

The 11th Council of Ministers

A BRIEF NOTE OF THE CHAIRMAN OF SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING (SOM)
FOR PRESENTATION TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

(Dushanbe, 4 May, 2001)

Annex-VII

*Honourable Ministers,
Excellencies,*

1. It is great honour and privilege for me to briefly report on the productive deliberations of the meeting of the Senior Officials, which was held on 2-3 May 2001 in Dushanbe. The meeting discussed in great detail the issues included in the agenda of the Council of Ministers. Also, the meeting reviewed the Secretariat annual budget (2001), the ECO audit report (1999), renewal of the tenure of the Audit Board and also the Work Programme of the Secretariat for 2001.

2. I also wish to bring to your kind attention the report of the first Ministerial meeting on Energy and Petroleum resources held on 8 November, 2000 in Pakistan.

3. The Senior Officials reviewed the Dushanbe Communiqué in the light of the proposed amendments of the Member States and prepared the draft for the kind adoption of the Council of Ministers. The said Communiqué will be released to the press after its adoption.

Excellencies,

4. May I now brief you on the deliberations of the Working Group of Senior Officials (WGSO) which has met twice this year to discuss proposals from the Member States to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the Economic Cooperation Organization and its Regional Institutions and Specialized Agencies.

5. In its meetings held in Tehran and Dushanbe, the WGSO made important recommendations for expeditious realization of ECO goals and objectives. These included early finalization of ECOTA, evaluation of ongoing projects and programmes with a view of increasing level of participation of the Member States in high-level meetings and deletion of events which no longer enjoy priority of the Member States. The meeting also recommended that henceforth the Presidents/Executives of the already operational ECO Regional Institutions/Specialized Agencies should present reports on the activities of their respective institutions/agencies to the future Council of Ministers.

Excellencies,

6. May I take this opportunity to express my gratitude and appreciation for the cooperation, hard work and valuable contribution of my colleagues in the Senior Officials' meeting.

