

The 104th CPR Meeting

Report

(*Tehran, Wednesday, 14 September 2005*)

No. CPR/104th/2005/04

1. The 104th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held at the ECO Secretariat on September 14, 2005. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Mirzoev Ramazon Zaripovitch, Ambassador/Permanent Representatives of the Republic of Tajikistan. 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 attached as **Annex-I**).

2. The CPR congratulated H.E. Mr. Muhammad Umer Daudzai on his appointment as the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Tehran and the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the ECO Secretariat and wished him success during his tenure. The CPR also welcomed Mr. Devrim Ozturk who has recently joined the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Tehran as a Counsellor and wished him well in his new assignment.

Item No. 1

Adoption of the Agenda

3. The CPR adopted the following agenda for its 104th meeting:

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Adoption of the Draft Report of 103rd CPR Meeting
3. Preparation for the 15th COM Meeting
 - a. Confirmation of Participation/Composition of Delegations
 - b. Preparations for 15th COM meeting:
 - i. Draft ECO Vision 2015
 - c. Any Other Issue
4. Preparation for the Informal COM Meeting in New York
 - a. Confirmation of Participation
 - b. Agenda of the Meeting; including
 - ASEAN/ECO Meeting/MOU
 - c. Any Other Issue
5. Designation of Coordinating Countries for important agreements/projects
6. Revised Organizational Chart of ECO Secretariat, New Recruitment Policy and Mechanism for Rotation of Staff at the ECO Secretariat
7. Provision of Hospitality to delegates of Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions
8. 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
9. Administrative Matters
 - a. Appointments against D-Level posts
 - b. Any other issue related to new staff appointments
10. Briefing on the events/meetings attended by the ECO Secretariat staff recently.
11. Any Other Business
 - Administrative Matters of ECO Cultural Institute

12. Date of the Next Meeting

Item No. 2**Adoption of the Draft Report of 103rd CPR Meeting**

4. The CPR adopted the report of the 103rd CPR meeting which was circulated among member states vide Secretariat's note No. SG/CPR/2005/1475 dated 14th August 2005, with some amendments proposed by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The adopted report has been circulated among member states vide Secretariat's note No. SG/CPR/2005/1686 dated 15 September 2005.

Item No. 3**Preparation for the SOM/15th COM Meeting****a. Confirmation of Participation/Composition of Delegations**

5. The CPR was informed that seven member states; namely: Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan (host) Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkey have confirmed their participation, at Ministerial level, in the forthcoming 15th COM Meeting to be held on October 01, 2005, in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan.

6. The CPR requested the other member states (Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) to confirm their participation in the aforesaid meeting. The CPR further requested that the member states should convey their composition of delegations for the 15th COM and SOM meetings along with the flight schedule so that the host authorities can make necessary arrangements well in time.

b. Preparations for 15th COM meeting:**i. Draft ECO Vision 2015**

7. The CPR approved the draft text of ECO Vision 2015 as revised/finalized by a working group and circulated vide Secretariat's note No. PR/WG-EPG/2005/1411 dated 3rd August 2005, with some observations of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The draft text will now be submitted to the Senior Officials Meeting for further consideration as the same will be adopted and issued at the conclusion of the 15th COM meeting instead of the usual Communiqué as recommended by the 98th CPR meeting.

ii. Revised Draft Agendas

8. The CPR was informed that the revised Draft Agenda for the SOM/15th COM Meetings, with the addition of an item "Appointment of ECI President" under Any Other Business, has been circulated vide Secretariat's note No. SG/15th COM/2005/1464 dated 11th August 2005.

iii. List of Documents

9. The CPR was informed that an updated list of documents circulated among member states in connection with the preparation of the SOM/15th COM was forwarded to the member states vide Secretariat's note No. SG/15th COM/2005/1516 dated 18th August 2005. In case of any missing document from the list, the member states may ask the Secretariat for the same.

c. Any Other Issue

10. No issue was discussed under this item.

Item No. 4**Preparation for the Informal COM Meeting in New York****a. Confirmation of Participation**

11. The CPR deliberated and agreed to hold Informal COM Meeting of ECO Member States which was scheduled to be held on 19th September 2005 at 1.15 p.m. in the private dining room I (4th Floor) at the UN Headquarters, New York and being coordinated by the Republic of Kazakhstan and most of the member states have confirmed their participation.

b. Agenda of the Meeting

12. The CPR deliberated and endorsed the agenda of the Informal COM Meeting with some modifications. A copy of the approved agenda is placed at Annex-II.

- **ASEAN/ECO Meeting/MOU**

13. The CPR was informed that the ASEAN/COM meeting has already been postponed.

c. 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 and designated the Republic of Azerbaijan as coordinator for the Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA). So far, the CPR has been designated coordinators for the following projects, with the exception of the Feasibility Study on the Inter-connection of Power Systems of the ECO Member States:

S. No.	Name of Project/Agreement	Designated Country
1.	Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA)	Republic of Azerbaijan
2.	Container and Passenger Trains from Almaty to Istanbul on the Trans-Asian Railway main line	Islamic Republic of Iran
3.	Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for the Businessmen of ECO Member States.	Islamic Republic of Iran
4.	ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA)	Islamic Republic of Pakistan
5.	ECO Trade & Development Bank	Republic of Turkey

16. The meeting was informed that a status report on the issue will be submitted to the SOM/15th COM meeting.

Item No. 6**Revised Organizational Chart of ECO Secretariat, New Recruitment Policy and Mechanism for Rotation of Staff at the ECO Secretariat**

17. The CPR finalized and approved the recommendations with regard to the above issues, as prepared by a working group and circulated vide Secretariat's note No. PR/WG-EPG/2005/1410 dated 3rd August 2005, with slight amendment proposed by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in para ix. These recommendations will now be submitted to the SOM/15th COM meeting for consideration.

