

The 113th CPR Meeting

Report

(Tehran, Thursday, 24 May 2006)

No. CPR/113th/2006/04

1. The 113th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held at the ECO Secretariat on 24th May 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 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.**)

2. Since the Chairmanship of the Council of Ministers (COM) has been assumed by the Republic of Azerbaijan on 4th May 2006, H.E. Ambassador Abbasali K. Hassanov, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan, formally assumed the Chairmanship of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR). The CPR congratulated him for assuming the Chairmanship of this august body and assured its full support to him for the successful conduct of the meetings.

3. The CPR welcomed the new Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan, H.E. Mr. Yerik Utembayev, and congratulated him for his appointment and wished him success during his tenure.

Agenda Item No. 1

Adoption of the Agenda

4. The CPR adopted the following agenda, with some proposed amendments for its 113th meeting:

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Briefing on 16th COM and 9th Summit meetings
3. Other Events/meetings attended by the ECO Secretariat staff recently
4. ECI's Audit Report for 2005
5. Request for Provision of Funds from ECO Special Fund for Reconstruction of Afghanistan to train personnel of Afghan Insurance Company in Iran
6. Utilization of Feasibility Study Fund:
 - a. Feasibility Study on ECO Transportation Corridors
 - b. Feasibility Study for Establishment of ECO Technology Transfer Centre
7. Tender for Deh-Mezang Park in Kabul, Afghanistan
8. Administrative Matters:
 - a. Appointment of DCCU Officer/Information Analyst
 - b. Appointment of Directing Staff
 - c. Appointment of Professional Staff
 - d. Departure of DSG (Transport & Communications, and PERS)
9. Any Other Business
 - a. Utilization of SSF for accommodation/hospitality
10. Date of the Next Meeting

Agenda Item No. 2

Briefing on 16th COM and 9th Summit meetings

5. The CPR took note of the reports and other relevant documents with regard to the 16th COM and 9th Summit meetings held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 2-5 May 2006, circulated vide Secretariat's notes to the member states vide Secretariat's notes No. SG/16th COM/2006/804 dated 8th May 2006 and No. SG/9th

Summit/2006/819 dated 10th May 2006, respectively, and the briefing made by the Secretary General about the outcome of these meetings.

6. The CPR expressed its gratitude and appreciation for the people and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan for making outstanding and excellent arrangements for hosting the 16th COM and 9th Summit meeting. The CPR also expressed its thanks to the Secretariat for preparing necessary documentations in an excellent manner. The Chairman of the CPR/Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan conveyed his country's appreciation to the member states for participation in the aforesaid events and the successful outcome of these meetings.

7. The CPR requested the Secretariat, as a past practice, to prepare the follow-up report with regard to the decisions of the 16th COM Meeting and actionable points from the Baku Declaration as well as statements by the Ministers and Heads of State/Delegations made during the 16th COM and 9th Summit meetings and submit the same to the next CPR meeting.

Agenda Item No. 3

Other events/meetings attended by the ECO Secretariat staff recently

8. The CPR took note of the information provided by the Secretariat with regard to the events/meetings attended by ECO Secretariat Staff since 111th CPR meeting.

9. The Secretary General briefed the CPR about the forthcoming Ministerial Meeting on Environment to be held in Kazakhstan on 13-15 June 2006. He informed the meeting that so far Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan and Republic of Kazakhstan (being host) have confirmed their participation along with the composition of delegations. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran verbally confirmed participation of Iranian delegation. The Secretary General requested the other member states to confirm their participation, along with the composition of delegations and flight schedule, etc. at the earliest possible, enabling the host authorities to make necessary arrangements well in time.

10. Furthermore, the Secretary General also briefed the CPR about the other incoming events, including Workshop on ECO School Earthquake Safety Review to be held on 1-2 June 2006 in Istanbul, 1st Meeting of the Board of Governors of the ECO Trade and Development Bank proposed to be held in Turkey on 6th July 2006; 5th Meeting of ECO Council of Heads of Customs Authorities to be held in Istanbul in 3-5 July 2006; and requested the member states to confirm their participation in these events/meetings at the earliest.

11. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran informed that Iran had represented the ECO Secretariat, as was assigned by the 111th CPR meeting, at the Sustainable Development Conference held at the UN Headquarters in New York on 1-12 May 2006. He informed that the Iranian Representative made a statement on behalf of the ECO Secretariat and the views were also reflected in the Report of the Conference. A note on the outcome of the said conference will soon be forwarded to the Secretariat for circulation among the member states. Since the next Sustainable Development Conference would be a decisive one with regard to the assistance to the regional organizations, the Secretariat may follow the issue closely.

Agenda Item No. 4

ECI's Audit Report for 2005

12. The CPR deliberated the issue and stated that the representatives of the relevant member states of ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) may convene a meeting at the ECI to consider the ECI's Audit Report for the year 2005 and submit its observations/views to the next CPR meeting for consideration. The CPR further stated that the President of ECI shall attend the proceedings of the CPR when the audit report of ECI will come under discussion.

Agenda Item No. 5

Request for Provision of Funds from ECO Special Fund for Reconstruction of Afghanistan to train personnel of Afghan Insurance Company in Iran

13. The CPR deliberated the issue and agreed, in principle, to cover the 50% cost with regard to the accommodation/training of the personnel of the Afghan Insurance Company from the ECO Special Fund for Reconstruction of Afghanistan and the remaining 50% cost would be borne by the Central Insurance of Iran (Bimeh Markazi Iran) as proposed by the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, the Secretary General requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to send more details especially about how much money is required from the Fund in this regard.

14. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan also informed the meeting that Pakistani side is also considering the request of the Afghan authorities for training courses for Afghan personnel in Pakistan.

- **Agenda Item No. 6**

Utilization of Feasibility Study Fund:

a. Feasibility Study on ECO Transportation Corridors

15. The CPR deliberated the issue. Since some member states were required further consultations with their capitals, the CPR deferred the decision on the issue to its next meeting.

b. Feasibility Study for Establishment of ECO Technology Transfer Centre

- 16. Since some member states were still awaiting instructions, the CPR deferred the issue to its next meeting.

- **Agenda Item No. 6**

Tender for Deh-Mezang Park in Kabul, Afghanistan

17. The CPR took of the information provided with regard to the project "Construction of Deh Mazang Public Park and Maintenance of Kabul Zoo" at the cost of US \$ 1.2 million to be financed from ECO Special Fund for Reconstruction of Afghanistan which was approved by the 105th CPR meeting on 19th October 2005 and requested the respective companies of the member states to submit their biddings for award of contract of the aforesaid project, as announced by the Municipality of Kabul in consultation with the ECO Secretariat, within the extended deadline i.e. by 10 June 2006.

18. The CPR was also informed that within the framework of the modalities of the concerned Fund, the Kabul Municipality in consultation with the Secretariat will select the winner of the said tender bidding according to participating companies' justification, technical and financial proposals for the said project. The Secretariat will submit the winning company along with offers of three other best companies to the CPR for approval.

19. Upon the request of the Secretary General, the CPR authorized that a representative/s of the ECO Secretariat may visit Kabul to oversee the selection process of the bidding for the above project.

20. Since only the Islamic Republic of Iran deposited the pledged amount in the relevant Account opened in the Habib Bank, London, in this regard, and the amount pledged by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Turkey had not been transferred to the Fund, the issue was raised by the Secretary General that after selecting a bidder and signing of the agreement, how the payment will be made for the project. Therefore, it was decided that the Legal Adviser of the Secretariat may give the legal opinion with regard to Article 3 of the Modalities for the Establishment and Operationalization of ECO Fund for Reconstruction of Afghanistan, specifically word 'account' which may clarify the issue of the deposit of the pledged money by the member states for reconstruction of Afghanistan and circulate the same to the member states for further deliberations in the next CPR meeting.

