

REPORT
**of the 262nd Meeting of the
Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)**

*March 2, 2022
Bandar Abbas, Hormozgan Province, Iran*

Report

The 262nd Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held on March 2, 2022 in the city of Bandar Abbas, Hormozgan Province, the Islamic Republic of **Iran** under the Chairmanship of Ambassador Bakhodir Abdullayev, Republic of **Uzbekistan**. The meeting was attended by the Permanent Representatives and Representatives of Islamic Republic of **Afghanistan**, Republic of **Azerbaijan**, Islamic Republic of **Iran**, Republic of **Kazakhstan**, 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 *Annex-I*.

CPR meeting proceeded by a joint meeting with the **Governor** General of Hormozgan Province Mr. Mehdi Dousti with ECO Permanent Representatives. The Governor General delivered his welcoming remarks underling major achievements and huge potential and opportunities of Hormozgan Province in Trade, Investment, Transport, Connectivity and Tourism for promoting cooperation with ECO Member States. He also apprised that the Shahid Rajaei Sea Port Complex which is located at 23 kilometres west of Bandar Abbas provides access for ECO Member States to international open waters via Persian Gulf. He underlined that the Port is playing a significant role in the import and export by handling of around 100 million tons of cargo annually and it enjoys access to international rail and road networks. He further informed that currently the Port covers an area of 2400 hectares. He declared that the readiness of Hormozgan Province for allocation of land in the Port for the ECO Member States. He also drew the attention of participants to the Aquaculture, Agriculture, Petrochemical, Mineral and Tourism Capacity of the Province.

The Chairman of the meeting Ambassador Bakhodir Abdullayev, while extending sincere gratitude to Hormozgan and the warm hospitality accorded to the delegations from ECO Member States by the Provincial authorities, thanked the Governor General for introducing the economic capacities of the Province and attached importance to this visit to this end. He further emphasised on the importance of Hormozgan province, Bandar Abbas and the Shahid Rajaei Sea Port Complex and the significant role which can be played by the Province in the ECO plan and work for strengthening connectivity among the ECO Member States and enhancing intra- and interregional trade.

The ECO Secretary General Ambassador Khusrav Noziri highlighted strategic, economic and commercial significance of Bandar Abbas city for the region as the trade hub in the vicinity of the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea.

After the meeting a visit to Shahid Rajaei Sea Port was organised by the General Administration of Port and Maritime Affaires of Hormozgan Province. The participants

familiarized themselves with Shahid Rajaei Sea Port facilities which are considered as the intercontinental route of ships, being located at the intersection of the North-South Transit Corridor and most important gateway for import and export of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Port covers about 2400 hectares and possesses 100 million tons of cargo capacity per year.

2. The **Chairman** while welcoming the participants formally initiated the proceedings of the meeting.

Agenda Item No.1

Adoption of the Agenda

3. The **Council** adopted the following Agenda of the 262nd CPR Meeting for deliberation:

1. Adoption of the Draft Agenda of the 262nd CPR Meeting
2. Adoption of the Draft Report of the 261st CPR Meeting
3. Review and follow-up of the outcomes of the 15th ECO Summit and 25th COM (continued)
4. Strengthening multi-modal connectivity in the “ECO Year of Strengthening Connectivity”
5. Approval of ECO Rules for Procurement of Goods and Services
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 261st CPR Meeting

4. The Draft Report of the 261st CPR Meeting was circulated amongst the Member States vide Secretariat’s Note Verbale No. CFU/CPR/261st Meeting/2022/156 dated February 13, 2022.

5. The Council adopted the Report of 261st CPR Meeting after replacing the word “Work Plan” with the “Work Program” in paras 19 and 21 of the Report.

Agenda Item No.3

Review and follow-up of the outcomes of the 15th ECO Summit and 25th COM (continued)

- Implementation of Proposals & Suggestions of 25th COM preceded by 15th ECO Summit

6. The draft Plan of Work with amendments proposed during 261st CPR Meeting was circulated to the Member States by the Secretariat's Note Verbale POW/15th ECO Summit/2022/172 dated February 15, 2022.

