



**251st Meeting of the
Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)**

Report

24th February 2021
ECO Secretariat

Report

The 251st CPR Meeting was held on February 24, 2021 under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Derya Ors, Ambassador of the Republic of **Turkey** to the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Permanent Representative to ECO. The meeting was attended by Permanent Representatives/Representatives of Islamic Republic 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**. The ECO Secretary General and the relevant staff of the Secretariat also attended the Meeting. List of participants is enclosed as **Annexure-I**.

2. **H.E. Ambassador Derya Ors, the Chairman** while calling the meeting in order welcomed the distinguished delegates from the Member States.

Agenda Item No.1

Adoption of the Agenda

3. The **Council** adopted the following Agenda of 251st CPR Meeting for deliberation:

- 1) Adoption of the Draft Agenda of the 251st CPR Meeting
- 2) Adoption of the Draft Report of the 250th CPR Meeting
- 3) Preparations for holding virtual 14th ECO Summit (*continued*)
- 4) ECO Secretariat Staff Strength (*continued*)
- 5) Participation of Turkish Cypriot State in the 14th ECO Summit
- 6) Administrative matters:
 - Recommendations of the Selection Panel
- 7) Any other business
- 8) Date of the next CPR Meeting

Agenda Item No.2

Adoption of the Draft Report of the 250th CPR Meeting

4. The **Council** adopted the draft report of the 250th CPR Meeting, circulated by the Secretariat to the Member States on February 11, 2021.

Agenda Item No.3

Preparations for holding virtual 14th ECO Summit (*continued*)

5. In consideration of the previous discussions in the matter, the Chair requested the Secretariat to convey to the Council the latest status as regards the forthcoming ECO

Summit, participation status, the level of participation in the event and preparations regarding Signature Ceremony of the Charter of ECO Research Centre as a part of ECO Summit.

6. The **Deputy Secretary General (T&C, HRSD, In-charge CFS)** informed that Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan have so far confirmed their participation in the Summit, adding that the draft agenda and the theme of the event as well as the relevant technical details received from the host country have also been circulated amongst the Member States. Regarding signing of the Charter of the ECO Research Centre, he said that the Secretariat was in touch with the depository of the Charter i.e. Republic of Azerbaijan to ascertain required details for onward transmission to the host authorities in Turkey. He also stated that the Secretariat was working on the draft annotated agenda and programme of the Summit which would be circulated in due course.

7. The **ECO Secretary General**, while noting the official or unofficial confirmation of participation by all of the Member States, expected that they would be represented at higher level. Considering the inclusion of signing ceremony of Charter of ECO Research Centre as well as the chairman conclusion by the host country, he said that the Summit's Preparatory Committee is expected to meet for finalizing the sequence of programme as well as other technical and protocol aspects of the event.

8. **The Representative of the Republic of Turkey** while requesting the Member States to note the content of technical/protocolar aspects of Summit, conveyed that the related technical and protocol issues would be addressed in the Preparatory Committee's meeting. He also requested the Secretariat's assistance for provision of Member States' focal points in order to facilitate the necessary coordination process. Informing that the President of Turkey would deliver his statement in Turkish Language, he said that Turkey will not provide simultaneous translation services throughout the online meeting. In the given context, he requested the Member States to manage such a required translation at their own. He hoped that the completion of Turkey's chairmanship would coincide with the successful holding of the 14th ECO Summit.

9. **The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan** noted that due to paucity of time it would not be possible for Kazakhstan to complete the internal procedures/requirements to sign the Charter of ECO Research Centre as included in the Summit's draft agenda. He therefore, requested that the issue may be excluded from the agenda of the Summit.

10. **The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan** emphasized that Signing Ceremony of the Charter of ECO Research Centre should not be excluded from the Summit's agenda. He said that as host country the Republic of Azerbaijan was ready to sign Charter for early establishment of the Centre, underling that those of the Member States which would not be in a position to sign the Charter for their internal/procedural reasons, may sign it at a later stage.

