meeting.

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, His Excellency Mr. Askar Aitmatov for his successful chairmanship during 13th Meeting of Council of Ministers of ECO, during which our Organization achieved tremendous success.

Let me also again congratulate His Excellency Mr. Askhat Orazbay, the Secretary General of ECO in regard with taking office and wish him success in realization of aims and tasks of ECO; and in turning ECO into a long-term and effective instrument for economic growth and economic cooperation in our region.

Dear colleagues,

I guess that 14th Meeting of Council of Ministers of ECO in Dushanbe is a remarkable event in deepening and further expansion of regional economic cooperation. In this regard, I would like to emphasize that comprehensive development of relations with member countries of ECO is one of the priority directions of external political activity of Tajikistan.

Tajikistan during its chairmanship in ECO firmly intends to take necessary measures for further realization of fundamental principles and aims of the Organization stipulated in Izmir agreement. At present in conditions of globalization and interdependence of economic development, our countries are called to give a new push to further development of economic cooperation in the ECO region.

Having common historical and cultural roots, tracing back to hundreds of years, today the ECO region is one of the most important economic and trade zones of the world situated in the very heart of Eurasian continent, which possesses tremendous natural, economic and labour resources.

In this regard, I would like to express my sincere hope that the approved document “Dushanbe Declaration 2004” and its adoption the day after tomorrow during 8th Summit of Heads of States in Dushanbe, will become the next contribution to further realization of ECO activity for development of regional cooperation and prosperity of our nations and countries.

Thank you for attention.