

The 105th CPR Meeting

Report

(Tehran, Wednesday, 19 October 2005)

No. CPR/105th/2005/04

1. The 105th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held at the ECO Secretariat on 19th October 2005. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Sabit Tairov, Ambassador/Permanent Representatives of the Republic of Kazakhstan. 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**).

Item No. 1

Adoption of the Agenda.

2. The CPR adopted the following agenda, with some proposed amendments, for its 105th CPR meeting:

1. Adoption of the Agenda.
2. Opening Statement of the new Chairman
3. Report of 104th CPR Meeting
4. Briefing on:
 - a. 15th COM Meeting
 - b. Informal COM Meeting held in New York
 - c. Briefing on the other events that the ECO Secretariat participated
5. Preparations for the 16th RPC Meeting
6. ECO Secretariat Budget for 2006, including DCCU budget
7. Preparations for ECO Day
8. Progress Report on the Feasibility Study for Rehabilitation/Construction of Nawar Bridge of Hesarak in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan.
9. Provision of Hospitality to delegates of Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions
10. Utilization of ECO Feasibility Fund:
 - a. Establishment of ECO Agricultural Biotechnology Network (ECO-ABN)
 - b. FAO-ECO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) on strengthening the seed supply in the ECO Region with special emphasis on Central Asia
11. ECO-Kabul Events (9-10 November 2005)
 - 3rd Trade & Investment Conference; Trade Fair; 4th HLEG Meeting, Trade & Investment Related Matters; 10th ECO-CCI Executive Committee Meeting and Seminar on Reconstruction of Afghanistan.
12. Adjustments in the Organizational Chart of ECO Secretariat
13. Selection of a project to be financed from the ECO Fund for Reconstruction of Afghanistan
14. MOU between ECO Secretariat and ASEAN Secretariat
15. Consideration of ECO Assistance to the Relief Efforts over the Earthquake in Pakistan.
16. Any Other Business
 - Replacement of Program Officer
17. Date of the next meeting

Item No. 1

Opening Statement of the new Chairman

3. Since the Chairmanship of the Council of Ministers (COM) has been assumed by the Republic of Kazakhstan on 1st October 2005, H.E. Ambassador Mirzoev Ramazon Zaripovitsh, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan/current Chairman of the CPR, after brief statement invited H.E. Ambassador Sabit Tairov, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to assume the Chairmanship of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR).

4. Following his assumption of the Chairmanship, H.E. Ambassador Sabit Tairov in his brief statement expressed his thanks and gratitude to H.E. Ambassador Mirzoev Ramazon Zaripovitsh for his wisdom and judiciousness in conducting the proceedings of the CPR meetings which took important decisions during his tenure and assured the Council that with the cooperation and collective efforts of the Council and the staff of the ECO Secretariat, ECO would continue to move forward to achieve its goals and objectives.

5. The Council congratulated the new Chairman and assured its full support to him for the successful conduct of the meetings. The Council also expressed its sincere thanks and appreciation to the former Chairman, H.E. Ambassador Mirzoev Ramazon Zaripovitsh, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan for successfully conducting the CPR meetings with his diplomatic skill and foresight.

Item No. 3

Report of 104th CPR Meeting

6. The CPR adopted the report of the 104th CPR meeting which was circulated among member states vide Secretariat's note No. SG/CPR/2005/1694 dated 15th September 2005. The adopted report has been circulated among member states vide Secretariat's note No. SG/CPR/2005/1915 dated 20th October 2005. The said report has also been adopted by the 15th COM meeting on 1st October 2005 in Astana. Therefore, the report will not be submitted to the next COM meeting.

Item No. 4

Briefing on:

a. 15th COM Meeting

7. The CPR took note of the report and other relevant documents with regard to the 15th COM meeting circulated vide Secretariat's note No. SG/15th COM/2005/1818 dated 6th October 2005 and the briefing made by the ECO Secretary General about the outcome of the meeting. The CPR requested the Secretariat to follow the implementation of the decisions of the 15th COM meeting on a regular basis. The CPR also requested that the Secretariat should also prepare a paper containing the salient actionable points from the statements of the Ministers/Heads of delegations and circulate to member states for consideration.

8. The Secretary General informed the CPR about the 16th COM and 9th Summit meetings which has been tentatively planned for the second half of May 2005 in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan. The Secretariat will consult with the Azeri authorities for exact dates of the meetings and circulate the same to the member states as soon as possible.

9. Furthermore, the CPR requested the Secretary General to consult the current COM Chairman of the Council of Ministers (Republic of Kazakhstan) for holding the 1st Senior Officials Meeting as per recommendation of EPG, and the decision of the COM which states that the SOM may be held in-between the two meetings of COM to closely monitor the status of implementation of various ECO projects.

b. Informal COM Meeting held in New York

10. The CPR took note of the report of the Informal Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) of ECO Member States held on 19th September 2005 at the UN Headquarters, New York which the Secretariat circulated among member states vide its note No. SG/Inf-COM/2005/1814 dated 4th October 2005. The Secretary General also briefed the CPR about the Informal COM meeting.

c. Briefing on the other events that the ECO Secretariat participated

11. The CPR requested the Secretary General to prepare a comprehensive paper on the participation of ECO Secretariat in the Meetings of the Executive Heads of Sub-Regional Organizations and UNESCAP since the 1st meeting to the recently held 10th meeting in Kathmandu on 5-6 September 2005, giving an analysis on the overall outcome for ECO Secretariat from these meetings.