Agenda Item No. 7

Administrative Matters

a. Appointment of DCCU Officer/Information Analyst

21. The CPR was informed that the Secretariat still could not finalize the selection of one candidate for appointment of DCCU Officer/Information Analyst as was assigned by the 111th CPR meeting. The CPR once again requested the Secretary General to review the issue as both the candidates are available here, one is working at the Secretariat and the other is in Tehran and make his recommendations that would be final. The Secretary General informed the meeting that he will again evaluate the candidates and will establish a selection panel within the Secretariat to finalize the selection of one candidate from the two nominees (Mr. Mohammad

Reza Nabovati - Iranian National and Mr. Ozgur Sefa Sezer – Turkish National) for appointment against the above post and it will send the relevant note verbale to the member states in this regard before 31 May 2006.

b. **Appointment of Directing Staff**

1. Director (Agriculture, Industry & Tourism)
2. Director (Human Resources & Sustainable Development)
3. Director (Energy, Mineral & Environment)

22. Since no nominations were received against the three posts of Directors (Category I, D2), falling vacant in August 2006, and upon the request of the some of the member states, the CPR agreed with the recommendations of the Selection Panel to extend the deadline for nominations against these posts till 15th June 2006 and requested the member states to send their nominations by that deadline positively, so that the selected candidates should join the Secretariat in time.

c. **Appointment of Professional Staff**

23. The CPR agreed with the recommendations of the Selection Panel and:

1. Accountant (P3)

Extended the tenure of the present incumbent Mr. Asadolallah Hooshmand (Iranian National), Accountant (Category II, P3) for a period from 1st September 2006 to 31st December 2006.

2. Russian Interpreter (P3)

Re-appointed Mr. Akim Urmantayev (Kazakh National) as Russian Interpreter (Category II, P3), effective 1st August 2006, for a term of four years.

3. Russian Translator (P2)

Appointed Mr. Timur Akhmetov (Kazakh National) as Russian Translator (Category II, P2), to be vacated by Mr. Daniyer Moldakhmet (Kazakh National), effective 21st June 2006, for a term of four years.

4. Social Secretary (P2)

Re-appointed Mr. Mohammad Hassan Sheikholeslami (Iranian National) as Social Secretary (Category II, P2), effective 1st August 2006, for a term of four years.

5. Persian Translator/Typist (P1)

Appointed Mr. Faramarz Hejazi (Iranian National) as Persian Translator/Typist (Category II, P1) for the remaining period of Mr. Morteza Mirhashemi (Iranian National) till 5th November 2006, who has resigned from the post, effective 1st June 2006.

24. Furthermore, the CPR agreed with the recommendations of the Selection Panel to consider reviewing the present recruitment rules as mandated by the 15th COM Meeting. The CPR also agreed with the Selection Panel's recommendations that the member states should be encouraged to send at least more than one nomination against each post of Professional Staff so that the Selection Panel could make necessary evaluation of the two or more candidates and make recommendations accordingly which would ultimately enhance the performance of the Secretariat. Later on, the same criteria will also be followed for Category I posts (such as Directors and Assistant Directors) as well.

d. **Departure of DSG (Transport & Communications, and PERS)**

25. The CPR was informed that Mr. Masroor A. Junejo, Deputy Secretary General (Transport & Communications, Project & Economic Research) will be leaving the Secretariat shortly. The CPR including the Secretary General expressed appreciation and gratitude for the constructive and excellent contributions made by Mr. Junejo during his two years stay at the Secretariat in achieving the targets of ECO. The Secretary General also informed the CPR that he will make necessary arrangements for the next two months, till the arrival of the new Deputy Secretary General who has already been selected by the 16th COM meeting, so that the work of the Secretariat may not suffer.

Agenda Item No. 8

Any Other Business

a. **Utilization of SSF**

27. The CPR deliberated the issue. Taking into account the importance and a long delay in holding the said meeting, the CPR decided to allow the utilization of the Special Support Fund (SSF) upto an amount of US\$ 4,000 (US Dollars Four Thousand) for covering the cost of air-tickets, accommodation/hospitality, etc. with regard to the 5th Meeting of the National Focal Points (NFPs) on Economic Research and Statistics to be held at the ECO Secretariat, in accordance with the revised Modalities for Utilization of SSF approved by the 111th CPR meeting on 10th April 2006.

Agenda Item No. 10

Date of the Next Meeting

28. The CPR decided to hold its next (114th) meeting on Tuesday, 27th June 2006, at 10:00 hours at the Secretariat.

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