

# The 108<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting

## Report

( Tehran, Tuesday, 24 January 2006 )

No. CPR/108<sup>th</sup>/2006/04

1. The 108<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held at the ECO Secretariat on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2006. Since H.E. Mr. Sabit Tairov, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan, who is the current Chairman of the CPR, had expressed his inability to attend the meeting, therefore, the CPR requested H.E. Mr. Abbasali K. Hasanov, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan, to chair the meeting. 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

#### **Adoption of the Agenda.**

2. While adopting the following agenda for its 108<sup>th</sup> meeting, the CPR decided that the issue of "Establishment of International Cotton Association (Forum) within the framework of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)" proposed by the Republic of Azerbaijan may be deliberated in the 16<sup>th</sup> RPC meeting:

1. Adoption of the Agenda.
2. Adoption of the Draft Report of the 107<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting
3. Preparations for the 16<sup>th</sup> RPC Meeting
  - a. Draft Agenda
  - b. Confirmation of Participation
  - c. 16<sup>th</sup> RPC Draft Programme
  - d. Any Other Issue
4. Preparations for the 9th ECO Summit and 16th COM Meetings
  - a. Dates of the Meetings
  - b. Confirmation of Participation
  - c. Any Other Business
5. ECO Secretariat Budget for 2006, including DCCU budget
6. Provision of Hospitality to delegates of Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions
7. ECO Awards 2006
8. Almaty-Istanbul Railway Project
9. Nominations against the posts of Deputy Secretaries General
10. Briefing on the events/meetings attended by the ECO Secretariat staff recently
11. Administrative Matters
  - a. Appointment of Russian Translator
12. Any Other Business
  - a. Treatment Abroad of Mrs. Aleskerov, Wife of Director (EME)
13. Date of the next meeting

### Item No. 2

#### **Adoption of the Draft Report of the 107<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting**

3. The CPR adopted the report of the 107<sup>th</sup> CPR meeting, which was circulated vide Secretariat's note No. SG/CPR/2005/2323 dated 28<sup>th</sup> December 2005, with some amendments proposed by the Islamic Republic of Iran. The adopted report has been circulated among member states vide Secretariat's note No. SG/CPR/2006/120 dated 25<sup>th</sup> January 2006.

#### Item No. 3

#### **Preparations for the 16<sup>th</sup> RPC Meeting (30<sup>th</sup> January—2 February 2006)**

##### **a. Draft Agenda**

4. During the CPR meeting, the Secretariat circulated a revised Draft Agenda of the 16<sup>th</sup> RPC meeting to be held on 30<sup>th</sup> January—2 February 2006. The CPR deliberated on the issue and suggested that an item "Annual Economic Report" may be included in the draft agenda of the 16<sup>th</sup> RPC meeting.

5. Furthermore, the CPR decided that the issue of "Reforms at ECO Secretariat, selection of staff on high professional criterion and increase of effectiveness" proposed by the Republic of Azerbaijan shall be included in the agenda of the future CPR as well as COM meetings.

##### **b. Confirmation of Participation**

6. The meeting was informed that Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey have confirmed their participation in the 16<sup>th</sup> RPC meeting. The Representatives of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Republic of Tajikistan have informed that their countries will also participate in the said meeting and they will convey the composition of delegations within a few days. The Representatives of the other member states also stated that they have not yet received instructions but they were expected that they will participate in the meeting. Since the quorum has been reached, the CPR decided to hold the 16<sup>th</sup> RPC meeting according to the schedule i.e. 30 January—02 February 2006.

7. Furthermore, the CPR requested the other member states to convey their confirmation for participation along with the composition of delegations, soonest possible.

##### **c. 16<sup>th</sup> RPC Draft Programme**

8. The CPR was informed that the Secretariat vide its note No. SG/16<sup>th</sup> RPC/060 dated 9<sup>th</sup> January 2006 has circulated the proposed Programme for the 16<sup>th</sup> RPC meeting. The CPR endorsed the proposed Programme for the 16<sup>th</sup> RPC meeting.

##### **d. Any Other Issue**

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

#### Item No. 4

#### **Preparations for the 9th ECO Summit and 16th COM Meetings**

##### **a. Dates of the Meetings**

##### **b. Confirmation of Participation**

10. The CPR was informed that six countries (Azerbaijan – being host, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Turkmenistan) have already agreed to hold the 9th ECO Summit and 16th COM meetings in Baku, in the second half of May 2006. Some member states proposed that since D-8 Summit meeting has been scheduled on 14th May 2006 in Jakarta, therefore, the Republic of Azerbaijan may suggest dates for the aforesaid meetings during the period starting from 22nd May 2006.

11. The Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan informed the meeting that as soon as he received exact dates from Baku he will convey the same to the Secretariat immediately. The Secretariat will circulate the same to the member states and the member states may confirm their participation along with the list of delegations soonest possible so that the necessary arrangement could be made well in time.

c. **Any Other Business**

12. The CPR requested the Secretariat to prepare the draft Agenda for the SOM, 16th COM and 9th Summit meetings. The Secretary General requested the member states to give their ideas/views with regard to the draft Agendas as well as inputs for the Baku Declaration to be issued at the end of the Summit, so that the views/suggestions of the member states can be incorporated in these documents.

