

The 100th CPR Meeting

Report

(Qeshm Island, 24-25 June 2005)

No. CPR/100TH/2005/04

1. The 100th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) hosted by the Islamic Republic of Iran was held on 24th June 2005 in the Qeshm Free Trade Area. The meeting was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Ali Majedi, Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Affairs of Iran and was chaired by H.E. Mr. Mirzoev Ramazon Zariopovtsh, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan. H.E. Mr. Fakhreddin Anvar, Managing Director of Qeshm Free Trade Area, also participated in the inaugural session of the meeting and welcomed the guests. The Permanent Representatives/Representatives of the 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 as well as the ECO Secretary General along with the relevant ECO Secretariat staff attended the meeting. (List of participants is attached as **Annex-I**).

Item No. 1

Inauguration of the Meeting

- **Statement by Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran**

2. His Excellency Mr. Ali Majedi, Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran inaugurated the 100th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) and delivered his statement. He welcomed the Ambassadors and Representatives as well as ECO Secretariat delegation to the commemorative meeting of the CPR in Qeshm Free Trade Area. He explained the potential of economic activities available in the free trade areas of the Islamic Republic of Iran, including Qeshm Free Trade Zone. He outlined his vision for further enhancing economic cooperation within the region and commitment and support of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the goals and objectives of the Economic Cooperation Organization. He expressed the hope that through exchange of experiences and sincere interaction as well as serious cooperation among the member states would realize long term objectives of the organization which will enable ECO to secure the interests and promote the welfare of the people living in the region and would also help this organization to reach a status that it deserves in the international trade and economy. (A copy of his statement is placed at **Annex-II**).

- **Statement by Managing Director of Qeshm Free Trade Area**

3. His Excellency Mr. Fakhreddin Anvar, Managing Director of Qeshm Free Trade Area in his statement welcomed the Ambassadors/Permanent Representatives and Representatives of the ECO Member States, ECO Secretary General and his staff to the Island. He gave a brief account of the area and explained the position, potentials, capacities and economic activities going on in the Qeshm Free Trade Area. He explained the role and advantages of Qeshm Free Trade Area for enhancing regional economic cooperation. He stated that the strategic location of Qeshm provides excellent commercial/trade opportunities for the members of ECO which connects CIS and landlocked Central Asian countries to the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean. He further stated that Qeshm Free Trade Area could facilitate the objectives of the ECO member states in their economic development in the region.

- **Statement by ECO Secretary General**

4. His Excellency Mr. Askhat Orazbay, ECO Secretary General, also delivered his statement and expressed gratitude and appreciation to the authorities of the Qeshm Free Trade Area as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the 100th CPR meeting in a befitting manner and for the generous hospitality extended to the participating delegates. He also expressed his appreciation to the Permanent Representatives/Representatives of the ECO Member States who participated in the meeting in Qeshm Island. In his statement, the Secretary General gave a brief account of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) and explained its functions/responsibilities as an important decision-making body of the organization. (A copy of his statement is placed at **Annex-III**).

- **Statements/Comments by Ambassadors/Permanent Representatives and Representatives of ECO Member States**

5. Later, the Ambassadors/Permanent Representatives/Representatives of ECO Member States also spoke on the occasion and expressed their appreciation to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the authorities of the Qeshm Free Trade for hosting the 100th commemorative meeting of the CPR and the warm hospitality extended to the participating delegates.

- **Statement by Chairman CPR**

6. In his statement, the Chairman of the CPR/Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan also appreciated the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the 100th CPR meeting in a commemorative manner. He also appreciated the authorities of Qeshm Free Trade Area for their hospitality and excellent arrangements for this meeting. He also expressed thanks to his colleagues, Ambassadors/Permanent Representatives and Representatives of ECO Member States, who attended the meeting. He also appreciated the ECO Secretariat and the Secretary General for their continued help to hold the CPR meetings in a good manner. He further stated that during the Chairmanship of Tajikistan in 2001, 2004 and 2005, the Secretariat extended close cooperation to him and prepared the necessary documents well in time. He expressed hope that the future CPR meetings would be more successful than the previous ones with much closer cooperation between the Ambassadors/Permanent Representatives of the ECO Member States.

Item No. 2

Adoption of the Agenda

7. The CPR deliberated on the issue and adopted the following agenda for its 100th meeting, by deferring Item 6 '*Audit Report of the Secretariat for 2004*' to its next meeting:

1. Inauguration of the Meeting
 - Statement by the H.E. Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran
 - Statement by the H.E. High Dignitary from Qeshm Island
 - Statement by the H.E. Secretary General
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Adoption of the Draft Report of Extraordinary CPR Meeting held on 15th June 2005
4. Preparation for the 15th COM Meeting
 - a. Draft Agenda
 - b. Confirmation of Participation
 - c. Preparations
 - d. Any Other Issue
5. Designation of Coordinating Countries for important agreements/projects
6. Audit Report of the Secretariat for 2004
7. Grant of Specialized Agency/Regional Institutions Status to ECO-CEC
8. Briefing on the events/meetings attended by ECO staff recently
9. Any Other Business
10. Date of the Next Meeting

Item No. 3

Adoption of the Draft Report of Extraordinary CPR Meeting held on 15th June 2005

8. The CPR adopted the report of the Extraordinary CPR meeting of 15th June 2005, with some amendments proposed by the concerned member states, which the Secretariat circulated among member states vide its note No. SG/CPR/2005/1097 dated 19th June 2005. The Secretariat circulated the adopted report among member states vide its note No. SG/CPR/2005/1140 dated 26th June 2005. .