Item No. 5

Preparations for the 16th RPC Meeting

12. The CPR deliberated on the issue of holding the 16th Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPC). Since there was no member state volunteer to host the meeting, it has been decided that it may be held on a non-hospitality basis in the ECO Secretariat not later than February 2006. However, the Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that they would consult their authorities for the hosting of the 16th RPC and if they receive the positive response they would inform the Secretariat and the Member States accordingly.

13. Some Permanent Representatives suggested that SSF may be utilized for cost of air fare of one participant from ECO Member States for RPC meeting, the CPR requested the Secretary General to look into the issue which may be considered in future CPR meeting.

Item No. 6

ECO Secretariat Budget for 2006, including DCCU budget

14. The CPR deliberated upon the proposed budget of the Secretariat for the year 2006 and would be further considered by its next meeting. However, the CPR established an open-ended Working Group to consider the budget proposals and submit its report to the next CPR meeting for consideration/approval.

Item No. 7

Preparations for ECO Day (28 November)

15. The CPR deliberated on the issue and agreed with the following programme proposed/planned to commemorate ECO's Thirteenth Anniversary – the day of its expansion into ten member states:

- A reception will be held on Tuesday, 29th November 2005 (instead of 28th November 2005 which is official holiday in Iran), with refreshment etc.
- Ambassadors of the ECO Member States, Heads of ECO Specialized and affiliated Agencies as well as business firms and cultural representative of ECO Member States in Tehran are to be invited.
- A Press Conference will be arranged for the ECO Secretary General at the ECO Secretariat.
- Exchange of messages on account of the ECO Day:
 - i. Secretary General will send the messages to Foreign Ministers of the ECO Member States.
 - ii. Secretary General is also expected to receive the messages from Honorable Heads of ECO Member States and Honorable Foreign Ministers of ECO Member States. These messages will be published in special edition of ECO Bulletin.
 - iii. The Foreign Ministers of ECO Member States may also exchange messages among themselves.
- Publication of special issue of ECO Bulletin with coverage of the ECO Day.
- Secretary General of ECO will pay a courtesy call on the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the occasion of the ECO Day.
- The Secretariat will request the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran to arrange broadcasting of a short message of ECO Secretary General on the Iranian National Television and Radio on the ECO Day.
- The Secretariat proposes to the ECO Member States to arrange broadcasting of special/cultural program in their National Television and Radio on the eve of the ECO Day and encourage their National Newspapers to publish reports/articles about it.
- The Secretariat also proposes that ECO Member States may also arrange Reception by their Foreign Ministries etc. in their relevant Capitals if possible.

16. The CPR also took note of the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to supply the member states with the documentary prepared by the IRIB a few years back on the ECO region which may be updated and used by the member states. It also proposed that the member states' media may be encouraged to publicize/broadcast about ECO on this day. However, the Secretariat may prepare a short essay about ECO's performance and achievements to be forwarded to the member states to be used by their media.

Item No. 8

Progress Report on the Feasibility Study for Rehabilitation/Construction of Nawar Bridge of Hesarak in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan.

17. The CPR took note of the Feasibility Study for Rehabilitation/Construction of Nawar Bridge of Hesarak in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan, prepared by ECO-Constancy & Engineering Company (Pvt) Limited (ECO-CEC) and requested the Secretariat to submit it to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for consideration and further necessary action.

Item No. 9

Provision of Hospitality to delegates of Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions

18. Since the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan was still awaiting instructions from his capital on the issue, therefore, the CPR deferred the decision on the issue to its next meeting.

Item No. 10

Utilization of ECO Feasibility Fund:

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

19. The 105th CPR meeting approved the utilization of ECO Feasibility Fund for the Establishment of ECO Agricultural Biotechnology Network (ECO-ABN) to the tune of US\$ 50,000 and asked the Secretariat to go ahead with the implementation process of this project.

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

20. The 105th CPR meeting also 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, and asked the Secretariat to go ahead with the implementation process of this project.

Item No. 11

ECO-Kabul Events (9-10 November 2005)

3rd Trade & Investment Conference; Trade Fair; 4th HLEG Meeting, Trade & Investment Related Matters; 10th ECO-CCI Executive Committee Meeting; and Seminar on Reconstruction of Afghanistan

21. The CPR was informed that so far Islamic Republic of Iran and Republic of Tajikistan have confirmed to participate in all the events while the Kyrgyz Republic has confirmed to participate in the 4th HLEG on ECOTA. The CPR requested the remaining member states to confirm their participation in these events along with the composition of their delegations and flight schedule soonest possible.