Item No. 5

**ECO Secretariat Budget for 2006, including DCCU budget**

13. After receiving the recommendations of the Working Group, the CPR, on behalf of the Council of Ministers, approved the Secretariat's Budget for the year 2006 including DCC budget, as was circulated among member states vide Secretariat vide its note No. ACC/2006.Draft-Bud/2005/1829 dated 6<sup>th</sup> October 2005, with the following adjustments:

a) Item 3: Travel expenses

The proposed amount under head "Travel Expenses" has been reduced by US\$ 5,500. Therefore, the amount under this head would be US\$ 126,000 instead of 131,500.

b) Items 16: Special Support Fund

The amount of US\$ 5,500 reduced from the 'Travel Expenses' has been added to the Special Support Fund (SSF). Therefore, the amount under SSF would be US\$ 30,500 instead of US\$ 25,000.

14. The CPR also took note of the suggestions of the Kyrgyz Republic regarding holding of 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the National Focal Points on Economic and Statistics with the utilization of Special Support Fund.

Item No. 6

**Provision of Hospitality to delegates of Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions**

15. The CPR deliberated on the issue and decided that the issue of grant of the same hospitality to the participating delegates of the ECO Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions as of the ECO Secretariat will be effective after 16<sup>th</sup> COM and 9<sup>th</sup> Summit meetings.

Item No. 7

**ECO Awards 2006**

16. The meeting was informed that so far the Republic of Azerbaijan has conveyed the name of its nominee for the ECO Awards 2006. The CPR requested the other member states to present their nominations for ECO Award latest by 15<sup>th</sup> February 2006. The CPR also requested the member states to communicate the names of experts for the Selection Committee so that the process of selection of winners of ECO Awards 2006 shall be completed well in time which will be presented during the 9<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit in Baku which has been proposed to be held in May 2006.

17. The Secretary General of ECO further informed the meeting that if the nominee for the Selection Committee shall not be received on time, then as per past practice, the CPR may make necessary decision on behalf of the Selection Committee.

Item No. 8

**Almaty-Istanbul Railway Project**

18. The CPR was informed that so far seven countries (Azerbaijan, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan) have introduced their nominees/experts for the Working Group which has been proposed to be established by the 5<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting of Transport & Communications, to sort out the

technical problems being faced for the implementation of the aforesaid project. The CPR requested the remaining member states (Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan) to designate their nominees for the said Working Group.

19. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, being the coordinating country for the project, while briefing the CPR about the present position of the project as well as the difficulties being faced in implementation of the project, informed that Iran was considering to host the first meeting of the Working Group. He further informed that the 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting of Transport & Communications will be held in Tehran in April 2006. He also reiterated Iranian proposal, which was presented during the 15<sup>th</sup> COM meeting, to the Kazakh railway authorities to be the coordinator for container train in view of their experience and expertise in that field.

#### Item No. 9

#### **Nominations against the posts of Deputy Secretaries General**

20. The CPR was informed that the tenure of the incumbent Deputy Secretaries General is going to expire as follows:

<u>Name/Nationality</u>	<u>Date of Joining</u>	<u>Expiry Date</u>
1. Mr. Orhan Isik (Turkish National) DSG (Trade, Investment, Agriculture, Industry and International Relations)	13.08.2003	12.8.2006
2. Dr. Sohrab Shahabi (Iranian National) DSG (Energy, Mineral, Environment, Human Resources, Sustainable Development, Drug Control, Health and Administration)	23.08.2003	22.8.2006
3. Mr. Masroor A. Junejo (Pakistani National) DSG (Transport, Communication, Project & Economic Research and Statistics, etc.)	01.04.2004	Upon joining Pakistani SG

21. It was further informed that the Secretariat has already circulated a note No. ADM/PER/2006/007 dated 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2006 in this regard.

22. The CPR requested that the relevant member states (i.e. Iran, Kazakhstan and Turkey) may submit their nominations against the posts of Deputy Secretaries General at the earliest so that the CPR can deliberate and make its recommendations to the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Ministers, which is expected to be held in May 2006 in Baku, for appointments against these posts.

#### Item No. 10

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

23. The CPR took note of the information provided by the Secretariat vide its note No. SG/CPR/2006/070 dated 16<sup>th</sup> January 2006 as well as the briefing made by the Secretary General with regard to the meetings/events attended by the ECO Secretariat staff since the last CPR meeting.

24. The Secretary General also informed that following his discussions with the Secretary General of Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the ECO Secretariat is in the process of preparing a draft MOU between Shanghai Cooperation Organization and ECO Secretariat. The said draft MOU will be circulated to the member states and after CPR's approval, this will be forwarded to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

#### Item No. 11

#### **Administrative Matters**

#### **Appointment of Russian Translator**

25. The CPR took note of the points of view of the Kyrgyz Republic and appreciated their cooperation and approved the appointment of Mr. Mirzosharif Jalolov (National of the Republic of Tajikistan) as Russian Translator (Category II, P2) for a term of four years with immediate effect.

Item No. 12

**Any Other Business**

**Treatment Abroad of Mrs. Aleskerov, Wife of Director (EME)**

26. The CPR deliberated on the issue. Since some member states were required more time to consider the issue, therefore, the CPR decided to defer the decision on the issue to its next meeting.

Item No. 13

**Date of the next meeting**

27. The CPR decided to hold its next (109<sup>th</sup>) meeting on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> February 2006 at 10:00 hours at the ECO Secretariat.

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