

The 109th CPR Meeting

Report

(Tehran, Tuesday, 21 February 2006)

No. CPR/109th/2006/04

1. The 109th meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held at the ECO Secretariat on 21st February 2006. H.E. Mr. Sabit Tairov, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan, who is the current Chairman of the CPR, attended the meeting in the beginning of the session to say good-bye to the CPR and also thanked for the cooperation extended to him during his term of office in Tehran. He also welcomed the newly arrived Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan H.E. Mr. Shafkat Saeed and introduced to the CPR. All the Permanent Representative reciprocated the same sentiments and paid tributes to H.E. Mr. Sabit Tairov, outgoing Permanent Representative/Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan, for his useful and positive contribution to ECO and the CPR during his chairmanship. After his departure, the CPR requested H.E. Mr. Abbasali K. Hasanov, Ambassador/Permanent Representatives of the Republic of Azerbaijan, to chair the meeting on behalf of the Ambassador of Kazakhstan until the end of chairmanship 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 concerned Secretariat's staff attended the meeting. (List of participants is attached as **Annex-I**.)

Item No. 1

Adoption of the Agenda

2. The CPR adopted the following agenda, with editoriaial amendments in Agenda Item No. 8, for its 109th meeting:

1. Adoption of the Agenda;
2. Adoption of the Draft Report of the 108th CPR Meeting;
3. Post-briefing on the 16th RPC Meeting;
4. Preparations for the 9th ECO Summit and 16th COM Meetings:
 - (a) Dates for the Meetings;
 - (b) Confirmation and Composition of Delegations;
 - (c) Draft Agendas for the SOM, 16th COM and 9th Summit;
 - (d) Draft Baku Declaration; and
 - (e) Any Other Business.
5. Member States' Contribution to the ECO Secretariat's Budget;
6. Special Support Fund (SSF):
 - (a) Revised Modalities for Utilization of SSF; and
 - (b) Utilization of SSF during 2006.
7. Nominations against the posts of Deputy Secretaries General;
8. Enhancing the effectiveness of ECO staff and selection of staff on high professional criterion;
9. Signing of MOUs with IMO and ILO respectively in the field of Cooperation in Maritime Transportation;
10. ECO Awards 2006;
11. Briefing on the events/meetings attended by the ECO Secretariat staff recently;
12. Administrative Matters:
 - (a) Appointment of Program Officer; and
 - (b) Appointment of DCCU Officer/Information Analyst.
13. Any Other Business:
 - Treatment Abroad of Mrs. Aleskerova, Wife of Director (EME)

14. Date of the next meeting.

Item No. 2

Adoption of the Draft Report of the 108th CPR Meeting

3. The CPR adopted the report of the 108th meeting of the CPR which was circulated vide Secretariat's note No. SG/CPR/2006/286 dated 22 February 2006 to the member states.

Item No. 3

Post-briefing on the 16th RPC Meeting

4. The ECO Secretary General briefed the CPR on the outcome of the 16th RPC meeting and thanked the member states for their participation in the said meeting. The Secretary General also conveyed thanks to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran for extending support for the participating members of the 16th RPC meeting. The Chairman of CPR also thanked and appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Secretariat's staff for making excellent arrangements for the event.

5. The Secretariat vide its note No.SG/16th RPC/2006/176 dated 7th February, 2006 has already circulated to the member states the adopted Report of the 16th RPC meeting.

Item No. 4

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

- (a) Dates for the Meetings;
- (b) Confirmation and Composition of Delegations.

