

# The 114<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting

## Report

( *Tehran, Sunday, 25 June 2006* )

No. CPR/114th/2006/04

1. The 114<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held at the ECO Secretariat on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2006, under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Abbasali Hassanov, Permanent Representative/Ambassador 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**).

### **Agenda Item No. 1**

Adoption of the Agenda

2. The CPR adopted the following agenda, with some proposed amendments, for its 114th meeting:

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Adoption of the Draft Report of the 113th CPR Meeting
3. ECI's Administrative Issues:
  - a. ECI's Audit Report for 2005
  - b. ECI's Budget for 2006
4. Request for Provision of Funds from ECO Special Fund for Reconstruction of Afghanistan to train personnel of Afghan Insurance Company in Iran
5. Tender for Deh-Mezang Park in Kabul, Afghanistan
6. Multimodal Transport Project
7. Utilization of Feasibility Study Fund:
  - a. Feasibility Study on ECO Transportation Corridors
  - b. Feasibility Study for Establishment of ECO Technology Transfer Centre
8. Preparations for the Informal COM meeting to be held in New York:
  - a. Date and Venue as well as Hosting the Informal COM meeting
  - b. Draft Agenda of the Informal COM Meeting
  - c. Draft Resolution on "Cooperation between the UN and the ECO"
9. Follow-up on the implementation of decisions of 16<sup>th</sup> COM and 9<sup>th</sup> Summit meetings
10. Events/meetings attended by the ECO Secretariat staff recently
11. Rules and Regulations Governing the Establishment of Regional Centres
12. Revision/Amendment in the ECO Recruitment Regulations
13. Administrative Matters:
  - a. Appointment of Directing Staff
  - b. Appointment of Russian Interpreter (Ms. Aynur Mamadova, Azeri National)
  - c. DCCU Officer/Information Analyst
14. Any Other Business
  - a. Regional Conference of ECO Capitals and Metropolises Mayors, titled "Good Urban Governance"
  - b. Utilization of SSF for the 1<sup>st</sup> Expert Group Meeting of Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedure for Businessmen of ECO Member States
15. Date of the Next Meeting

**Agenda Item No. 2**

Adoption of the Draft Report of the 113th CPR Meeting

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3. The CPR adopted the Report of the 113<sup>th</sup> CPR meeting, which was circulated among member states vide Secretariat's note No. SG/CPR/2006/926 dated 25<sup>th</sup> May 2006, with some proposed amendments. The adopted report has been circulated among the member states vide Secretariat's note No. SG/CPR/2006/1120 dated 25 June 2006.

**Agenda Item No. 3**

ECI's Administrative Issues:

**a. ECI's Audit Report for 2005**

4. While taking note of the view points of the ECI, the CPR adopted the ECI's Audit Report for the year 2006 and endorsed the recommendations of the meeting held at the ECI on 20 June 2006, which was attended by the representatives of Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Tajikistan, which are as follows:

- i. Considering the unpaid contributions of some ECI Member States which have been in arrears for the past five years, it requested the concerned Member States to expedite the payment of their contributions.
- ii. Taking into consideration the current financial year situation and the urgent need of ECI to receive contributions of member states, to its budget for 2006, it requested the concerned member countries to expedite the formalities for approval of ECI's budget for 2006 and to make their payment at the earliest.
- iii. The post of Executive Director has been vacant for past two years. Activities of ECI are greatly affected by this absence. The meeting requested that Executive Director may be posted without any further delay.

**b. ECI's Budget for 2006**

5. The CPR considered the ECI's budget for the year 2006 and stated that if the Islamic Republic of Pakistan conveyed its concurrence officially to the proposed budget before the next CPR meeting, it will be treated as "approved" and the ECI shall take necessary measures for its implementation. However, if the Islamic Republic of Pakistan shall not convey its consent before the next CPR meeting it shall be included in the agenda of the next CPR meeting.

