

The 111th CPR Meeting

Report

(*Tehran, Monday, 10 April 2006*)

No. CPR/111th/2006/03

1. The 111th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held at the ECO Secretariat on 10th April 2006. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Abbasali K. Hassanov, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan. 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 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 some proposed amendments under "Any Other Business", for its 111th meeting:

1. Adoption of the Agenda;
2. Adoption of the draft report of the 110th CPR Meeting;
3. Preparations for the 9th ECO Summit and 16th COM Meetings:
 - (a) Confirmation and composition of delegations;
 - (b) Briefing by the Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the arrangements/hospitality for the COM/Summit;
 - (c) Draft Agendae for the SOM, 16th COM and 9th Summit;
 - (d) Draft Baku Declaration;
 - (e) Programme of SOM, 16th COM and 9th Summit Meetings;
 - (f) Endorsement of Documents, prepared by the Secretariat for the SOM/ 16th COM:
 - (i) Secretary General's Report;
 - (ii) Work Programme of the Secretariat; and
 - (iii) Status Report on the Implementation of Projects/Designation of Coordinators; and
 - (iv) Follow-up Reports.
 - (g) Any other business.
4. Action Plan to enhance external relations of ECO;
5. ECO Awards;
6. Nominations against the posts of Deputy Secretaries General;
7. Appointment of the President of ECI;
8. Member States' contributions to the ECO Secretariat's budget (Implementation of Recommendations of Task Force, established by the 109th CPR Meeting) ;
9. Statute of RISCAM;
10. Special Support Fund (SSF):
 - (a) Revised Modalities for Utilization of SSF; and
 - (b) Utilization of SSF during 2006.
11. Briefing on the events/meetings attended by the ECO Secretariat staff recently
12. Administrative Matters:
 - Appointment of DCCU Officer/Information Analyst.
13. Feasibility Study on ECO Transportation Corridors
14. Any other business:
 - a. Extension in the Tenure of Mr. Elmar Baghirzade, Russian Interpreter

- b. Modalities for ECO Secretariat's Missions
- c. MOU between the Secretariat's of Shanghai Cooperation Organization and Economic Cooperation Organization
- d. Amendment in the Staff Regulations of ECO Secretariat

15. Date of the next meeting.

Item No. 2

Adoption of the Draft Report of the 110th CPR Meeting

3. The 111th CPR meeting adopted the Report of the 110th CPR meeting which was circulated vide Secretariat's note No. SG/CPR/2006/455 dated 15th March 2006. The adopted report has been circulated among the member states vide Secretariat's note No. SG/CPR/2006/615 dated 11th April 2006.

Item No. 3

Preparations for the 16th COM and 9th ECO Summit Meetings: (2-5 May 2006)

- (a) Confirmation and composition of delegations:

4. The CPR was informed that so far the following countries have confirmed to participate in the 9th ECO Summit:

1. Azerbaijan – President (host)
2. Kazakhstan – without indicating level of participation
3. Pakistan – Prime Minister
4. Iran – President
5. Tajikistan – without indicating level of participation

5. The Representatives of the Kyrgyz Republic and Republic of Uzbekistan informed the meeting that their countries will also participate in the aforesaid events, at the maximum possible level.

6. The CPR requested the other member states to expedite their confirmation and composition of delegations at the earliest so that the authorities of the Republic of Azerbaijan can make necessary arrangements well in time.

(b) Briefing by the Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the arrangements/hospitality for the COM/Summit.

7. The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan briefed the CPR about the arrangements being made by the Republic of Azerbaijan with regard to the forthcoming SOM/16th COM and 9th Summit meetings and once again requested early confirmation of participation by the remaining member states and composition of delegations.

(c) Draft Agenda for the SOM, 16th COM and 9th Summit:

8. The CPR endorsed the Draft Agenda of the SOM, 16th COM and 9th Summit meetings, as recommended by the Working Group and circulated to the member states vide Secretariat's note No. SG/9th Summit/2006/577 dated 6th April 2006.