11. **The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran** proposed that the matter regarding Signing Ceremony of the Charter of ECO Research Centre may be reflected in the Programme of the Summit instead of the event's agenda.

12. The **ECO Secretary General** suggested that to reach a compromised solution, the text of the agenda item may be reformulated as "Announcement of signing ceremony of the Charter of ECO Research Centre". He also mentioned that the resumption of operation of the ITI Cargo Container Train is also scheduled for March 4, 2021 that may also be announced during the Summit.

13. The **Council** while looking into certain aspects of discussions, **endorsed** the draft Agenda of the 14th ECO Summit along with the amendment proposed by the ECO Secretary General. It further concluded that announcement concerning the concurrent resumption of ITI Cargo Train on March 04, 2021 may also be reflected in the Programme of the Summit.

Agenda Item No.4

ECO Secretariat Staff strength

14. Recalling the previous discussion on the agenda item, the **Chair** requested the Council's consideration for endorsement of the revised staff strength of the ECO Secretariat.

15. Noting that their concerns have been addressed, the **Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan** expressed his satisfaction over the proposed staff strength.

16. Regarding conversion of the post of Persian Translator (Category-II, P1) into Programme Officer for Trade and Investment as well as creation of the post of Persian Translator (Category-III, A3), **the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran** appreciated the proposed arrangements. He requested that the newly established post may be announced as soon as the relevant formalities are completed.

17. The **Council** discussed the issue and after giving due consideration to the views expressed by the Member States and the ECO Secretary General, **decided** that a two-week silence procedure may be adopted to secure approval of the Council of Ministers (COM) jointly for the revised Staff Strength for Category D and P, as well as Job Descriptions endorsed by the 249th Meeting of CPR on January 11, 2021.

Agenda Item No.5

Participation of Turkish Cypriot State in the 14th ECO Summit

18. Referring the request received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkish Cypriot State for their participation in the 14th ECO Summit as "Observer", and

circulated amongst Member States vide Secretariat's Note Verbale dated February 11, 2021, the **Chair** sought the Council's approval in this regard.

19. **The Representative of the Republic of Turkey** proposed that the invitation (s) for participation in the 14th ECO Summit may also be extended to the International Energy Charter and the Turkic Council.

20. While approving the participation of Turkish Cypriot State in the 14th ECO Summit as "Observer", the **Council** agreed that formal invitations may be extended to the International Energy Charter and the Turkic Council for participation in the Summit also as "Observers", in line with the relevant provisions of ECO Modalities for Granting Observer and Dialogue Partnership Status.

Agenda Item No.6

Administrative matters:

- Recommendations of the Selection Panel

21. The Selection Panel met on February 24, 2021. The Meeting was coordinated by ECO Deputy Secretary General (Administration, EME and IR) and Chaired by the Representative of the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey. Other participants of the meeting included the Representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Turkey and Turkmenistan.

22. The selection panel made the following recommendations for consideration by the CPR:

Director for Transport & Communications (T&C) (Category-I, D2)

Mr. Akbar Khodaei (Iranian National) may be appointed against the post of Director (T&C) for a full term of three (03) years to be effective from the date of his joining the Secretariat.

Program Officer for Transport & Communications (T&C) (Category-II, P1)

Ms. Saida Armina (Kazakhstan National) may be appointed against the post of Program Officer (T&C) for a full term of four (04) years to be effective from the date of her joining the Secretariat.

23. The **Council** approved the above recommendations of the Selection Panel.

Agenda Item No.7

Any other business

24. **The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan** while acknowledging the chairmanship of the Republic of Turkey, congratulated the

Ambassador of Turkey as the Chair and his delegation to ECO for all their contributions with regard to smooth functioning of the organization and vision that have been articulated throughout their chairmanship. He also welcomed Turkmenistan as the next Chair of ECO, expressing optimism that under Turkmenistan's leadership the organization will be able to achieve even greater heights.