**Agenda Item No. 4**

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

6. Since 113<sup>th</sup> CPR meeting has already 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 Fund for Reconstruction of Afghanistan and the remaining 50% cost would be borne by the Central Insurance of Iran (Bimeh Markazi Iran), the Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran gave further details on the issue and stated that the Central Insurance of Iran (Bimeh Markazi Iran) will provide local hospitality to the Afghan trainees such as cost of food, hiring of teachers/instructors, local transport, venue of the meeting, etc. and the cost with regard to hotel accommodation and return air tickets from Kabul to Tehran and back shall be borne from the ECO Fund for Reconstruction of Afghanistan.

7. The Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan pointed out that since a decision on the issue has already been taken, therefore, the total cost on the training of the Afghan personnel should be calculated and then be divided into two (50%+50%) between the Insurance Company of Iran and the ECO Fund for Reconstruction of Afghanistan, taking into account the explanations mentioned in para 6.

**Agenda Item No. 5**

Tender for Deh-Mezang Park in Kabul, Afghanistan

8. The Secretary General briefed the meeting that the Secretariat's team has visited Kabul on 9-12 June 2006 to oversee the selection process of bidders with regard to the construction of the Deh-Mezang Park in Kabul and a report in this regard has been circulated to the member states vide Secretariat's note No. PERS/AFG/2006/1101 dated 20<sup>th</sup> June 2006. He further stated that the Afghan authorities will soon convey the names of the selected three best bidders through official channels and the same will be circulated to the member states for CPR's consideration.

9. The issue of payment to the selected bidder has again come into discussion since there is not enough money in the relevant Account. The CPR requested the relevant member state who made a pledge for ECO Fund for Reconstruction of Afghanistan to deposit the amount in the relevant account or if it is not possible to deposit at once, they may do so in installments so this important project, which is also very significant for the image of ECO in Afghanistan, could be implemented without any delay.

10. The CPR also requested that as soon as the Secretariat receives the necessary documents including the names of three best qualified companies, it would invite the representatives of the present contributing member states in Tehran i.e. Islamic Republic of Iran, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Republic of Turkey as well as the representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to meet in the ECO Secretariat in order to review/consider the three qualified companies and recommend one company to the 115<sup>th</sup> CPR meeting for approval.

11. During the said meeting, the representatives would also discuss the possible mechanism for securing the financial requirements of the said project and modality of the ECO Special Fund for Reconstruction of Afghanistan, particularly articles with regard to procedures of transfer of pledges by member states.

#### **Agenda Item No. 6**

##### Multimodal Transport Project

12. The CPR considered the issue and approved the following measures to be taken by the relevant member states as well as the ECO Secretariat to avoid further delay in implementation of the project which may have an undesirable impact on the continuation of the IDB's financing of the next stages of the project and even further cooperation of IDB for financing similar projects in the ECO region. Furthermore, the CPR also requested the Permanent Representatives of ECO Member States to personally follow this issue with their capitals so that it should be completed at the earliest:

1. To identify and introduce national consultants of those member states which have not been introduced yet; namely Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.
2. To urge the designated national consultants who have not provided their country reports (based on the ToR); namely Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.
3. To inform the national consultants of the member states that participating and presenting the country reports in the relevant regional workshop – which will be held at the ECO Secretariat (with full coverage costs of participation borne by the Secretariat through the fund provided by IDB) for elaboration by the international consultant and representatives of ECO, UNCTAD, IDB and UNESCAP – is part of the project which should be implemented and the salary paid by the Secretariat from IDB fund also include participation of the national consultants in the said regional workshop.
4. To fix a new date for holding the second regional workshop in the Secretariat provided that the country reports are prepared and sent to the Secretariat within an appropriate time period for submission to the international consultant recruited by the UNCTAD who needs those country reports for preparing a consolidated report on MMT in the ECO Region.
5. To work on an Action Plan for further stages of implementation of this project and its final conclusion.

#### **Agenda Item No. 7**

##### Utilization of Feasibility Study Fund:

- a. **Feasibility Study on ECO Transportation Corridors**

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13. Since some member states were still awaiting instructions from their capitals, therefore, the CPR deferred the decision on the issue to its next meeting and requested the concerned member states to expedite the issue at the earliest.

b. **Feasibility Study for Establishment of ECO Technology Transfer Centre**

14. The CPR deliberated the issue. Since the Republic of Turkey was awaiting some information from the Islamic Republic of Iran, the CPR decided to defer the decision on the issue to its next meeting.

