



**263rd Meeting of the
Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)**

Report

*April 11, 2022
ECO Secretariat*

Report

The 263rd Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held on April 11, 2022 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**, **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 *Annex-I*.

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 263rd CPR Meeting for deliberation:

1. Adoption of the Draft Agenda of the 263rd CPR Meeting;
2. Adoption of the Draft Report of the 262nd CPR Meeting;
3. Follow-up of the outcomes of the 15th ECO Summit and 25th COM (continued);
4. Approval of ECO Work Programme 2022 and Calendar of Events 2022;
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 262nd CPR Meeting

4. The **Council adopted** the Draft Report of the 262nd CPR Meeting circulated vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No. CFU/CPR/262nd Meeting/2022/371 dated March 16, 2022 along with the amendment proposed by the Permanent Representative of **Iran**.

Agenda Item No.3

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

5. With reference to Secretariat's Note Verbale No. PoW/15th ECO Summit/2022/52 dated January 16, 2022 regarding the Plan of Work on the proposals and initiatives of the 15th ECO Summit held in Ashgabat on November 28, 2021 the revised version of the said Plan of Work as finalized by the 262nd CPR Meeting held at Bandar Abbas on March 2, 2022 was circulated among the Member States vide Note Verbale No. PoW/2022/322 dated March 9, 2022.
6. Realizing some clerical errors in the previous version of the Plan of Work (PoW), circulated vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No. PoW/2022/322 dated March 9, 2022, the additional Note Verbale No. PoW/2022/382 dated March 24, 2022 was circulated among the Member States after inclusion of the inputs/suggestions of the Republic of Uzbekistan which were missed to be added in the previously circulated PoW.
7. It was noted that the Plan of Work would serve as guidelines for taking follow-up measures by the concerned organs of the ECO with respect to the recommendations/proposals shared during the 15th ECO Summit held in Ashgabat on November 28, 2021.
8. The **Chair** requested to resume deliberation on this agenda item in order to finalize it.
9. The **DSG** (Tourism, Project Management, Judicial and Parliamentary Coordination and EAPA) informed that proposal of the Republic of **Uzbekistan** to establish a High-Level Expert Group (HLEG) on preparation of specific proposals and recommendations for further improvement of the ECO activity is incorporated in the annual Plan of Work. He further added that ECO Secretariat on January 9, 2022 forwarded the proposals of the Republic of **Uzbekistan** to Members States with the request to nominate candidatures for inclusion to the mentioned HLEG. He further informed that as of April 10, 2022 Embassies of the Republic of **Kazakhstan**, the Republic of **Uzbekistan** and the Republic of **Azerbaijan** responded and nominated their officials to be included in the said HLEG.
10. The Permanent Representative of **Iran** enquired that nomination for the High-Level Expert Group (HLEG) is at the level of Deputy Foreign Minister or any other level. He also enquired that whether the HLEG is a process or a body if it is a body then permanent or momentary.
11. The **Secretary General** clarified that High Level Expert Group (HLEG) and Brainstorming Session are two different processes. With regard to the Brainstorming Session, he explained that it was the decision of the 32nd RPC Meeting. He added that this event is also mentioned in the Calendar of Events 2022. On HLEG, he briefed the Council that it should be established based on the proposal of Honourable President of Uzbekistan made during Ashgabat Summit to evaluate the performance of the

Organization. With regard to the nomination for Brainstorming Session, he informed that nominations were requested at the level of Deputy Foreign Minister.

12. The **Council** decided that the proposal of the Republic of **Uzbekistan** on the establishment of a High Level Expert Group (HLEG) may be included in the updated version of Plan of Work and circulated among the Member States at the earliest.

Agenda Item No.4

Approval of the ECO Work Programme 2022 and the Calendar of Events 2022

13. In order to approve the ECO Work Programme 2022 and Calendar of Events 2022 as endorsed by the 261st CPR Meeting held on February 7, 2022 a two-week silence procedure was initiated by the Secretariat for obtaining approval of COM vide Note Verbale No. CFU/32nd RPC WP and CoE 2022/2022/135 dated February 8, 2022.

14. Since the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey conveyed some amendments in the ECO Work Programme 2022 and the Calendar of Events 2022, the silence procedure was broken (No. CFS/32nd RPC WP and CoE 2022/2022/233 dated February 22, 2022). Thus the documents for which the silence procedure was adopted were returned to CPR for further consideration.

15. With this development the proposal of the Embassy of Turkmenistan (Note Verbale No. CFS/32nd RPC WP and CoE 2022/2022/327 dated March 9, 2022), the comments of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (Note Verbale No. CFS/32nd RPC WP and CoE 2022/2022/330 dated March 9, 2022) and the proposal of the Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan (Note Verbale No. CFS/32nd RPC WP and CoE 2022/2022/387 dated March 28, 2022) were circulated among the Member States.

