

The 115th CPR Meeting

Report

(*Tehran, Sunday, 16 July 2006*)

No. CPR/115th/2006/04

1. The 115th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held at the ECO Secretariat on 16th July 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 115th meeting:

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Adoption of the Draft Report of the 114th CPR Meeting
3. Tender for Deh-Mezang Park in Kabul, Afghanistan
4. Utilization of Feasibility Study Fund:
 - a. Feasibility Study on ECO Transportation Corridors
 - b. Feasibility Study for Establishment of ECO Technology Transfer Centre
5. Preparations for the Informal COM meeting to be held in New York:
 - a. Date and Venue of the Meeting
 - b. Draft Resolution on "Cooperation between the UN and the ECO"
6. Utilization of SSF for 1st Expert Group Meeting of Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedure for Businessmen of ECO Member States
7. Events/meetings attended by the ECO Secretariat staff recently
8. Administrative Matters:
 - a. Appointment of Directing Staff
 - b. DCCU Officer/Information Analyst
 - c. Creation of D-1 level (Category I) temporary post for a period of 8 months
9. ECI's Budget for 2006
10. Any Other Business
 - Signing of MOU between ECO and OCHA
11. Date of the Next Meeting

Agenda Item No. 2

Adoption of the Draft Report of the 114th CPR Meeting

3. The CPR adopted the Report of the 114th CPR meeting, which was circulated vide Secretariat's note No. SG/CPR/2006/1133 dated 27 June 2006, with some proposed amendments. The adopted report has been circulated among member states vide Secretariat's note No. SG/CPR/2006/1218 dated 17th July 2006.

Agenda Item No. 3

Tender for Deh-Mezang Park in Kabul, Afghanistan

4. The Secretary General briefed the meeting about the process of selecting the bidders for the construction of Deh-Mezang Park in Kabul and informed that the three short-listed companies from which one of them shall be selected as the implementing agency for the said project are as follows:

<u>Name of the company</u>	<u>Price Offer</u>
1. Shikib Naweed Construction Company (private company)	US\$ 1,214,012
2. Haji Akbar Construction Company (private company)	US\$ 1,004,700
3. Afghan Construction Company (state company)	US\$ 1,471,970

5. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan requested that the tender documents of the aforesaid three companies, in English language, should be provided so that the authorities in Pakistan could examine them and will convey their views/comments. He further requested that the relevant bank account may also be provided so that the Pakistani authorities could transfer the Funds for the purpose.

6. The CPR welcomed the statement made by the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan that his government is willing to transfer a part of the pledged amount to the ECO Fund for Reconstruction of Afghanistan and requested the Secretariat to provide information concerning that account to Pakistan immediately.

7. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran proposed that the Embassies of the relevant member states in Kabul (Iran, Pakistan and Turkey) may review the aforesaid relevant companies to evaluate their capacity for implementing the aforesaid project and inform the Secretariat/their Embassies in Tehran accordingly. This would facilitate the CPR to select a best company for the purpose.

8. Furthermore, the CPR requested that the Selection Committee, established by the 114th CPR meeting, comprising the contributing member states (Iran, Pakistan & Turkey) as well as Afghanistan should meet between 15-20 August 2006 and finalize its recommendation with regard to one company and submit the same to the next CPR meeting for approval.

Agenda Item No. 4

Utilization of Feasibility Study Fund:

a. Feasibility Study on ECO Transportation Corridors

9. The CPR deliberated the issue of Feasibility Study on ECO Transportation Corridors by utilizing US\$ 57,750 (approx.) from ECO Feasibility Study Fund as proposed by the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Republic of Turkey stated that experts from other member states may also be involved for preparation of the study. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan informed that the relevant Pakistani authorities have some observations with regard to the aforesaid project which have been conveyed to the Islamic Republic of Iran through Secretariat's note No. TC/F-S/2006/1207 dated 13th July 2006, a copy of which has also been endorsed to other member states as well. Islamic Republic of Iran stated that the Secretariat should contact the relevant authorities and try to answer the observations made by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

10. Since there was no consensus on the issue, therefore, the CPR decided to defer the decision to its next meeting.

b. Feasibility Study for Establishment of ECO Technology Transfer Centre

11. The Republic of Turkey informed that since Turkey has received information from Iran a few days back, therefore, their authorities are required some time to examine the issue. In view of the above, the CPR deferred the decision to its next meeting and requested for an expeditious response on the issue.

