

The 107th CPR Meeting

Report

(Tehran, Monday, 26 December 2005)

No. CPR/107th/2005/04

1. The 107th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held at the ECO Secretariat on 26th December 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, 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 is attached as **Annex-I**).

2. The CPR paid rich tributes to H.E. Mr. Iqbal Ahmad Khan, outgoing Permanent Representative/Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for his useful and positive contribution to ECO and the CPR.

Item No. 1

Adoption of the Agenda.

3. The CPR adopted the following agenda, with some proposed amendments, for its 107th meeting:

1. Adoption of the Agenda.
2. Adoption of the Draft Report of the 106th CPR Meeting
3. Preparations for the 16th RPC Meeting
 - a. Draft Agenda
 - b. Confirmation of Participation
 - c. Any Other Issue
4. ECO Secretariat Budget for 2006, including DCCU budget
5. Provision of Hospitality to delegates of Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions
6. Feasibility Study for Inter-connection of Power Systems of ECO member states
7. ECO Trade and Development Bank
8. Briefing on the events/meetings attended by the ECO Secretariat staff recently
9. Appointment of Secretary General
10. Administrative Matters
 - a. Appointment of Russian Translator
11. Any Other Business
 - a. ECI's Request for Authorization of Expenditures for the year 2006
 - b. Replacement of Assistant Accountant
12. Date of the next meeting

Item No. 2

Adoption of the Draft Report of the 106th CPR Meeting

4. The CPR adopted the report of the 106th CPR meeting, which was circulated among member states vide Secretariat's note No. SG/CPR/2005/2138 dated 22nd November 2005, with some proposed amendments in paras 15 and 20. The adopted report has been circulated among member states vide Secretariat's note No. SG/CPR/2005/2313 dated 27th December 2005.

Item No. 3**Preparations for the 16th RPC Meeting (30 January—2 February 2006)****a. Draft Agenda**

5. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran informed the meeting that they will convey their views/comments, in writing, within a few days, with regard to the draft Agenda of the 16th RPC meeting to be held on 30 January—2 February 2006 which the Secretariat circulated among member states vide its note No. SG/16th RPC/2005/2225 dated 12th December 2005. The Secretariat will circulate the revised draft Agenda incorporating the proposed amendments as and when received. Therefore, the CPR decided to defer the endorsement of the draft agenda to its next meeting.

6. Furthermore, the CPR requested that the member states should convey their views/comments, if any, in written form, with regard to the draft agenda to the Secretariat at the earliest possible so that it could be finalized well in time.

b. Confirmation of Participation

7. The CPR requested the member states to confirm their participation, along with the composition of their delegations, for the 16th RPC Meeting which is going to be held at the ECO Secretariat, on a non-hospitality basis, from 30 January to 2 February 2006.

8. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while confirming his country's participation, informed that Iran will provide protocol cars to the heads of delegations during the 16th RPC meeting.

9. Since the 16th RPC meeting is going to be held on a non-hospitality basis, it has been noted that the respective Embassies will take care of their delegations which will come from their respective capitals and make necessary arrangements such as hotel reservations, welcome/see off at the airport, provision of transport, etc.

c. Any Other Issue

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

Item No. 4**ECO Secretariat Budget for 2006, including DCCU budget**

11. The CPR deliberated on the issue. Since some member states were still awaiting instructions with regard to the proposed draft budget of the Secretariat for the year 2006, the CPR deferred the issue to its next meeting and requested the respective representatives of the member states to receive the necessary instructions from their capitals so that the budget for 2006 could be finalized and approved by the next CPR meeting.

12. However, the CPR requested the Secretariat to convene the meeting of the Working Group to consider the specific and concrete budget proposals from the member states and submit its final recommendations to the next CPR meeting for approval. The CPR requested that the Working Group's meeting shall be convened in time after the respective missions have received necessary instructions. The CPR further stated that the Working Group should not deliberate on the budget proposals with regard to issues which have already been decided and approved by the 15th Meeting of the Council of Ministers in Astana on 1st October 2005, on the recommendations of the CPR, such as revised salary structure of ECO Secretariat Staff, revised organizational structure of ECO Secretariat with the creation of a post of Assistant Director for Coordination & Follow-up, Drug Control Coordination Unit (DCCU), etc.

13. Furthermore, the CPR approved the disbursement of salaries with effect from 1st January 2006 to the ECO Secretariat staff according to the revised salary structure as approved by the 15th COM meeting in Astana on 1st October 2005.

14. **Authorization for expenditures for the year 2006:** As per Articles 7.2 and 7.3 of the Financial Regulations of the ECO Secretariat, the CPR authorized the Secretary General to make payments to sustain Secretariat's essential functioning on provisional basis until the approval of the budget for the year 2006.