6. The Chairman briefed CPR about the new date for holding of ECO Summit in Baku i.e. 5th of May 2006, as proposed by the Republic of Azerbaijan, which was conveyed to the member states vide Secretariat's note No. SG/9th Summit/2006/248 dated February 16, 2006. The matter was deliberated/discussed by the CPR and following dates for holding of SOM, 16th COM and 9th Summit meetings have been proposed:

Monday-Tuesday 2006	1-2 May	Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) and preparation of necessary documents for COM. <i>(As per past practice, SOM will be held before the 16th COM which will try to build consensus by resolving the existing issues among member states. SOM will also prepare the draft report of the COM and give the final touches to the Baku Declaration to be issued at the end of the Summit.)</i>
Wednesday, 03	May 2006	16th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM)
Thursday, 04	May 2006	Interval (For preparation of Summit documents and arrival of Heads of State/Government).
Friday, 5	May 2006	9th ECO Summit

7. The member states were requested to kindly confirm, soonest possible, their participation in the 9th ECO Summit, 16th COM and SOM meetings on the proposed schedule, revised after receipt of new dates from Republic of Azerbaijan for holding the 9th Summit.

8. The Chairman also informed the CPR that the invitations from the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the ECO Heads of State for the 9th Summit have already been issued and the invitations from the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan to his counterparts in the ECO member states are on its way.

- (c) Draft Agendas for the SOM, 16th COM and 9th Summit; and
- (d) Draft Baku Declaration.

9. The Council was informed that the Secretariat has prepared the draft Agendae of SOM, 16th COM, 9th Summit meetings and Baku Declaration, circulated to the members states vide Secretariat's notes verbale No.SG-9th Summit-2006/250 and SG/9th Summit/2006/262 dated 16th and 20th February 2006, respectively. The Secretariat will incorporate the inputs, if any, received from the member states to finalize the draft agendae of these meetings. The member states were, therefore, requested to convey their inputs/proposals/comments for the above important documents soonest possible in view of the shortage of time left for holding the above meetings.

10. The CPR also decided to establish a Working Group in order to deliberate the Baku Declaration and other related issues of the 16th COM and 9th Summit meetings and to give its recommendations to the next CPR.

Item No. 5

Member States' Contribution to the ECO Secretariat's Budget

11. The Council was informed that the 108th CPR meeting, on behalf of the Council of Ministers, approved the Secretariat's Budget for the year 2006, amounting to US\$ 2,404,039 plus US\$ 120,202 as Feasibility Study Fund – 5% of the budget. The Secretariat vide its note No. ACC/2006-Budget/2006/150 dated 28 January 2006 informed the member states about their share of contributions for the Secretariat Budget-2006.

12. The Council requested the member states to remit the share of their contribution for 2006 budget at the earliest.

13. With regard to the continued delay of payments by some member states, the CPR noted that the 15th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) held in Astana on 1st October 2005 had deliberated the issue under its agenda item No. 13 (vi) and decided the following:

“29. The Council appreciated the member states who had paid their contributions and expressed the hope that member states in arrears would soon be able to clear their dues so that this agenda item could be removed from the future COM meetings.

30. The Council expressed its dismay on the continued delay of payment of contributions by only a few member states and encouraged them to expedite their decision making process and respond positively to the contacts and communications of the Secretariat in this regard.

31. In the meantime, the CPR was instructed to look into the issue in a broader context so that further delay in payment of assessed contributions will be avoided in future.”

14. The Council requested the member states, which have arrears of contributions for the previous years, to remit their remaining unpaid contributions soonest possible since the Secretariat is only depending upon the budgetary contributions from the member states. Furthermore, the Council established a Task Force from the Permanent Representatives of the member states (i.e. the main contributor to the ECO Budget) and the Secretary General to look into the delayed payment by the member states and to submit the recommendations to the CPR and for final approval to the 16th COM. In this regard the Council further requested the Secretariat to prepare a brief note taking into account the experiences of the international/regional organizations and the measures taken by them for similar issues.

Item No. 6

Special Support Fund (SSF)

- a. Revised Modalities for Utilization of SSF

15. The Secretariat vide its Note No. SG/CPR/SSF-Modalities/2006/107 dated 23rd January 2006 circulated to the member states the Modalities for Utilization of Special Support Fund (SSF) approved by the 92nd CPR meeting held on 11th October 2004 and requested the member states to communicate their proposals to revise the Modalities in accordance with the decision of the 15th COM meeting, latest by 20th February 2006.

