

The 101st CPR Meeting

Report

(*Tehran, Tuesday 12 July 2005*)

No. CPR/101st/2005/04

1. The 101st Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held at the ECO Secretariat on July 12, 2005. The meeting elected H.E. Mr. Abbasali K. Hasanov, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as its Chairman as the incumbent Chairman/Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan was out of Tehran. The Permanent Representatives/ Representatives of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey and Republic of Uzbekistan as well as the ECO Secretary General along with the relevant ECO Secretariat staff attended the meeting. (List of participants attached as **Annex-I**).

Item No. 1

Adoption of the Agenda

2. The CPR adopted the following agenda for its 101st meeting:

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Adoption of the Draft Report of 100TH CPR Meeting
3. Preparation for the 15th COM Meeting
 - a. Confirmation of Participation
 - b. Preparations
 - Work Programme of the Secretariat for 2005
 - Draft ECO Vision 2015
 - c. Any Other Issue
4. Designation of Coordinating Countries for important agreements/projects
5. Grant of Specialized Agency/Regional Institutions Status to ECO-CEC
6. Consideration of the level of participation of the Member States in the approved events of the Organization and realization of the events mentioned in the Calendar of Events:
7. Revised Organizational Chart of ECO Secretariat, New Recruitment Policy and Mechanism for Rotation of Staff at the ECO Secretariat
8. Audit Report of the Secretariat for 2004
9. Audit Report of the ECO Cultural Institute
10. Utilization of ECO Feasibility Fund:
 - a. 2nd Phase of ECO/ITC Project
 - b. Establishment of ECO Agricultural Biotechnology Network (ECO-ABN)
 - c. FAO-ECO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) on strengthening the seed supply in the ECO Region with special emphasis on Central Asia
11. Administrative Matters
 - a) Appointment to the post of Director (Economic Research & Statistics)
 - b) Appointment to the post of Assistant Director/Chef de Cabinet
12. Briefing on the events/meetings attended by ECO staff recently
13. Any Other Business
14. Date of the Next Meeting

Item No. 2

Adoption of the Draft Report of 100TH CPR Meeting

3. The CPR adopted the report of the 100th CPR meeting held on 24th June 2005 at Qeshm Free Trade Area which was circulated among member states vide Secretariat's note No. SG/CPR/2005/1145 dated 27th June 2005. The Secretariat circulated the adopted report among member states vide its note No. SG/CPR/2005/1246 dated 14th July 2005.

Item No. 3

Preparation for the 15th COM Meeting

a. Confirmation of Participation

4. The CPR was informed that so far following member states have officially confirmed their participation in the 15th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) to be held in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, on August 20, 2005, to be preceded by Senior Officials Meeting on August 18-19, 2005:

1. Republic of Azerbaijan
2. Islamic Republic of Iran
3. Republic of Kazakhstan (being host country)
4. Kyrgyz Republic
5. Islamic Republic of Pakistan
6. Republic of Tajikistan
7. Republic of Turkey

5. The CPR requested the other member states, namely; Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan to confirm their participation in the aforesaid meetings. The CPR also requested the member states, who did not yet convey their composition of delegations, may do so at the earliest so that the host authorities and the Secretariat can make necessary arrangements well in time.

b. Preparations

Work Programme of the Secretariat for 2005

6. The CPR appreciated the Work Programme which the Secretariat prepared and circulated vide its note No. PR/WP/2005/1191 dated 4th July 2004. However, while deferring its endorsement, the CPR pointed out that the Work Programme was required to be updated taking into account the recently held meetings/events, especially 3rd Ministerial Meeting on Commerce/Foreign Trade as well as the Workshop on Regional Energy Trade.

Draft ECO Vision 2015

7. The CPR decided that the Working Group meeting will be held on Tuesday, 19th July 2005 at 09:00 hours at the ECO Secretariat and requested the all member states to attend the meeting so that draft ECO Vision 2015 may be finalized and endorsed by the 102nd CPR meeting to be held on 1st August 2005, before submission to the SOM/15th COM meeting to be held in Astana on August 18-20, 2005, for adoption by the Council of Ministers as Basic Reference Document of ECO.

c. Any Other Issue

8. The CPR did not discuss any issue under this agenda item.

Item No. 4

Designation of Coordinating Countries for important agreements/projects

9. After listening the views of the Republic of Kazakhstan with regard to the issue of coordinator for Passenger/Container Trains, the CPR decided to designate Islamic Republic of Iran as coordinator for this project. The CPR requested the Secretariat to prepare a Plan of Action outlining the responsibilities of the coordinator in this regard and submit the same to the Iranian authorities for views/comments, etc.

10. The CPR also requested the other member states to volunteer for the remaining two projects i.e. TTFA and Feasibility Study on Interconnection of Power Systems of the Member States. The Representatives of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Kyrgyz Republic informed the meeting that they were still awaiting instructions from their capitals in this regard.