7. The **Chair** requested to consider the draft Plan of Work as finalized and recommend to the Secretariat to take subsequent follow-up measures without prejudice to the requirement for the observance of the decision-making procedure wherever the implementation of the envisaged actions so require.

8. The permanent representative of **Iran** raised the question on the legal value of Plan of Work and requested the Secretariat to brief the Council about its legal consequences. In addition, he queried about the ECO Calendar of Events and ratios of Non-ECO Events listed therein.

9. The Legal Advisor briefed the Council that Plan of Work has been prepared based on the proposals shared at the Summit meeting to reflect the follow-up measures that are expected to be taken by the respective organs of ECO. He added that the annotation in the Agenda clarified that for any action if needed observance of decision-making procedure, the procedure shall be observed to that end. He noted that the Plan of Work could be considered as a report on the actions which might be taken in line with the proposals and initiatives shared at 15th summit meeting.

10. The **Secretary General**, in response to the query on ECO Calendar of Events enlightened that the proportionate of ECO Events and Non-ECO Events needed to be adjusted. He explained that non-ECO events should not exceed 30% of ECO events as per the ceiling set by the respective guidelines. In addition to these budgetary constraints requires revision of the number of non-ECO events in ECO Calendar for the year 2022, - he underlined. In this context, he noted that given the fact that the ECO Calendar 2022 is returned to CPR based on the proposal received from the Member States the Non-ECO events might be revised and proposed for reconsideration of CPR.

11. On breaking of silence procedure with regard to Calendar of Events and Work Programme-2022, the Representative of **Turkey** pointed out that Turkey was not in favour of breaking the silence procedure. He added that Turkey had forwarded the amendments and recommendation in the manners like the other Member States. He declared that other Member States had forwarded their amendment even before the Turkey, so link the silence procedure with the Turkey is not correct.

12. The **Secretary General** explained that the first Note Verbale received from distinguished Embassy of Turkmenistan and was withdrawn with the aim of avoiding breaking of silence procedure. He further clarified that the Note Verbale received from Pakistan conveyed general comments without proposing amendments to the contents of Work Programme and Calendar of Events. He added that the Secretariat had taken the issue in question before the Legal Advisor, the concerned Director and DSG but no concrete modification requiring changes in the said documents was observed. He added that, the Note Verbale received from the Embassy of Turkey conveyed amendments to the contents of Work Programme and Calendar of Events.

13. Talking about the High-Level Expert Group (HLEG) on Brainstorming Meeting at the level of Deputy Minister, mentioned in the Calendar of Events, the Representative of **Turkey** raised question on its mechanism. He enquired whether nomination from headquarters at Deputy Minister Level was required or we had to discuss here in CPR. He requested the Secretariat to clarify the same.

14. The **DSG (TC&HRSD)** briefed the Council that HLEG meeting is going to be held to determine the way forward of decisions of Heads of Government/State and to remove lacunas, if existed. He further added that then Secretariat discussed the outcomes and implemented it after thorough deliberation with the Member States. He explained that the issue is being referred to HLEG if found any obstacles or legal hindrance in its way to implementation.

15. With regard to Brainstorming meeting, **Secretary General** briefed the Council that lastly this issue was discussed during the 32nd RPC meeting. The main purpose of that meeting was to discuss enhancement of efficiency of the Organization through reform measures. He also informed that the respective concept note will be circulated among the all Member States.

16. Keeping in view his Prime Minister's initiative, the Representative of **Kazakhstan** urged to replace the wording "joint intervention" with "joint strategy" of Iran and Kazakhstan under Item "C" of page 33 of Work Plan. The Permanent Representative of Iran also agreed on this modification.

17. The **Council** decided to reflect these changes in the updated version of Work Plan and circulate the same among the Member States.