(d) Draft Baku Declaration:

9. The CPR took note of the Draft Baku Declaration as reviewed by the Working Group and circulated vide Secretariat's note No. SG/9th Summit/2006/577 dated 6th April 2006 as well as the views/comments received from the Republic of Azerbaijan in this regard.

10. The CPR requested the Working Group to meet once again on Saturday, 22nd April 2006 and try to finalize the Draft Baku Declaration as far as possible, so that the 112th CPR meeting to be held on 23rd April 2006 may endorse it for submission to the forthcoming SOM/16th COM for further review and submission to the 9th ECO Summit for adoption.

(e) Programs for SOM, 16th COM and 9th Summit Meetings;

11. The CPR was informed that the Secretariat, in coordination with the relevant authorities of the Republic of Azerbaijan, is in the process of finalizing the draft Programs for SOM, 16th COM and 9th Summit meetings and these will be circulated to the member states shortly. The Secretary General briefed the CPR about the salient points of the draft Programs.

(f) Endorsement of Documents, prepared by the Secretariat for the SOM/16th COM.

12. The CPR took note of the following documents to be submitted to the SOM/16th COM meeting for consideration:

	Name of the Document	Circulation Date and Number
i.	Secretary General's Report	27th March 2006 No. SG/9th Summit/2006/503
ii.	Work Program of the Secretariat for 2006	20th March 2006 No. SG/16th OM/WP/2006/481
iii.	Status Report on the Implementation of Projects/Designation of Coordinators	16th March 2006 No. SG/9th Summit/2006/470
iv.	Status Report on Signed Agreements/ MOUs amongst ECO Member States	3rd April 2006 No. SG/9th Summit/2006/527
v.	Status Report on Calendar of Events for the years 2006-2007	16th March 2006 No. SG/9th Summit/2006/470
vi.	Follow-up Report on Implementation of Decisions of 15th COM meeting	20th March 2006 No. SG/15th COM/Follow-up/ 2006/501
vii.	Follow-up Report on ECO Vision 2015	20th March 2006 No. SG/15th COM/Follow-up/ 2006/502
viii.	Follow-up Report on the Status of implementation of the decisions of Sectoral Ministerial Meetings Follow-up Report on the status of implementation of the decisions of Sectoral Ministerial Meetings	3rd April 2006 No. SG/9th Summit//Follow-up/ 2006/526

13. Furthermore, the CPR requested the member states to provide views/comments, if any, with regard to the Work Program of the Secretariat for 2006 circulated vide Secretariat's note No. SG/16th COM/WP/2006/481 dated 20th March 2006. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan informed that Pakistan has conveyed Plan of Action with regard to ECOTA, therefore, the relevant portion of Work Program may be revised accordingly. The CPR requested the Secretariat to update/revise the Work Program, taking into account the views/comments received from the member states, and submit the revised version of the Work Program to the SOM/16th COM meetings.

(g) Any other business.

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

Item No. 4

Action Plan to enhance external relations of ECO

15. The CPR took note of the Action Plan to enhance external relations of ECO which the Secretariat prepared and circulated vide its note No.ECO(CU)/Ext.Rel./2006/484 dated 19th March 2006 and asked the Secretariat to prepare a comprehensive document on the subject, also suggesting the measures with regard to the various aspects to be taken by the ECO to enhance its external relations. The CPR also requested the member states to send their proposals so that the next (112th) CPR meeting may consider and approve the Action Plan to enhance external relations of ECO, for submission to the SOM/16th COM Meetings.

Item No.5ECO Awards:

16. The CPR reviewed the issue of nominations of ECO Awards and decided to accept, as a special case, the nominations from the Republic of Uzbekistan to be submitted for ECO Awards to the ECO Secretariat by 11th April 2006.