15. While taking note of the following two issues put forward by the Islamic Republic of Iran:
 - a. Principles/Guidelines Governing the Attendance of ECO Secretariat in the Meetings/Events; and
 - b. Modification of Modalities for Utilization of Special Support Fund (SSF) as recommended by the 15th COM meeting,

the CPR decided that the aforesaid issues should be deliberated by the Working Group separately and submit its recommendations to the future CPR meeting, as soon as possible as these two issues are inter-related with the implementation of the budget.

Item No. 5

Provision of Hospitality to delegates of Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions

16. While reiterating Chapter VIII of Rules of Procedures of the ECO with regard to Decision-Making, the CPR decided to defer the decision on this issue to its next meeting.

Item No. 6

Feasibility Study for Interconnection of Power Systems of ECO member states

17. The CPR was informed that that so far six member states namely; Azerbaijan, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkey have nominated their National Focal Points (NFPs) with regard to the feasibility study for inter-connection of power systems of ECO member states. Considering the importance of this project, the CPR requested the other member states (Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) to designate their NFPs and inform M/s NESPAK through the Secretariat accordingly. The CPR also requested the member states to make available soonest possible the necessary data required by the Consultant to prepare the feasibility study.

Item No. 7

ECO Trade and Development Bank

18. The CPR deliberated on the issue of operationalization of the ECO Trade and Development Bank. The Representative of the Republic of Turkey – being the coordinator for the ECO Trade and Development Bank – briefed the meeting about the latest position of the project. He informed that the three signatory member states (Iran, Pakistan and Turkey) have already designated Governors and Alternate Governors for the Bank. The first BOG meeting will be convened soon. Islamic Republic of Iran was requested to expedite the nomination of its representative for the Selection Committee as the other two member states have already nominated their representatives for the same so that a consultancy company may be selected to prepare the Business Plan for the Bank.

Item No. 8

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

19. The CPR took note of the information provided by the Secretariat vide its note No. SG/CPR/2005/2261 dated 18th December 2005 with regard to the meetings/events attended by the ECO Secretariat staff since the last CPR meeting. Dr. Sohrab Shahabi, Deputy Secretary General, briefed the CPR about its participation in the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference held in Kabul on 3-5 December 2005. Mr. Orhan Isik, Deputy Secretary General briefed the CPR about the Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Control Matter held in Ankara on 20-22 December 2005.

Item No. 9

Appointment of Secretary General

20. The CPR was informed that Kyrgyz Republic and Turkmenistan have conveyed their concurrence to the appointment of Mr. Khurshid Anwar, presently Additional Foreign Secretary in-charge of ECO Region at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad (Pakistan) as the Secretary General of ECO for the term 2006-2009. In

addition to Republic of Kazakhstan, Republic of Tajikistan and Republic of Turkey, the Representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Uzbekistan also informed the CPR of their concurrence.

21. Accordingly, while appreciating the nomination put forward by Pakistan, the CPR unanimously endorsed Pakistan's nomination and recommended to the Council of Ministers for appointment of Mr. Khurshid Anwar as the new Secretary General of ECO.
22. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan thanked the member states for their valuable support to Pakistan's candidature.

Item No. 10

Administrative Matters

a. Appointment of Russian Translator

23. While finding the recommendations of the Selection Panel in order regarding appointment of Mr. Mirzosharif Jalolov (National of the Republic of Tajikistan) against the post of Russian Translator (Category II, P2) lying vacant since 6th December 2005, the CPR decided to defer the issue to its next meeting and once again requested the Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic considering the different aspects of the issue to communicate the views of all other member states to the relevant authority so that the decision on the appointment of Tajik nominee could be finalized by the next CPR meeting and the Secretariat would be able to discharge its duties accordingly.

Item No. 11

Any Other Business

a. ECI's Request for Authorization of Expenditures for the year 2006

24. The CPR authorized the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI), on behalf of its BOT, to pay the current expenditures for 2006 from the remaining balance of 2005 budget on the basis of the 2005 budget, pending the approval of the 2006 budget.

b. Replacement of Assistant Accountant

25. The CPR approved the appointment of Mrs. Elmira Tomasheva (Kazakh National) as Assistant Accountant (Category II, P2), in replacement of Ms. Danara Bekniyazova (Kazakh National) who was earlier approved for the post by the 106th CPR meeting, for a term of four-years.

Item No. 12

Date of the next meeting

26. The next (108th) meeting of the CPR will be held on Tuesday, 24th January 2006 at the ECO Secretariat at 10:00 hours.

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