18. However, Republic of Azerbaijan expressed reservations on the issue and insisted on its proposal with regard to the recruitment policy and distribution of posts at the ECO Secretariat as conveyed vide their note dated 27th June 2005 and circulated vide Secretariat's note No. SG/WG-EPG/2005/1170 dated 30th June 2005.

19. Furthermore, Kyrgyz Republic expressed their wish to retain the post of Programme Officer (indicated at serial No. 24 in the chart of proposed distribution of posts upto 2007) which is presently occupied by Kyrgyz national. However, Republic of Azerbaijan also expressed their interest for this post. The CPR impressed upon the two countries to resolve the issue bilaterally at a later stage.

20. Republic of Uzbekistan did not agree to the enhancement of posts at the ECO Secretariat as proposed in the recommendations for distribution of posts in view of the financial implications.

Item No. 7

Provision of Hospitality to delegates of Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions

21. The CPR deliberated on the issue. Since some member states were still awaiting instructions from their capital, the CPR deferred the issue to its next meeting.

22. The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan, however, informed that the proposal regarding provision of hospitality to the participating delegates of the ECO Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions in the forthcoming 15th COM Meeting is still under consideration. In case, the Kazakh authorities agreed to the aforesaid proposal, hospitality would be provided accordingly, otherwise the respective institutions should bear the expenditures of their delegates as per past practice.

Item No. 8

Utilization of ECO Feasibility Fund:

a. 2nd Phase of ECO/ITC Project

23. The CPR approved the utilization of ECO Feasibility Fund for the 2nd Phase of ECO/ITC Project to the tune of US\$ 50,000/.

b. Establishment of ECO Agricultural Biotechnology Network (ECO-ABN)

24. The CPR conditionally approved the utilization of ECO Feasibility Fund for the Establishment of ECO Agricultural Biotechnology Network (ECO-ABN) to the tune of US\$ 50,000, pending the response from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. In case the response of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is positive, the Secretariat may go ahead with the implementation process of this project.

c. FAO-ECO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) on strengthening the seed supply in the ECO Region with special emphasis on Central Asia

25. The CPR also conditionally approved the utilization of ECO Feasibility Fund for FAO-ECO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) on strengthening the seed supply in the ECO Region with special emphasis on Central Asia to the tune of US\$ 30,000— 40,000, pending the response from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. In case the response of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is positive, the Secretariat may go ahead with the implementation process of this project.

Item No. 9

Administrative Matters

a. Appointments against D-Level posts

Assistant Director/Chef de Cabinet

26. The CPR deliberated on the issue and with minor amendment on para (a) agreed to the following proposals forwarded by Informal Meeting of Ambassadors/Permanent Representatives of ECO Member States held on 30 August 2005:

- a. The post of Deputy Secretary General, presently occupied by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, will be given to the Republic of Kazakhstan on vacation by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. However, upon expiry of the tenure of the Secretary General from Pakistan, the above post will revert to Pakistan.
- b. The post of Assistant Director/Chef de Cabinet will be filled up by the nominee of the Republic of Turkey with effect from 1st January 2006.
- c. The three newly proposed posts of Assistant Directors will be distributed as follows:
 - i. One post of Assistant Director will be filled up by the nominee of the Republic of Tajikistan with effect from 1st January 2006.
 - ii. One post of Assistant Director will be filled up by the nominee of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan some time during 2006.
 - iii. One post of Assistant Director will be filled up during 2007.
- d. The meeting also agreed that Mr. Kubat Umurzakov (National of the Kyrgyz Republic) may be appointed as Director Economic Research & Statistics at the ECO Secretariat with immediate effect for the remaining period of Mr. Ermak Ibrahimov.

b. Any other issue related to new staff appointments

27. The CPR approved the nomination of Ms. Azhar Ibraemova (Kazakh National) as Assistant Accountant for the tenure of four years against the present incumbent Ms. Gulmira Urazova (Kazakh National) which was earlier approved by the 103rd CPR meeting for another term of four years with effect from 1st November 2005. The CPR also agreed to extend the tenure of Ms. Gulmira Urazova, Assistant Accountant, upto 31st October 2005.

Item No. 10

Briefing on the events/meetings attended by the ECO Secretariat staff recently.

28. The CPR took note of the information and briefing by the Secretary General with regard to the meetings/events attended by the ECO Secretariat staff recently.

Item No. 11

Any Other Business

• **Administrative Matters of ECO Cultural Institute**

29. The Representative of the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) informed the CPR about the budgetary position of ECI and requested authorization for payment of salaries to its staff from the reserve/surplus fund available with it as the Trust Fund created by the Islamic Republic of Iran for the purpose has been exhausted. He further informed that ECI has already circulated a note to member states in this regard.

30. The CPR deliberated on the issue and resolved that the member states of ECI may hold a meeting to consider the issue and the outcome of the deliberations should be submitted to the CPR for approval. It was further observed that in case the aforesaid meeting prepares some recommendations on the subject before the 105th CPR meeting, an Extraordinary CPR meeting may be called to consider/approve the recommendations.

31. Furthermore, the CPR requested the ECI to provide necessary details on the subject as asked by ECI member states and also indicate to them the venue and date of the proposed meeting.

Item No. 12

Date of the Next Meeting

32. The CPR decided to hold its next (105th) meeting on Wednesday, 19th October 2005 at 10:00 hours at the ECO Secretariat.

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