17. The CPR further decided that the Permanent Representatives/Representatives of the member states, as a Selection Committee, will meet at the ECO Secretariat on Wednesday, 12th April 2006 at 12:30 hours and review the nominations received from the member states and make necessary recommendations for ECO Awards 2006 to be approved by the 16th COM meeting and to be presented during the 9th ECO Summit which is going to be held on 5th May 2006 in Baku.

18. The CPR asked the Permanent Representatives to scrutinize the CVs and other relevant documents in respect of their respective nominees and select one of them to be presented to the Selection Committee for a final decision. Taking into account the nominations received from the member states, the Secretary General also made some proposals for consideration of the CPR.

Item No. 6Nominations against the posts of Deputy Secretaries General

19. The CPR recommended the nomination of Mr. Serik Alybaev (National of the Republic of Kazakhstan) for the post of Deputy Secretary General (Transport & Communications, Project and Economic Research), to be vacated by Mr. Masroor A. Junejo (National of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan) upon joining Pakistani Secretary General.

20. The CPR also endorsed the recommendations of the Selection Panel, which was held prior to the CPR meeting on 10th April 2006, that the Republic of Turkey should send nomination for the post of Deputy Secretary General at the earliest so that the next (112th) CPR meeting, which is scheduled to be held on 23rd April 2006, may review the nomination and make its recommendations for the consideration/approval of the 16th COM meeting.

Item No. 7Appointment of the President of ECI.

21. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran informed the meeting that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is in the process of nominating a candidate for the post of President of ECO Cultural Institute (ECI). As soon as it is finalized, it will be submitted to the next CPR for endorsement in view of the absence of the meeting of BOT. An agenda item on the subject has also been included in the SOM/16th COM meetings.

Item No. 8Member States' contributions to the ECO Secretariat's budget (Recommendations of Task Force, established by the 109th CPR with regard to the issue of arrears)

22. The CPR approved the recommendations of the Task Force, established by the 109th CPR meeting, on the subject, which the Secretariat vide its note No. SG/CPR/TF/2006/425 dated March 12, 2006 circulated among member states. (A copy of the recommendations is placed at **Annex-II.**) These recommendations will be submitted to the SOM/16th COM meeting for consideration/approval.

Item No. 9Statute of RISCAM

23. The CPR deliberated on the draft Statute of ECO Regional Institute for Standardization, Conformity, Assessment, Accreditation and Metrology (RISCAM).

24. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran informed that their evaluation of addition of the following article proposed by the Republic of Turkey is at a final stage and a response in this regard would be conveyed soon:

“The provisions of this Statute and its related protocols and annexes shall not be interpreted as implying in anyway a change in the rights and obligations of a Member State under any existing international treaty”.

25. Previously Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan and Islamic Republic of Pakistan have supported this proposal with minor amendments. During CPR meeting, representative of Kyrgyz Republic also expressed that they also agreed with the proposal.

26. With regard to the Headquarters of RISCAM, the CPR was informed that Islamic Republic of Iran and Republic of Turkey have proposed to host the Headquarters of RISCAM in their respective countries. It was further informed that consultations between relevant departments of these two countries are underway and hopefully the issue would be finalized before 16th COM meeting. The CPR decided that after the approval of RISCAM during 16th COM meeting, it would be immediately opened for signatures by the member states. Therefore, CPR requested the member states to authorize their delegations for signing the Statute of RISCAM during the 16th COM or 9th ECO Summit.

Item No. 10

Special Support Fund (SSF):

- (a) Revised Modalities for Utilization of SSF;

27. The CPR approved the revised Modalities for Utilization of Special Support Fund (SSF) as recommended by the Working Group, with some minor amendments. A copy of is placed at **Annex-III**.

(b) Utilization of SSF during 2006

28. Since the Revised Modalities for Utilization of SSF were approved by the CPR which envisages utilization of SSF by all ECO member states, the CPR approved the list proposed by the Secretariat for utilization of SSF and requested them to also prepare a revised list of ECO events/meetings, taking into account priority and significance as well as urgency of these meetings. The CPR further stated that the list should have ten activities as a first priority and the remaining activities as a second priority and circulate the said list to the member states.