16. Given the fact that the number of Non-ECO Events in the ECO Calendar of Events 2022, endorsed by the 32nd RPC Meeting, appeared to exceed the expenditure limit of 30% of the total ECO Events of the relevant year, as set forth in Principles/Guidelines Governing Attendance of ECO Secretariat in the Meetings and Events, the Secretariat reduced the number of Non-ECO Events for 2022. The amended version of the document (in track change formats) was circulated among the Member States vide Note Verbale No. CFS/32nd RPC WP and CoE 2022/2022/377 dated March 17, 2022.

17. The Permanent Representative of **Tajikistan** emphasized the inclusion of the 2nd International High Level Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development” in the ECO Calendar of Events 2022.

18. The Permanent Representative of **Turkey** also requested to incorporate their proposal in the updated version of the ECO Calendar of Events 2022.

19. The Permanent Representative of **Iran** highlighted some incomplete information provided in the Calendar of Events 2022 concerning, inter alia, titling and venues of the

events. Keeping the importance of the document in view, he stressed that the provided information must be complete and comprehensive.

20. The **Secretary General** explained that many of the events which the Permanent Representative of **Iran** pointed out were deleted and the amended version of the document was re-circulated (in track change formats) among the Member States vide Note Verbale No. CFS/32nd RPC WP and CoE 2022/2022/377 dated March 17, 2022. With regard to the Principles/Guidelines Governing Attendance of ECO Secretariat in the Meetings and Events, the **Secretary General** informed that the Secretariat reduced the Non-ECO Events in the Calendar of Events 2022 to bring them to the relevant limit. Moreover, he assured that the proposals received from the Republic of **Tajikistan**, the Republic of **Turkey** and **Turkmenistan** would be included and reflected in the updated version of the ECO Work Programme 2022 and the Calendar of Events 2022.

21. Considering the views expressed by the Member States, as well as the explanation of the Secretary General thereon, the **Council** decided to adopt a two-week silence procedure for securing COM's approval on the document.

Agenda Item No.5

Approval of the ECO Rules for Procurement of Goods and Services

22. The ECO draft Guidelines for Procurement of Goods and Services, reflecting the codified practices of the Secretariat, were circulated among the Member States in October 2019 for receiving their views vide Note Verbale No: LA. Procurement-Guidelines/2019/841 dated 07.10.2019. Subsequently, the Secretariat was provided with the views from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan which were circulated among the Member States vide Notes Verbale No: LA/Procurement-Guidelines/2020/2, dated 06.01.2020 and No: LA/Procurement-Guidelines/2020/162 dated 27.02.2020. The amended draft Guidelines were circulated among the Member States vide Note Verbale No: LA/Procurement-2020/533 dated 07.10.2020. Adoption of the draft ECO Guidelines for Procurement of Goods and Services was put on the Agenda of the 248th Meeting of CPR. As per decision of the CPR, the silence procedure was resorted to obtain approval of the 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 05.12.2021). This was followed by receiving general observation and proposals from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (circulated by Secretariat's Note Verbale No: ADM/PER/2021/282 dated 09.03.2021).

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

24. The Representative of **Pakistan** during the 262nd CPR Meeting in Bandar Abbas proposed to defer the revised draft circulated by the Secretariat during next CPR

Meeting. However, due to recent political developments and transition of Government in Pakistan, she again requested the Council to defer the matter till next CPR.

25. The Representative of **Turkey** expressed his concerns over the recurring delay in finalizing the matter. He expected the receipt of response from the Pakistani side by next CPR to ensure the finalization of this important document.

26. The **Secretary General** recalled that the ECO Audit Board repeatedly recommended for formalization of the ECO Rules of Procurement of Goods and Services. While emphasizing that the next meeting of the Audit Board was expected in May this year, he requested the finalization of the document as early as possible.

27. The **Council** decided to defer this issue for next CPR.

Agenda Item No.6

Administrative matters:

Recommendations of the Selection Panel

28. The selection Panel met on April 11, 2022. The meeting was coordinated by ECO Deputy Secretary General (Administration) and Chaired by Mr. Umit Bobayev, the Representative of **Uzbekistan**. Other participants of the meeting included the Representatives of **Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, and Turkey**.

Head of Section for International Relations (Category-I, D1)

29. Having no consensus in the matter, the Selection Panel recommended that the nomination of Mr. Alim Ullah made by the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan against the post of Head of Section for International Relations (IR) may be referred to the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) Meeting for its appropriate consideration.