**Agenda Item No. 8**

Preparations for the Informal COM meeting to be held in New York:

a. **Date and Venue as well as Hosting the Informal COM meeting**

15. The Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan informed the meeting that the Republic of Azerbaijan, being the rotating Chairman of COM, will convey the date of the Informal COM Meeting to be held in New York, on the sidelines of the UNGA.

b. **Draft Agenda of the Informal COM Meeting**

16. The CPR endorsed the draft Agenda of the Informal COM meeting circulated vide Secretariat's note No. ECO(CU)/UNGA/2006/989 dated 6<sup>th</sup> June 2006, to be forwarded for consideration of the ECO Contact Group in New York.

c. **Draft Resolution on "Cooperation between the UN and the ECO"**

17. The CPR deliberated the issue and decided to establish a Working Group to finalize the draft Resolution on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization, circulated vide Secretariat's note No. ECO(CU)/UNGA/2006/1021 dated 11<sup>th</sup> June 2006 and requested it to submit the finalized text to the next CPR meeting for consideration/endorsement.

**Agenda Item No. 9**

Follow-up on the implementation of decisions of 16<sup>th</sup> COM & 9<sup>th</sup> Summit meetings

18. The CPR took note with appreciation of the following reports which the Secretariat circulated vide its note No. SG/9<sup>th</sup> Summit/2006/1044 dated 13<sup>th</sup> June 2006 and requested the Secretariat to update these reports regularly:

- i) Follow-up Reports on the "Implementation of the decisions of the 16<sup>th</sup> COM and 9<sup>th</sup> Summit meetings" and Baku Declaration 2006, circ; and
- ii) Salient Actionable Points from the Statements/Comments made by the Heads of State/Government/Delegations to the 9<sup>th</sup> Summit and Ministers/Heads of Delegations to the 16<sup>th</sup> COM meeting.

19. The CPR requested the member states and the Secretariat to closely follow the implementation of the Decisions/Recommendations of the Summit/COM and, if necessary, consider further discussions and necessary decisions in its future meetings.

**Agenda Item No. 10**

Events/meetings attended by the ECO Secretariat staff recently

20. The CPR took note of the information provided by the Secretariat vide its note No. SG/CPR/2006/1091 dated 19<sup>th</sup> June 2006.

21. Commenting on the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of Working Group for implementation of Trans-Asian Railway line, the Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that since two important member states did not participate in the aforesaid meeting, therefore, the major issues concerning the implementation of the project have not been resolved. He further stated that without the support and cooperation of these two member states, the impediments with regard to the implementation of Trans-Asian Railway Mainline could not be removed. Therefore, the Islamic Republic of Iran, being the coordinator of the project, was of the view that in accordance with the Terms of Reference of the designation of coordinators, a joint mission comprising of a high-ranking official from the coordinator country and a representative of the Secretariat shall visit these two member states and meet with the concerned high-ranking officials in order to remove any obstacles in the way of implementation of the project.

22. The CPR took note of the explanation provided by the Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran and while emphasizing upon the need for early implementation of the recommendation of the working group on Trans Asian Railway Line, welcomed the intention of the Islamic Republic of Iran to dispatch a joint mission to some member countries with regard to this project as mandated by the TOR of Coordinating Country.

#### **Agenda Item No. 11**

Rules and Regulations Governing the Establishment of Regional Centres

23. As instructed by the 16<sup>th</sup> COM Meeting, the CPR deliberated the aforesaid issue and decided to establish a Working Group to deliberate/formulate rules and regulations governing the establishment of Regional Centres in the ECO Member States. In this regard, the CPR requested the Secretariat to prepare the report on the Regional Centres already established or planned to be established and status of their activities and circulate the same to the member states before the meeting of the Working Group. Their recommendations shall be submitted to the CPR meeting for consideration/approval.