16. In this regard, Islamic Republic of Iran and Republic of Turkey have forwarded their proposals which have been circulated to the member states vide Secretariat's notes

No. SG/CPR/SSF-Modalities/2006/180 and SG/CPR/SSF-Modalities/2006/276 dated 7th and 20th February 2006, respectively.

17. The Council requested the remaining member states to send their views/comments/proposals, if any, so that the Working Group could review the proposals and make its recommendations with regard to the Revised Modalities for utilization of SSF to the next CPR.

b. Utilization of SSF during 2006

18. A list of proposed ECO events/meetings for the year 2006 to be supported from Special Support Fund (SSF), prepared on the basis of the Calendar of Events/Meetings for 2006-2007 which has been approved by the 16th RPC meeting, circulated to the member states vide Secretariat's note No.SG/Calendar-Events/2006/238 dated 15th February 2006, was deliberated in detail by the CPR.

19. After some deliberations, the CPR deferred the decision on this issue to the next CPR meeting, as some member countries were still awaiting instructions from their capitals. Taking into account the proposal of Islamic Republic of Iran to include ECO events/meetings for the year 2006 to be supported from Special Support Fund (SSF), a High Level Experts Group (HLEG) meeting on Regional Cooperation in the field of Health (the First HLEG on Avian Flu) is scheduled to take place on 12-13 March 2006, the Council authorized the Secretariat to utilize the SSF for the said meeting, as per existing Modalities for Utilization of SSF.

Item No. 7

Nominations against the posts of Deputy Secretaries General

20. The 109th CPR was informed that the tenures of the incumbent Deputy Secretaries General are going to expire as follows:

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

21. Taking into consideration of his experience and competence for the post, the proposal received from the Islamic Republic of Iran for extension of a year's tenure to Dr. Sohrab Shahabi, present incumbent, for the post of Deputy Secretary General, the Council extended his tenure upto 22.8.2007. However, after expiry of the extended tenure of Dr. Sohrab Shahabi, and in view of the fact that the said post will be kept by Islamic Republic of Iran upto 2015, the Council will consider nomination from I.R. of Iran for another competent officer for the said post for 3 years term.

22. The Council requested Kazakhstan and Turkey to submit their nominations against the other two posts of Deputy Secretaries General at the earliest.

Item No. 8

Enhancement of the efficiency of the Secretariat and selection of staff on high professional criterion

23. The 15th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) held on 1st October 2005 in Astana deliberated on "**Revised Organizational Chart of ECO Secretariat, New Recruitment Policy and Mechanism for Rotation of Staff at the ECO Secretariat**" (Item No. 11 of 15th COM Agenda) and took note with appreciation of the

recommendations of the CPR on the subject as contained in Secretariat's Document

No.PR/WG-EPG/2005/1688 dated 15th September 2005. The Council while emphasizing upon the urgency of the matter observed that it needs further consultation among the interested member states. The 15th COM, therefore, authorized the CPR to continue its deliberation on the document with a view to finalizing it as soon as possible. The document once adopted by CPR could be implemented immediately.

24. However, as an interim arrangement, as reflected in the report of the COM, the 105th CPR meeting held on 19th October 2006 has modified/approved the new organizational structure of the ECO Secretariat. Accordingly, the Secretariat vide its Note No. ADM/Org-Sectt/2006/076 dated 16 January 2006 informed the member states that the new approved organizational structure of the ECO Secretariat has become functional, effective 1st January 2006.

25. While deliberating on the draft agenda of the 16th RPC meeting during the 108th CPR meeting, the issue of "Reforms at ECO Secretariat, selection of staff on high professional criterion and increase of effectiveness" as proposed by the Republic of Azerbaijan also came under discussion. The CPR decided that this issue shall be included in the agenda of the future CPR as well as COM meetings.

26. The CPR deliberated on the issue and requested all the member states to send their proposals/comments in this regard and decided to set up a Working Group to deliberate all matters relating to this item. Furthermore, the Council requested that the Working Group after deliberation conveys its recommendations to the next CPR.