Agenda Item No.4

Strengthening multi-modal connectivity in the "ECO Year of Strengthening Connectivity"

18. The **Secretary General** outlined the great importance of regional connectivity referring to the issue of strengthening multi-modal transport in the "ECO Year of Strengthening Connectivity" as proposed by H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan at the 15th ECO Summit and approved by the Council of

Ministers (COM). He was of the view that the ECO Secretariat has a wide range of events, programs and projects in its Agenda in the areas of road, rail, maritime, civil aviation and communication and is vigorously pursuing coordination and collaboration with the Member States and international partners for greater regional connectivity to materialize them. Some of the connectivity projects that the Secretariat is mandated to follow are summarized as below:

1. Bandar Abbas-Almati and Istanbul-Almati Railway
2. ITI Road and Railway Corridors
3. KTAI Road and Railway Corridors
4. KTI Railway
5. Rasht-Astara Railway
6. Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan-Iran Corridor
7. Tajikistan-Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan-Iran-Turkey Corridor
8. Transit Digitalization particularly through implementing Digital TIR and eCMR in the Region
9. Establishment of Green Lanes at BCPs
10. Involvement of private sector in decision-making processes
11. Visa Facilitation for transit drivers
12. Transport Geographical Information Systems (GIS)
13. Establishment of ECO Logistics Providers Association (ECOLPAF)
14. Establishment of ECO Maritime Network
15. Dry ports and Sea ports cooperation
16. Establishment of Ro-Ro lines in the Caspian Sea
17. Establishment of ECO Gate
18. Civil Aviation Cooperation
19. Private Airline Cooperation
20. Establishment of ECO Air Hub in Central Asia
21. Information and Communication Cooperation Establishment of fiber-optic network

19. The **Secretary General** further apprised that the Transport Ministers of ECO had approved the proposal of the Secretariat to establish “ECO Transport Excellence Award” in recognition and appreciation of the best performing transport companies, associations and other stakeholders in road, railways, maritime and civil aviation and as per the mandate of the Ministers the ECO Secretariat is preparing the relevant modalities in this regard. To conclude, he appreciated the Islamic Republic of **Iran** for organizing very useful and interesting visit to Bandar Abbas and familiarizing with the transit transport facilities and requested all the Member States to arrange such visits to their sea and dry ports to further promote regional connectivity.

20. The **Chair** requested to resume deliberation on this Agenda. He further requested the local authorities to acquaint Permanent Representatives with the Port’s capacities, opportunities and new initiatives for the cause of a more inter-connected ECO Region.

21. The Permanent Representative of **Iran** proposed to include the visit of Bandar Abbas in this 262nd CPR Report. On draft resolution tabled by Uzbekistan in UN GA regarding strengthening the diplomatic relations between the South Asian countries with the Central Asian countries, especially on transportation infrastructure between the regions, he assured Iran's full support in this regard. He requested all the Member States to support the proposal of Uzbekistan. Talking about the strengthening connectivity, he emphasised that every Member States should designate special representative in this context. Keeping in view the importance of strengthening connectivity, he stressed that the Transport Sector in ECO Secretariat should be more strengthened and improved.

22. The Permanent Representative of **Azerbaijan** also supported the idea of Republic of Uzbekistan to proclaim the year of 2022 as a Year of Connectivity. He underlined that as Secretariat briefed that it had different High-Level Working Groups and different departments, so there is no need to designate special envoys for this purpose.

23. The Representative of **Pakistan** congratulated the Republic of Uzbekistan for its idea of declaring the year 2022 as the Year of Connectivity. She further recommended that this agenda had given a new life to ECO and she requested all the Member States to support this idea not just for the national level interest but for the progress of ECO as organization. She also commented on ITI Road and Railway Corridors, and considered that this initiative could not be implemented without ECO's supports. She informed that there are numbers of private companies which are very interested and requesting to expand this project to the other regional countries. She further informed that Pakistan is working on some proposals like expanding its network to other regions, its fair and Pakistan will formally place these proposals before the Secretariat and Pakistan needed full support from the ECO Member States in this regard.

24. The Permanent Representative of **Iran** assured its full support towards ITI Road and Railway Corridors. Meanwhile, he once again highlighted the importance of connectivity and suggested to develop some indicators to evaluate the performance at regional, global and international levels to observe at what extent this Organization has been successful to gain its goal.

