

# The 11<sup>th</sup> Council of Ministers

## Report

( Dushanbe, 04 May, 2001 )

CON/11<sup>th</sup> COM/01

1. The 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) was held on 4 May 2001 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The Council of Ministers' meeting was preceded by the Senior Officials meeting held on 2-3 May 2001 under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Erkin Rahmatullaev, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan.

2. The meeting was attended by the delegations of the 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 Secretary General along with the ECO staff. The representatives of regional and international organizations attended the inaugural session. The list of the participants is placed as ***Annex-I***.

### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 1**

#### Inauguration of the Meeting

3. H.E. Dr. Kamal Kharrazi the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran in his capacity as the Chairman of the 10<sup>th</sup> ECO Council of Ministers opened the meeting and made brief remarks, thanking the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan for hosting the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers.

### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 2**

#### Election of the Chairman

4. As per ECO Rules of Procedures, the Council unanimously elected H.E. Mr. Talbak Nazarov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan as the Chairman of the meeting. He read the message of the President of Tajikistan addressed to the meeting which is placed at ***Annex-II***.

### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 3**

#### Adoption of the Agenda

5. The Council adopted the Agenda of the meeting with some amendments. The same is placed at ***Annex-III***.

### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 4**

#### Appointment of the Drafting Committee

6. The Senior Officials of the ECO Member States acted as the Drafting Committee to prepare the Report of the meeting.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 5**

### Report of the Secretary General on ECO Activities

7. The Secretary General presented his statement envisaging his observations and recommendations. Separately, he submitted an updated report on ECO activities since the conclusion of the 11<sup>th</sup> RPC meeting. While appreciating the statement, the Council emphasized that the following should be followed up:

- i. Expediting implementation of measures envisaged in various ECO documents concerning transport and communications to ensure free flow of land and air transport within the ECO region.
- ii. Formulation of ECO wide energy policy.
- iii. Implementation of joint ECO/ITC Project on "Promotion of Intra-ECO Trade" and particularly holding Buyers/Sellers meetings on potential product groups.
- iv. Early establishment of various ECO institutions such as ECO Trade and Development Bank and Insurance Company and ECO Science Foundation and effective operationalization of ECO Shipping Company.
- v. Promotion of the awareness of ECO in the Member States.

8. Copies of the statement and the updated report of the Secretary General are placed at ***Annex-IV***.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 6**

### Statements of the Ministers/Heads of Delegation

9. The Foreign Ministers/Heads of the Delegation delivered their statements expressing the views of their respective Governments regarding regional cooperation among the Member States and the ongoing as well as planned activities. Copies of the statements provided to the Secretariat are placed at ***Annex-V***.

10. The Council agreed that the Secretariat may prepare a report on actionable points contained in the statements for translating these into action. A report on the follow up actions should be included in the agenda of the next WGSO.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO.7**

### Adoption of the Reports of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> meetings of the Working Group of Senior Officials (WGSO)

11. The Council adopted the reports of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> meetings of the Working Group of Senior Officials held on 5-6 February, 2001 in Tehran and 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2001 in Dushanbe, respectively.

12. A brief summary of the two meetings and a note of the Chairman of the Senior Officials meeting were presented to the 11<sup>th</sup> COM which are placed at ***Annex-VI*** & ***Annex-VII*** respectively.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO.8**

## Adoption of the Reports of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

13. The Council approved the reports of the meetings (45-54) of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) held since its last session in June, 2000 (Tehran).

### **AGENDA ITEMS NO. 9**

#### ECO Secretariat's Budget for 2001

14. The Council was informed that the Secretariat's budget for the year 2001 was approved on its behalf by CPR in accordance with the Article 3.2 of the Financial Regulations. The Council while approving the Secretariat's budget for the year 2001 also appealed to the Member States to pay their contributions to the ECO Secretariat's budget.

### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 10**



#### Approval of the ECO Secretariat's Audit Report for 1999

15. The Council approved the Audit Report of the Secretariat for the year 1999.

### **AGENDA ITEM NO.11**

#### Approval/adoption of the report of the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC) and of the ECO Annual Calendar of Events as well as the ECO Secretariat's Work Programme for 2001

16. The Council considered and adopted the report of the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC) held in Tehran on 1 March 2001, the Calendar of Events/Meetings and Work Programme of the ECO Secretariat for 2001. While adopting the report, calendar of events and the Work Programme, the Council approved the following recommendations:

-  The list of events should be reconsidered by CPR with a view to reducing the number of events substantially.
-  The implementation of the decisions of the Ministerial meetings on Transport, Trade and Energy should be followed up on regular basis. In this context, the CPR should periodically review the progress.

### **AGENDA ITEM NO.12**

#### Report of the ECO Ministerial meeting on Energy and Petroleum Resources

17. The Council took note of the report of the first ECO Ministerial meeting on Energy/Petroleum held in Islamabad (Pakistan) on 8 November, 2000 and offered its thanks to the host country Pakistan. The Member States were requested to take necessary measures for implementation of the Plan of Action for Energy/Petroleum cooperation in the ECO region (2001-2005).

### **AGENDA ITEM NO.13**

## Status of Ratification of ECO Agreements

18. The meeting reviewed the status of the agreements and in order to secure early implementation requested the Member States to propose a deadline for ratification of these agreements which enjoy Member States' support. Accordingly, the Council supported the recommendation of the WGSOM to set up necessary administrative arrangements for implementation of the agreements which enjoy priority with the Member States.

### **AGENDA ITEM NO.14**

#### Review of annual reports of the ECO's Specialized Agencies and Regional Institutions

19. The Council in accordance with the Article 10 of the Treaty of Izmir took note of the submitted Annual Reports of ECO Specialized Agencies and Regional Institutions namely:

- a. ECO Shipping Company;
- b. ECO Cultural Institute (ECI);
- c. ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and
- d. ECO College of Insurance

20. The Council decided to invite the Presidents/Chairmen of the already operational ECO Institutions/Specialized Agencies to present their annual reports on their performance, challenges and recommendations, to the future COM meetings.

### **AGENDA ITEM NO.15**

#### Appointment of the Audit Board

21. The Council renewed the tenure of the existing Audit Board comprising Senior Audit officials of the Governments of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey for another period of three financial years.

### **AGENDA ITEM NO.16**

#### Adoption of Dushanbe Communique

22. The Council adopted the Dushanbe Communiqué, which is placed at **Annex-VIII**.

### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 17**

#### Any other business

23. No issue was raised under this item.

### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 18**

#### Date and venue of the next Meeting

24. The date and venue of the next meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) would be concluded upon consultation among the Member States and the Secretariat.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 19**

Adoption of the report

25. The Council adopted its report unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 20**

Vote of thanks and closing of the Meeting

26. The Foreign Ministers/Heads of Delegation of the Member States thanked the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan for excellent arrangements made to hold this meeting and the warm hospitality extended to the participants during their stay in Dushanbe.