#### **Agenda Item No. 12**

Revision/Amendment in the ECO Recruitment Regulations

24. The CPR deliberated the issue and requested the Secretariat to compile all the relevant papers on the issue and circulate the same to the member states and the Working Group meeting may be convened to finalize the clear-cut recommendations to be fruitful for the staffing of the Secretariat. Those recommendations will be submitted to the future CPR for consideration/approval.

#### **Agenda Item No. 13**

Administrative Matters:

##### **a. Appointment of Directing Staff**

25. The CPR agreed with the recommendations of the Selection Panel which are as follows:

1. Director (Agriculture, Industry & Tourism)

To appoint Mr. Metin Genckol (National of the Republic of Turkey) as Director (Agriculture, Industry & Tourism), to be vacated by Mr. Fatih Unlu (National of the Republic of Turkey), effective 15<sup>th</sup> August 2006, for a term of three years.

2. Director (Human Resources & Sustainable Development)

The Selection Panel considered both the candidates of the Republic of Turkey (Mr. Muzaffer Alacaogullari and Mr. Muhtar Ali Urkan) for appointment as Director (Human Resources & Sustainable Development). Since there was no consensus, therefore, the Selection Panel recommended to defer the decision to the next Selection Panel meeting/CPR. In the meantime, the Turkish Representative will consult the authorities in Ankara on this issue.

3. Director (Energy, Mineral & Environment)

The Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan informed the meeting that he has received two nominations from Baku against the post of Director Energy, Mineral & Environment and is expecting more nominations against this post. Therefore, the Selection Panel recommended that the deadline for nominations against this post may be extended until 15<sup>th</sup> July 2006.

b. **Appointment of Russian Interpreter**

26. The CPR agreed with the recommendations of the Selection Panel and extended the term of Ms. Aynur Mamadova (National of the Republic of Azerbaijan), who was earlier appointed as Russian Interpreter for a probationary period of three months effective 19<sup>th</sup> April 2006, upto 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009 (i.e. the remaining period of Mr. Elmar Baghirzade's contract). \_

c. **DCCU Officer/Information Analyst**

27. The Secretary General briefed the meeting on the issue and stated that after much deliberations by the Selection Panel established in the Secretariat no final selection among two candidates could be made.

28. After hearing the views of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Turkey, the CPR decided to defer the issue to its next meeting.

**Agenda Item No. 13**

Any Other Business

a. **Regional Conference of ECO Capitals and Metropolises Mayors: titled "Good Urban Governance"**

29. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran informed the meeting that Tehran Municipality has proposed to organize the Regional Conference of ECO Capitals and Metropolises Mayors, titled "Good Urban Governance" in Tehran from 6-8 September 2006. He further informed that the host will provide local hospitality including boarding/lodging, local transport, etc. to the Mayor and two members of his delegation (1+2) from each member states. He requested the member states to confirm their participation in the aforesaid conference on the proposed dates at the earliest. The Secretariat has already circulated the Iranian proposal vide its note No. SG/CPR/2006/1093 dated 19<sup>th</sup> June 2006.

b. **Utilization of SSF for the 1<sup>st</sup> Expert Group Meeting of Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedure for Businessmen of ECO Member States**

30. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran informed the meeting that the Islamic Republic of Iran, being the coordinating country of the Agreement, has proposed to hold the 1<sup>st</sup> Expert Group Meeting of Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedure for Businessmen of ECO Member States in Tehran in the 1<sup>st</sup> week of September 2006. The host authorities will provide local hospitality for two participants from each member states. However, the Islamic Republic of Iran proposed that cost of round trip economy class air tickets (shortest possible route) may be borne from the Special Support Fund. The Secretariat has already circulated the Iranian proposal vide its note No. T&I/1<sup>st</sup> EGM(VA)/2006/1095 dated 20<sup>th</sup> June 2006.

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

**Agenda Item No. 15**

Date of the Next Meeting

32. The CPR decided to hold its next (115<sup>th</sup>) meeting on Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> July 2006 at the ECO Secretariat at 10:00 hours.

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