30. **DSG** (Administration) informed that the Selection Panel could not finalize the recommendation in respect of Mr. Alim Ullah due to insufficient information provided in the Curriculum Vitae (CV) of the nominee. Therefore, the matter is referred to the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) for further discussion.

31. The Representative of **Pakistan** assured that the complete information would be shared at the earliest, requesting the finalization of the matter by CPR. To facilitate the process, she suggested the holding of nominee's interview, if so desired.

32. The Permanent Representative of **Iran**, representatives of **Turkey** and **Kazakhstan** stressed on the importance of ensuring the application of required principles as laid down in the relevant job description(s). Recalling his previous stance regarding all such appointments in the Secretariat, the Permanent Representative of **Iran**

underscored the importance of implementing the applicable procedure as to ensure the efficiency of the Organization.

33. The **Legal Advisor** clarified that Article 6.7 of ECO Staff Regulations provides that *“the Secretary General will receive and acknowledge applications, prepare a shortlist of candidates on the basis of job requirement, requisite qualifications and experience as prescribed for each post in Annex-II of the ECO Staff Regulations and arrange for interviews by the Panel at a venue to be determined by the Secretary General”*.

34. Discussing the matter in detail and considering the views of the Selection Panel, DSG (ADMN) and the Legal Advisor, the **Council** concluded that:

- The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan may provide the information as required by the Secretariat for processing the selection of the nominee against the subject post;
- Based on Article 6.7 of the Staff Regulations, the Selection Panel may conduct an interview of the nominee;
- Outcome/recommendation of the Selection Panel would be circulated amongst the Member States to seek approval of the CPR in the matter through a two-week silence procedure.

Agenda Item No.7

Any other business

35. The **Secretary General** requested the Council to consider the reimbursement of cost of international airfare from the Special Support Fund, not exceeding US\$ 900, to one expert from each Member State attending the 8th Experts Group Meeting on Minerals, scheduled on June 6-9, 2022 in Islamabad, per ECO Calendar of Events 2022. He informed that with reference to the information from the host country, Organizers would cover lodging, internal transportation and meals for one participant from each Member State.

36. The **Council** endorsed and approved the proposal of the Secretary General regarding reimbursement of airfare to one participant from each Member State, enabling them to attend the 8th Experts Group Meeting on Minerals, scheduled for June 6-9, 2022 in Islamabad.

37. The **Secretary General** also requested the Member States to facilitate the transfer of their annual budgetary contributions to the ECO for 2022 for smooth functioning of the Secretariat.

38. The **Chair**, on behalf of the Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), presented a Medal to the ECO Secretary General.

39. The **Secretary General** deeply thanked the honourable Chair for the commemorative medal. While expressing his pleasure to receive the Medal, dedicated to the 20th Anniversary of the establishment of SCO, he extended his special gratitude to

the former SCO Secretary General, H.E. Mr. Vladimir Norov for decorating him with the medal of great worth and value.

40. The **Secretary General** considered the Medal as a genuine recognition and appreciation of the joint contribution of ECO and SCO to make the two sides' cooperative partnership more strengthened, effective and meaningful.

Agenda Item No.8

Date of the next CPR Meeting

41. As offered by the Islamic Republic of **Iran**, the **Council** decided to convene its next (264th) CPR Meeting on May 10, 2022 at the Sari city, capital of Mazandaran Province of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:

- Mr. Abdul Ghani Farahi, Second Secretary

The Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan:

- Mr. Khayyam Dashdamirov, Counsellor
- Mr. Subhi Ismailzada, 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 Kyrgyz Republic:

- H.E. Mr. Turdakun Sydykov, Ambassador
- Mr. Akilbek Kilichev, Counselor

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan:

- Ms. Khirat, First Secretary

The Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan:

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

The Embassy of the Republic of Turkey:

- Mr. Zahit Uzun, Counselor

The Embassy of Turkmenistan:

- Mr. Kemal Atayev, 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. Khusrav Noziri, Secretary General
- Amb. Huseyin Avni Bicakli, Deputy Secretary General
- Amb. Jandos Asanov, Deputy Secretary General
- Amb. Mohsen Esper, Deputy Secretary General
- Dr. Sayed Yahya Akhlaqi, Deputy Secretary General
- Mr. Mahmoud Khoubkar, Legal Adviser
- Mr. Sukhrob Mirzoaliev, Head of CFU
- Mr. Muhammad Ahmed Raza, Steno-Secretary
- Mr. Shahid Hussain, Steno-Secretary
- Ms. Dilbar Muminova, English-Russian Interpreter/Translator
- Ms. Saida Armina, English-Russian Interpreter/Translator
- Ms. Ulker Mehdiyeva, English-Russian Interpreter/Translator