11. The Secretary General informed the meeting that during the recently concluded 3rd ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce/Foreign Trade held in Istanbul, the Minister of Commerce of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, H.E. Dr. Hedayat Amin Arsala, revealed that Afghanistan has ratified Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA). He expressed the hope that the Secretariat would, therefore, receive Instrument of Ratification by Afghanistan through the diplomatic means shortly. The Agreement would thus come into force after six months from the date the Secretariat formally received the Instrument of Ratification from the Afghan authorities. The member states were requested to consider nominating their representatives to the Transit Transport Coordination Council (TTCC) which will come into existence within six months of the entry into force of TTFA. The Council is mandated to monitor, implement and coordinate matters related to transit transport among contracting parties. It was suggested that the country that will be designated as a coordinator for this project will be expected to coordinate the activities of the TTCC as well.

Item No. 5

Grant of Specialized Agency/Regional Institutions Status to ECO-CEC

12. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan informed the meeting that they are still awaiting instructions on the issue from the capital. Therefore, the CPR deferred the decision on the subject to its next meeting.

Item No. 6

Consideration of the level of participation of the Member States in the approved events of the Organization and realization of the events mentioned in the Calendar of Events:

13. As the subject agenda item was initiated by the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Iranian Representative elaborated the proposals which they communicated in writing and the Secretariat circulated to member states.

14. With regard to the proposal of establishment of field offices and use of SSF, some member states were of the view that although these were good proposals to ensure greater participation of the member states at the meetings at appropriate levels but needed careful consideration due to their financial implications.

15. With regard to National Focal Points, the CPR was informed that the Secretariat has already prepared a Directory of National Focal Points (NFPs) some times ago which is available on the ECO website: www.ECOsecretariat.org under heading "About ECO Secretariat" contained a sub link "ECO Focal Points". However, it could not be updated as the relevant information has not been received from the member states on regular basis. The CPR requested the member states to convey updated information to the Secretariat at the earliest, enabling it to update the directory of NFPs and circulate the same to member states for facilitating contacts among the member states as well as the Secretariat.

16. The CPR asked the Secretariat to focus on the important events/meetings of the priority areas while preparing the next year's calendar of events/meetings and submit the same well in time to the CPR for scrutiny before submitting the same to the 16th RPC meeting.

17. Finally, the CPR requested the Secretariat to prepare a comprehensive paper taking into account the financial implications and other considerations on the aforesaid issues for consideration of the member states.

Item No. 7

Revised Organizational Chart of ECO Secretariat, New Recruitment Policy and Mechanism for Rotation of Staff at the ECO Secretariat

18. The CPR requested the Working Group to prepare the specific recommendations with regard to the above issues in its meeting to be held on Tuesday, 19th July 2005 at 09:00 hours and submit its outcome to the next CPR meeting.

Item No. 8Audit Report of the Secretariat for 2004

19. While deferring the issue to its next meeting, **the CPR decided to hold an informal meeting of Ambassadors/Permanent Representatives one hour before the next CPR meeting for consultations on the issue.** Furthermore, the CPR requested that all necessary information requested by member states may be prepared by the Secretariat and forwarded before the said meeting.

Item No. 9Audit Report of the ECO Cultural Institute

20. Since the Representative of ECI could not participate, the CPR decided to defer the issue to its next meeting and requested that the Representative of ECI shall make necessary arrangements to attend the next CPR meeting so that the Audit Report of ECI could be discussed/endorsed.

Item No. 10Utilization of ECO Feasibility Study Fund

- a. **2nd Phase of ECO/ITC Project**
- b. **Establishment of ECO Agricultural Biotechnology Network (ECO-ABN)**
- c. **FAO-ECO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) on strengthening the seed supply in the ECO Region with special emphasis on Central Asia**

21. The Secretary General gave a brief account of the proposed projects and requested the meeting to approve the required finances from the ECO Feasibility Fund as a share of ECO Secretariat so that the donor agencies could be approached accordingly. As some member states were awaiting instructions in this regard, the CPR decided to defer these issues to its next meeting with the request to member states to respond positively to these project proposals.

Item No. 11Administrative Matters

- a) **Appointment to the post of Director (Economic Research & Statistics)**
- b) **Appointment to the post of Assistant Director/Chef de Cabinet**

22. As there was no consensus on the aforesaid issue, the CPR decided to defer the decision to its next meeting.

Item No. 12Briefing on the events/meetings attended by ECO staff recently

23. While appreciating and taking note of the information provided with regard to the events/meetings attended by the ECO Secretariat staff recently, 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 2005 uptill now.

Item No. 13Any Other Business

24. No issue was discussed under this agenda item.

Item No. 14

[Date of the Next Meeting](#)

25. The CPR decided to hold its next (102nd) meeting on Monday, 1st August 2005 at 10:00 hours at the ECO Secretariat. **The CPR further decided that an informal meeting of the Ambassadors/Permanent Representatives will be held one hour before the start of the regular CPR meeting to discuss Secretariat's Audit Report.**

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