25. The **Director for Transport and Communications** briefed the Council that the 15th ECO Summit, the 25th COM and the recently held 11th Ministerial Meeting on Transport have all acknowledged the role of transport in sustainable transport and strongly supported the connectivity project of the ECO. He further added that the mentioned theme aims to promote well-developed transport infrastructure, safe, smooth and unhindered cross border transit, digitalized procedures, well-managed integrated road, rail, maritime, air and communication networks and enhanced international interaction for a well-developed region. He informed that the ECO Secretariat has a wide range of events, programs and projects as its agenda in the areas of road, rail, maritime, civil aviation and communication and is vigorously pursuing coordination and

collaboration with the Member States and international partners for greater regional connectivity to materialize them. Besides the said projects the ECO Secretariat is involved with various international organizations and financial institutes for technical assistance and attraction of investments and support to the ECO projects.

26. The Council in the context of the Agenda Item regarding strengthening multi-model connectivity expressed its appreciation to the Governor General of Hormozgan Province for the invitation of ECO CPR to Bandar Abbas and providing the CPR with the opportunity to be familiar with the capacities of Hormozgan Province in different fields and in particular the huge capacities of the Shahid Rajaei Sea Port. The proposal of Governor General on the readiness of Hormozgan Province for the allocation of land in Port was also noted.

27. The **Secretary General** also recommended attaching of report of visit of Bandar Abbas to the Report of 262nd CPR for information as *Annex-II*. With regard to designating special representative on strengthening the connectivity, Secretary General informed that Secretariat had already Ministerial Meeting and High-Level Working Group (HLWG) meeting on Transport to discuss all issues related to the connectivity. He appreciated the idea of Iran and stressed on tangible and thorough discussion on it. With regard to proclaiming the year 2022 as a Year of Strengthening Connectivity, he informed that Secretariat is working on its modalities and he assured that this draft document will be shared with the Member States shortly. With regard to strengthening of Secretariat, specifically the Transport Sector, he explained that there are two vacant posts in Transport Sector. One post is related to the Republic of Uzbekistan which is expected to be filled very soon and the other post is related to the Republic of Kazakhstan. He had requested the Kazakhstan representative to fill that post as early as possible. He further announced that the Secretariat is going to hold a Brainstorming Meeting at the level of Deputy Minister to discuss the ongoing reform process. He assured that it will help to strengthen our Organization and ECO Secretariat.

Agenda Item No.5

Approval of ECO Rules for Procurement of Goods and Services

28. The ECO draft Guidelines for Procurement of Goods and Services reflecting the codified practices of the Secretariat was circulated among the Member States in 2019 for receiving views from the Member States (Note Verbale No: LA. Procurement-Guidelines/2019/841 dated 7/10/2019). Subsequently, the Secretariat was provided with the views from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan which were circulated among the Member States (Notes Verbale No: LA/Procurement-Guidelines/2020/2, dated 6/1/2020 and No: LA/Procurement-Guidelines/2020/162 dated 27/2/2020). Thus, the amended draft Guidelines were circulated among the Member States (Note Verbale No: LA/Procurement-2020/533 dated 7/10/2020). Taking this development into account, adoption of the draft ECO Guidelines for Procurement of Goods and Services was put on the Agenda of 248th Meeting of CPR. As per the decision of CPR a silence procedure adopted for obtaining approval of COM with respect to the draft Guidelines (Note Verbale No: LA/Guidelines-Procurement/2020/ 770 dated 27/12/2020) which was

broken by submission of fresh views from the Republic of Turkey (Note Verbale No: LA/Guidelines-Procurement/2021/9 dated 5/12/2021). This was followed by receiving general observation and proposals from Pakistan (circulated by Secretariat's Note Verbale No: ADM/PER/2021/282 dated 9/3/2021).

29. The amended draft ECO Rules for Procurement of Goods and Services containing the views of the Member States were circulated amongst Member States vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No.LA/ECO Rules for Procurement/2022/148 dated February 13, 2022.

30. The **Chair** requested the Council to consider the said draft and take the required decision.

31. The Representative of **Pakistan** pointed out that the revised draft circulated by the Secretariat had been forwarded to its Headquarters in Islamabad and its response is yet to be received. Therefore, she requested the Secretariat to defer the issue for the next CPR.