Item No. 12

Adjustments in the Organizational Chart of ECO Secretariat

22. The CPR took note of the decisions of the 15th COM meeting with regard to the Revised Organizational Chart of ECO Secretariat, New Recruitment Policy and Mechanism for Rotation of Staff at the ECO Secretariat and approved the Organizational Chart of ECO Secretariat with necessary adjustments, effective from 1st January 2006. A copy of the same is attached herewith for ready reference (**Annex II**). Brief details are as follows:

- I. The current Directorates of (i) Project Research, and (ii) Economic Research & Statistics will be merged into one Directorate titled Directorate of Project & Economic Research and Statistics. This Directorate will work under the supervision of Deputy Secretary General (Transport & Project Research).
- II. A new Directorate entitled: "Directorate of Human Resources and Sustainable Development" will be established to be in charge of Human Resource Development, Social Development, Drug Control Activities, Health, Poverty Alleviation, etc. This Directorate will work under the supervision of Deputy Secretary General (Administration & EME).
- III. A new Assistant Directorate entitled: Assistant Director for "Cooperation and Follow" will be established to be in charge of meetings of various organs of ECO namely: Summit, COM, SOM, CPR, RPC, etc. to make necessary preparations for the meetings, to coordinate, to monitor and follow up the implementation of the decisions of the meetings. This Directorate will work under the supervision of Deputy Secretary General (Transport & Project Research).
- IV. The Assistant Director for International Relations and Coordination would be Assistant Director for International Relations and would continue to work under the supervision of Deputy Secretary General (Trade & Investment).

23. The Secretariat will prepare Terms of References (TORs) for the aforesaid posts, indicating the job descriptions to be performed by the respective Directors/Assistant Directors and their required academic qualifications and experiences.

Item No. 13

Selection of a project to be financed from the ECO Fund for Reconstruction of Afghanistan

24. The CPR deliberated on the issue and approved the project "Construction of Deh Mazang Public Park and maintenance of Kabul Zoo" as was recommended by the Secretariat and requested the Secretariat to go ahead with the necessary process of implementation of the project in consultation with the relevant Afghan authorities.

Item No. 14

MOU between ECO Secretariat and ASEAN Secretariat

25. The CPR deliberated on the issue and approved the text of MOU as revised by the ASEAN Secretariat, with the amendments proposed by the Islamic Republic of Iran. The CPR requested the Secretary General to forward these amendments to the ASEAN Secretariat stating that these amendments have been proposed to improve the text of the MOU. In case the ASEAN Secretariat finds it difficult to accept these amendments due to lengthy procedures of their decision-making body and the ASEAN Secretariat conveys their inability to accept these amendments, then the ECO Secretariat may inform the member states accordingly.

Item No. 15

Consideration of ECO Assistance to the Relief Efforts over the Earthquake in Pakistan.

26. While expressing its sympathy and condolences to the brotherly people and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan over loss of life in the recent devastating earthquake, the CPR requested its Chairman to send a message of condolences to the Government of Pakistan and their Embassy in Tehran on behalf of the CPR. Furthermore, the CPR decided to allocate US\$ 50,000 from the General Reserve Fund of the ECO Secretariat to the relief efforts for affectees of the earthquake in Pakistan as a goodwill gesture for expressing ECO's solidarity with the people of Pakistan on this sad occasion.

27. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan thanked the CPR for the words of sympathies and stated that he will convey the feelings of this body to Islamabad and will revert back to the CPR on the question of the proposed financial contribution on behalf of ECO.

28. The CPR requested the Secretary General to send the proposed financial contribution (US\$ 50,000) from the General Reserve Fund to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on behalf of ECO, upon receipt of a positive response from Islamabad in this regard.

Item No. 16

Any Other Business

- a. **Replacement of Programme Officer**

29. The CPR approved the replacement of Mr. Davoud Rezaee Eskandari (National of the Islamic Republic of Iran) as Programme Officer (Category II, P3) in place of Mr. Esmail Afshari (National of the Islamic Republic of Iran) who was earlier approved by the 103rd CPR meeting, for a four-year term with effect from October 24, 2005.

b. **Forthcoming ECO Meetings**

30. The Secretary General informed the CPR that First Ministerial Meeting on Industry of ECO Member States is being held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 23-25 November 2005. The Turkish authorities would provide local hospitality (1+3) as well as air-tickets for 1+3 delegates from the seven countries (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan and the Central Asian Republics). Before the aforesaid meeting, 1st Meeting of High Level Experts Group (HLEG) on Industry will also be held in Istanbul on 21-22 November 2005. He requested the member states to confirm their participation.

31. The Secretary General also informed the CPR that the following meetings have also been planned and requested the member states to confirm their participation at the earliest:

1. 1st Meeting of the Heads of Veterinary Organizations of the ECO Member States to be held in Tehran on 7-9 November 2005.
2. 2nd Meeting of ECO Postal Authorities to be held in Tehran on 8-9 November 2005.
3. 2nd Meeting of Heads of Reference Marine Organizations to be held in Istanbul on 15-19 November 2005.

Item No. 16

Date of the next meeting

32. The CPR decided to hold its next (106th) meeting on Monday, 21st November 2005 at the ECO Secretariat at 10:00 hours.

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