Item No. 9

Signing of MOUs with IMO and ILO respectively in the field of Cooperation in Maritime Transportation

27. The Council was informed that during the 2nd Meeting of the Heads of Reference Marine Organizations of the ECO Member States held in Istanbul on 17-18 November 2005, the member states requested the Secretariat to explore the possibility of signing the Memoranda of Understanding with International Maritime Organization (IMO) and International Labour Organization (ILO) to facilitate cooperation in the field of maritime transportation.

28. The Council endorsed the Secretariat's proposal to approach the two organizations, with a view to seek their comments on the above proposal with the understanding that the text of final draft will be circulated to the member states and subsequently to the CPR for approval.

Item No. 10

ECO Awards 2006

29. The Council noted that upto now only one nomination has formally been received from the Republic of Azerbaijan for the ECO Award 2006 in the field of Science and Technology. The Council requested the member states to present their nominations for ECO Awards at the earliest. The Council also extended the deadline upto 3rd April 2006 for receiving the nominations from the member states and also noted that 3rd of April 2006 would be the last date and no nomination would be accepted after the said date.

30. The Secretary General further informed the 109th CPR meeting that if the Selection Committee could not be established, then as per past practice, the special session of the CPR may be held to make necessary decision on behalf of the Selection Committee. The Council approved the proposal of the Secretary General, accordingly.

Item No. 11

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

31. The CPR took note of the information provided by the Secretariat vide its note No.SG/16th RPC/2006/176 dated February 7, 2006 and AIT/01,10/2006/221 dated 14 February 2006, respectively.

Item No. 12

Administrative Matters

- a. [Appointment of the Programme Officer\(Cat.II – P3\); and](#)
- b. [Appointment of the Programme Officer \(Equivalent to Cat.II – P3\).](#)

32. The Selection Panel of the CPR including Islamic Republic of Iran, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey and the ECO Secretary General in the ECO Secretariat and considered the nominations received from Iran, Pakistan and Turkey against the posts of above mentioned Programme Officers and the Selection Panel made the following recommendations for CPR's consideration/approval:

- (1) Upon the request of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, to extend the deadline for nominations to the posts of Programme Officers (Cat.II–P3) and Programme Officer (DCCU Information Analyst) (Equivalent to Cat.II – P3) upto 1st of March 2006;
- (2) To extend the tenure of Mr. Fazli Sak, Programme Officer (Cat.II – P3) for two months i.e. upto June 3, 2006;
- (3) To defer the final decision for selection of candidates for the above two posts of Programme Officers to the next CPR.

33. The CPR deliberated upon the issue and approved the aforesaid recommendations.

Item No. 13

Any Other Business

- [Treatment Abroad of Mrs. Aleskerov, Wife of Director \(EME\)](#)

34. The Council was informed that as was decided by the CPR at its 102nd meeting (its report, Item 4, Para 17), it would take a decision on payment for cases of medical treatment of the Secretariat staff and members of their families abroad after review of the issue and based on the Secretariat proposal.

35. In view of the above, the Secretariat brought for consideration of the CPR the issue of reimbursement of the medical expenses related to the operation of the wife of the staff member of the Secretariat (Mr. S. Aleskerov, Director for Energy, Minerals and Environment) on the basis of the estimated expenditure that would have been incurred for such an operation had it undertaken in Tehran.

36. The CPR deliberated on the issue once again and, as a special case, approved reimbursement of medical charges to Dr. Shamil Aleskerov, Director (EM&E) for his wife's treatment on the basis of the estimated expenditure that would have been incurred for such an operation had it been undertaken in Tehran considering the relevant clauses of the ECO's Staff & Financial Regulations.

37. The CPR further directed the Secretariat that strict observance of rules and regulations on the subject must be following without any exception in handling such cases in future.

Item No. 14

Date of the next meeting

38. The CPR decided to hold its next (110th) meeting on Monday, 13th March 2006 at 1000 hours at the ECO Secretariat.

[\[Home\]](#) - [\[Back\]](#)