32. The Representative of **Turkey** while underlining the importance of the issue, noted that almost a year passed as of the last time the issue was on the Agenda of CPR and clarification as to the putting off consideration of the issue was sought.

33. The **Legal Advisor** clarified on the reason for the delay in putting the issue before CPR again after the silence procedure was set for obtaining approval of CPR was broken last year. He added that after the break of silence by receiving new proposals, additional general views were shared by the Secretariat and a committee was convened at the Secretariat for formulating the ideas and their inclusion in the draft rules. However, he noted that since the first draft was prepared based on the practice of the Secretariat, in practice the Secretariat is observing the rules and the issue, if needed, might be deferred for the next meeting, for its consideration at CPR.

34. The **Secretary General** remarked that Audit Board couple of times recommended to complete the process of adoption of the Procurement Rules. He further informed that another visit of Audit committee is expecting in this May. Therefore, he requested the Member States to expedite adoption of the said document.

35. The Permanent Representative of **Iran** made reference to the known procedure of ad ref adoption which could be used for the adoption of the ECO Rules for Procurement, if within two weeks or so, the views of Pakistan could be obtained. In this case the silence procedure might be initiated after formal reply of the Embassy of Pakistan regarding the issue.

36. The Representative of **Pakistan** acknowledged the importance of the issue and for the same reason requested deferring of the decision-making on the issue until the next CPR.

37. The Council decided to put consideration of this issue on the Agenda of the next CPR.

Agenda Item No.6

Administrative matters:

38. The Selection Panel met on February 28, 2022 at the Secretariat. The Meeting was coordinated by Ambassador Huseyin Avni Bicakli, ECO Deputy Secretary General (Administration) and Chaired by Mr. Umid Babaev, the Representative of the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Other participants of the meeting included the representatives of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan and Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

39. The Selection Panel made the following recommendation(s) for consideration by the CPR:

Russian/English Interpreter (Category-II, P3)

40. Ms. Ulker Mehdiyeva (**Azerbaijan National**) may be appointed as a Russian/English Interpreter for a full term of four (04) years with effect from the date of her joining.

Russian/English Interpreter (Category-II, P3)

41. Ms. Saida Armina (**Kazakhstan National**) may be appointed as a Russian/English Interpreter for a full term of four (04) years with effect from the date of her joining.

42. The Council approved the above recommendations of the Selection Panel.

Agenda Item No.7

Any other business

43. Under this agenda item, no issue was discussed.

Agenda Item No.8

Date of the next CPR Meeting

44. The **Council** decided to convene its next (**263rd**) CPR Meeting on 11th April 2022 at ECO Secretariat.

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. Ali Alizade, Ambassador

- Mr. Subhi Ismayizada, Third Secretary

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

- H.E. Mr. Sayed J. Alavi, Permanent Representative

- Mr. Abolghasem Tahmasebi, Director, ECO and Multilateral & Economic Organization

- Mr. Behzad Azarsa, Senior Expert, Multilateral & International Economic Cooperation

- Mr. Musa Khosravi Moghadam, ECO Expert, Multilateral & International Economic Cooperation

- Ms. Shokoofeh Shadi, ECO Expert, Multilateral & International Economic Cooperation

The Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan:

- Mr. Gamzat Khairov, Counsellor

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan:

- Ms. Abbasi Zaib Tayyab, Counsellor

The Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan:

- Mr. Salohiddin Ismoilov, Attaché

The Embassy of the Republic of Turkey:

- Mr. Zahit Uzun, Counselor

The Embassy of Turkmenistan:

- H.E. Mr. Ahmet Gurbanov, Ambassador

- Mr. Kemal Atayev, Attaché

The Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan:

- H.E. Mr. Bakhodir Abdullayev, Ambassador

- Mr. Umid Babaev, Third Secretary

The ECO Secretariat:

- H.E. Mr. Khusrav Noziri, Secretary General

- Dr. Sayed Yahya Akhlaqi, Deputy Secretary General

- Amb. Jandos Asanov, Deputy Secretary General

- Amb. Mohsen Esper, Deputy Secretary General

- Mr. Akbar Khodaei, Director for Transport and Communications

- Mr. Mahmoud Khoubkar, Legal Adviser

- Mr. Sukhrob Mirzoaliev, Head of CFS

- Mr. Shahid Hussain, Steno-Secretary

- Ms. Aynur Mammadova, English-Russian Interpreter/Translator

- Ms. Dilbar Muminova, English-Russian Interpreter/Translator

BANDAR ABBAS VISITS

The 262nd Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held on March 2, 2022 in the city of Bandar Abbas, the Islamic Republic of Iran under the Chairmanship of Ambassador Bakhodir Abdullayev, Republic of Uzbekistan. CPR meeting proceeded by joint meeting of General Governor of Hormozgan Province Mr. Mehdi Dousti with ECO Permanent Representatives. In this meeting the capacities of the Homozgan Province in different fields, in particular the Shahid Rajaei Sea Port facilities have been brought to the attention of ambassadors, permanent representatives and representatives of ECO Member States. In this meeting, inter alia, the Governor General expressed the readiness of Hormozgan Province for facilitating access of ECO Member States to the Shahid Rajaei Sea Port facilities through allocation of land in the Port for ECO Member States.

In the morning of the second day of visit to Bandar Abbas (3 March 2022) a joint meeting of the private sectors and CPR was held as was scheduled by the Chamber of Commerce of the Province. In this Meeting, the Head of Chamber of Commerce of Province and representatives of private sectors in different fields, such as aquaculture, agriculture, tourism, petrochemical, tourism, industry, minerals shared the latest information on the capacity of the Hormozgan in the concerned areas with CPR. After this meeting a visit to Shahid Rajaei Sea Port was organised by the General Administration of Port and Maritime Affaires of Hormozgan Province. The participants familiarized themselves with Shahid Rajaei Sea Port facilities which is considered as the intercontinental route of ships, being located at the intersection of the North-South Transit Corridor and most important gateway for import and export of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Port covers about 2400 hectares and possesses 100 million tons of cargo capacity per year.

The mentioned visit, as well as a specialized meeting between Hormozgan Province's private sector representatives and the CPR members, was organized by Bandar Abbas Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture.

During their visit to Shahid Rajaei Sea Port, ECO delegation became acquainted with the Port's latest achievements and developments in various areas and was informed about the latest operational status of the largest commercial port in the country. As the country's largest and most advanced commercial port, Shahid Rajaei accounts for more than 57 percent of Iran's total annual commodity transportation.

During this visit, Head of Hormozgan Province Ports and Maritime Department Alireza Mohammadi Karaji-Ran, who was also accompanying the ECO delegation, introduced the capacities and advantages of investment in Hormozgan Province and Shahid Rajaei Port, saying: "Hormozgan province has 2,200 kilometers of sea borders, with 14 small and large islands and 32 active ports, through which most of the country's

commodity exchange is carried out. Due to being located at the center of the north-south corridor, Shahid Rajaei Port connects Asia to Europe, which is a very positive feature for foreign investment and the development of maritime activities”.

Referring to the strategic role of Hormozgan Province’s ports, especially Shahid Rajaei, in the transit of goods through Iran, the official reminded that the port accounts for more than 55 percent of the total exports and imports and 80 percent of the transit carried out through the country’s ports. He further referred to the ongoing development projects in this port, saying: “With the completion of the third phase of Shahid Rajaei Port’s development project and its container terminal, which is one of the most important and largest port development projects in the country, vessels with capacities of over 18,400 TEU can berth at this port.

The ECO representatives further explored the potential areas for economic cooperation with Islamic Republic of Iran during a meeting with Mr. Mohammad Reza Safa, the Chairman of Bandar Abbas Chamber of Commerce and its members. Speaking in this gathering, the ECO Secretary General stressed that ECO seriously pursues the facilitation of trade among its members.

CPR members also stressed the significance of trade fairs and exhibitions in ECO member states, noting that holding exhibitions by ECO member countries through their chambers of commerce is crucial for regional economic integration and trade expansion.

The Secretary General appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for organizing very useful and interesting visit to Bandar Abbas and familiarized with the transit transport facilities and requested all the Member States to arrange such visits to their sea and dry ports to further promote regional connectivity.