Item No. 11

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

29. The CPR took note of the information provided by the Secretariat vide its note No. SG/CPR/2006/576 dated 6th April 2006.

30. Since Sustainable Development Conference is going to be held at the UN Headquarters in New York on 1-12 May 2006 and the Secretariat would not be able to participate in the said Conference due to the coincidence with the 16th COM and 9th Summit meetings, the Secretariat may approach the Islamic Republic of Iran to represent the ECO Secretariat at the said Conference. The Secretariat will provide necessary documents in this regard.

Item No. 12

Administrative Matters:

- Appointment of DCCU Officer/Information Analyst (Equivalent to Cat.II, P3)

31. The CPR endorsed the recommendations of the Selection Panel, which met prior to the CPR meeting, that the Secretariat may review the two candidates i.e. Mr. Mohammad Reza Nabovati, National of the Islamic Republic of Iran; and Mr. Ozgur Sefa Sezer, National of the Republic of Turkey, and make its recommendations for appointment against the post of DCCU Officer/Information Analyst to the next CPR, to be held after 16th COM, for consideration.

Item No. 13

Feasibility Study on ECO Transportation Corridors

32. Since some member states were still awaiting instructions, the CPR deferred the issue to its next meeting. However, Republic of Turkey requested for more details on the subject.

Item No. 14

Any Other Business

a. Extension in the Tenure of Mr. Elmar Baghirzade, Russian Interpreter

33. Upon the request of the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the CPR approved that Mr. Elmar Baghirzade (National of the Republic of Azerbaijan), Russian Interpreter, may continue his work at the ECO Secretariat until 18th April 2006. Therefore, his replacement, Ms. Aynur Mammadova (National of the Republic of Azerbaijan) may be appointed as Russian Interpreter (Category II, P3) for a probationary period of three months from 19th April 2006.

34. Furthermore, the CPR expressed its gratitude to Mr. Baghirzade for his services rendered to the Secretariat for the last several years.

b. Modalities for ECO Secretariat's Missions

35. The CPR approved the Principles/Guidelines Governing the Attendance of ECO Secretariat in the Meetings/Events. A copy of the adopted text is placed at **Annex-IV**.

c. MOU between the Secretariat's of Shanghai Cooperation Organization and Economic Cooperation Organization

36. The CPR approved the text of draft MOU between the Secretariats of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) circulated to the member states vide Secretariat's note No. ECO(CU)/SCO/2006/229 dated 14th February 2006, provided that the Kyrgyz Republic would re-consider its views with regard to Article 4 of MOU. After receiving the consent of the Kyrgyz Republic, within ten days, the Secretariat may forward the text of draft MOU to the Secretariat of SCO.

d. Amendment in the Staff Regulations of ECO Secretariat

37. Islamic Republic of Pakistan proposed that the following article may be included in the Staff Regulations of ECO Secretariat:

"A staff member sent on deputation to the ECO Secretariat should not, by reasons of such appointment, lose his/her seniority or promotion prospects in his/her home service. The sending government to take appropriate measures."

38. The CPR deliberated the issue. Since some member states stated that they will have to consult their capitals, therefore, the CPR decided to defer the issue to its next meeting. It further stated that if the next CPR meeting will agree to the aforesaid proposal, an agenda item may be included in the SOM/16th COM meetings as the amendment in the Staff Regulations requires the approval of the Council of Ministers.

Item No. 15

Date of the next meeting

39. The CPR decided to hold its next (112th) meeting on Sunday, 23rd April 2006 at 10:00 at the ECO Secretariat to exclusively consider remaining issues relating to the forthcoming 16th COM and 9th Summit meetings.

40. The CPR further decided that the Working Group should meet on Saturday, 22nd April 2006 to consider the Draft Baku Declaration, keeping in view the views/comments on the subject, received from the member states.

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