Item No. 4**Preparation for the 15th COM Meeting****a. Draft Agenda**

9. The CPR deliberated on the issue and endorsed the draft Agendas of the 15th COM meeting and Senior Officials Meeting scheduled to be held on 18-20 August 2005 in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, by deleting an item on 'Observer/Dialogue Partnership' from the aforesaid agendas which would be discussed by the CPR in its future meetings.

b. Confirmation of Participation

10. The CPR was informed that so far **four countries** namely; Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Turkey and Republic of Kazakhstan (being host) officially confirmed to participate in the 15th COM meeting as well as Senior Officials Meeting. It was further informed that the Islamic Republic of Pakistan have conveyed their composition of delegations to the aforesaid meetings.

11. The Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Tajikistan verbally communicated that their countries will participate in the aforesaid meetings.

12. The CPR requested the other member states to confirm their participation and communicate their composition of delegations at the earliest so that the host authorities could make necessary arrangements well in time.

c. Preparations

13. The Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan informed the CPR that Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan will hopefully brief the next meeting of the CPR about the arrangements which were being made by the Kazakh authorities with regard to the 15th COM meeting and SOM.

d. Any Other Issue

14. No issue was discussed under this agenda item.

Item No. 5**Designation of Coordinating Countries for important agreements/projects**

15. The CPR deliberated on the issue. The Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan informed the meeting that they are still awaiting instructions from their capital on the issue and requested for deferment of decision on the issue. Therefore, the CPR decided to defer the issue of designation of coordinator with regard to the Passenger/Container Trains projects to its next meeting.

16. The CPR once again requested the other member states to communicate their interests to be designated as coordinator for the following two projects:

1. Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA)
2. Feasibility Study on Interconnection of ECO Countries' Power Systems funded by the Islamic Development Bank

Item No. 6**Audit Report of the Secretariat for 2004**

17. While adopting the agenda of its 100th meeting, the CPR decided to defer this item to its next meeting.

Item No. 7**Grant of Specialized Agency/Regional Institutions Status to ECO-CEC**

18. The CPR deliberated on the issue and on the basis of the paper prepared and circulated by the Secretariat agreed, in principle, to endorse the recommendations of the Regional Planning Council to grant the status of 'Regional Institution' to ECO-Consultancy & Engineering Company (Pvt) Limited (ECO-CEC) which will be submitted to the 15th COM meeting for consideration/approval. However, the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan observed that the issue was under consideration of the relevant authorities of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and a response would be conveyed to the next meeting of the CPR.

19. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran observed that the Organizational Chart of ECO also contains some institutions such as ECO Shipping Company and ECO Air which have already been liquidated. Therefore, he suggested that these two institutions may be deleted from the ECO Organizational Chart while adding ECO-CEC in it after the approval of the 15th COM meeting.

Item No. 8**Briefing on the events/meetings attended by ECO staff recently**

20. The Secretary General briefed the CPR about his first mission to Afghanistan during the year on 3-7 June 2005, accompanied by Director (Project Research). While appreciating and taking note of Secretary General's briefing as well as the information circulated by the Secretariat, the CPR requested the Secretariat to prepare and circulate updated information with regard to the ECO and Non-ECO events/meetings which the Secretariat has attended since January to June 2005.

Item No. 9**Any Other Business****a. Workshop on Energy Trade**

21. The Secretary General informed the CPR that seven member states have confirmed to participate in the Workshop on Energy Trade on 29-30 June 2005 which is being sponsored by the World Bank. He requested the Republic of Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan to confirm their participation as well. The Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan informed the meeting that Uzbekistan will participate in the aforesaid meeting.

b. Appointment to the post of Assistant Director/Chief de Cabinet

22. The Chairman of the CPR, in his capacity as Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan, took up the issue of appointment against the post of Assistant Director/Chef de Cabinet and requested the CPR especially the Republic of Turkey and Republic of Kazakhstan to support the Tajik candidature for the post of Assistant Director/Chief de Cabinet as there was no representation from his country at the ECO Secretariat. The CPR observed that the next meeting will discuss the issue.

Item No. 10**Date of the Next Meeting**

23. The Chairman informed the meeting that as there would be a possibility of Interior Ministers meeting proposed to be held on 12-14 July 2005 in Tehran, the 101st CPR meeting which was earlier scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 12th July 2005, at 10:00 hours at the ECO Secretariat might be postponed. In that case, the Secretariat will circulate a new date for the next CPR meeting.

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