25. **The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran** expressed gratitude to the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey and his team in Tehran on accomplishment of professional and effective Chairmanship of ECO. He also congratulated Turkmenistan as new Chair of the ECO.

26. **The Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan** thanked and facilitated the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey for very professional and excellent chairmanship as well as leading the CPR's sessions. He assured that Turkmenistan would also make its best to maintain the progressive pace of the organization, contributing to secure common aims and objectives of the ECO.

27. **The ECO Secretary General** while expressing his gratitude to H.E. Mr. Derya Ors Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey for excellent tenure of chairmanship, acknowledged the great achievements of the organization with the help and support of the Ambassador as well as the Government of the Republic of Turkey, during the Turkey's chairmanship. He also welcomed the ECO chairmanship of Turkmenistan for 2021 and wished all success for Ambassador Ahmet Gurbanov, Permanent representative of Turkmenistan to ECO and Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran and as a coming chairman of CPR.

28. **The Chair** expressed his gratitude to the distinguished delegates of the Member States, ECO Secretary General and staff members of the ECO Secretariat for their cooperation and valuable contribution during the Turkey's Chairmanship. He specially expressed his appreciations to the ECO Secretary General and his team for valuable contributions, facilitating role and guidance, showing great professionalism and devotion particularly under pressing pandemic conditions. He further expected that Secretary General's valuable contributions would continue during long awaited chairmanship of Turkmenistan, extending his best wishes to the Ambassador of Turkmenistan for assumption of ECO Chairmanship.

Agenda Item No.8

Date of the next CPR Meeting

29. **Council** decided to convene its next (252nd) Meeting on **April 14, 2021** at 1030 hours in the ECO Secretariat.

Annex-I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:

- Mr. Abdul Ghani Farahi, Second Secretary

The Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan:

- H.E. Mr. Bunyad Huseynov, Ambassador
- Mr. Subhi Ismailzade, Third Secretary

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

- H.E. Mr. Sayed J. Alavi, Permanent Representative
- Mr. Abolqasem Tahmasebi, Director of ECO Affairs Bureau
- Mr. Khosravi, Attaché, ECO Affairs Bureau

The Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan:

- H.E. Mr. Askhat Orazbay, Ambassador
- Mr. Gamzat Khairov, Counsellor

The Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic:

- H.E. Avazbek Abdurazakov, Ambassador
- Mr. Akilbek Kilichev, Minister, Counsellor

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan:

- H.E. Mr. Rahim Hayat Qureshi, Ambassador
- Mr. Mian Azmat Farooq, First Secretary

The Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan:

- H.E. Mr. Nizomiddin Zohidi, Ambassador
- Mr. Ismoilov Salohiddin, Attache

The Embassy of the Republic of Turkey:

- H.E. Mr. Derya Ors, Ambassador
- Mr. Emirhan Yorulmazlar, Deputy Head of Mission
- Mr. Mehmet Zahit Uzun, Counsellor

The Embassy of Turkmenistan:

- H.E. Mr. Ahmet Gurbanov, Ambassador
- Mr. Mulkiev Bairam, Third Secretary

The Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan:

- H.E. Mr. Bakhodir Abdullayev, Ambassador
- Mr. Umid Babaev, Third Secretary

The ECO Secretariat:

- H.E. Mr. Hadi Soleimanpur, Secretary General
- Mr. Kanan Nazarov, Deputy Secretary General

- Mr. Huseyin Avni Bicakli, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Sayed Yahya Akhlaqi, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Jandos Asanov, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Salohiddin Kiromov, Head of CFS
- Mr. Mahmoud Khoubkar, Legal Adviser
- Mr. Muhammad Ahmed Raza, Steno-Secretary
- Mr. Amjad Saeed Abbasi, Steno-Secretary
- Ms. Aynur Mammadova, English-Russian Interpreter/Translator
- Mr. Amir Javaheri, English-Persian Interpreter/Translator