Agenda Item No. 5

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

a. Date and Venue of the Meeting

12. The Chairman/Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan informed the meeting that Azeri Permanent Mission to UN in New York, in consultation with the Permanent Missions to the UN of the ECO Member States in New York as well as the Secretariat, will finalize the date and venue and convey the same to the member states through the Secretariat.

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

13. The CPR was informed that the Working Group, established by the 114th CPR meeting, met on 11th July 2006 and prepared a revised text of the Draft Resolution on “Cooperation between the UN and the ECO”, taking into account the deliberations held in the aforesaid meeting. The Secretariat vide its note No. ECO(CU)/WG/2006/1209 dated 13th July 2006 circulated the revised Draft Resolution.

14. While appreciating the Working Group for their hard work, the CPR requested that the Working Group should meet once again to consider and finalize the revised Draft Resolution so that it could be endorsed by the next CPR meeting and submit it to the Permanent Representatives in New York/Informal Meeting of the Council of Ministers.

Agenda Item No. 6

Utilization of SSF for 1st Expert Group Meeting of Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedure for Businessmen of ECO Member States

15. The CPR approved the utilization of Special Support Fund (SSF) for the 1st Expert Group Meeting of Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedure for Businessmen of ECO Member States, proposed to be held in the 1st week of September 2006 in Tehran. The CPR requested that an updated list of events/meetings, approved by the CPR, held/to be held with the utilization of SSF may be prepared and circulate the same to the member states.

Agenda Item No. 7

Events/meetings attended by the ECO Secretariat staff recently

16. The CPR took note of the information on the events/meetings attended by the ECO Secretariat since last CPR meeting, provided by the Secretariat vide its note No. SG/CPR/2006/1158 dated 4th July 2006. The CPR also took note of the positive development with regard to numbers as well as level of participation and timely holding of most of the meetings envisaged in the Calendar of Events.

17. The Secretary General briefed the meeting specifically about the 1st Meeting of the Board of Governors of the ECO Trade and Development Bank held in Ankara on 6th July 2006. He informed that the Report of the meeting will be circulated by the host country (Turkey) being the Chairman of the meeting. However, he gave some salient points from the outcome of the meeting.

Agenda Item No. 8

Administrative Matters:

a. **Appointment of Directing Staff**

1. **Director (Human Resources & Sustainable Development)**

18. The CPR reviewed the outcome of the meeting of the Selection Panel which met before the commencement of the CPR meeting and took note that the Republic of Turkey has withdrawn the candidature of Mr. Muhtar Ali Urkan and now Mr. Muzaffer Alacaogullari is the candidate of Turkey for the post of Director (Human Resources & Sustainable Development). Since there was no consensus, therefore, the CPR deferred the decision on the issue.

19. However, CPR decided to extend the tenure of Mr. Muzaffer Alacaogullari, Director (Human Resources & Sustainable Development), for a period of two months i.e. from 18th August 2006 to 17th October 2006, with a view to finalize the issue before the extended tenure is expired.

20. Islamic Republic of Iran requested the Legal Adviser of the Secretariat to interpret Article 6.7 of the Staff Regulations and be informed accordingly.

3. **Director (Energy, Mineral & Environment)**

21. The CPR took note that the Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan informed the Selection Panel that he was expecting two more nominations, in addition to the three which have already been received and agreed with the recommendations of the Selection Panel and extended the deadline for nominations against the above post till 10th August 2006.

22. The CPR also agreed with the recommendations of the Selection Panel and extended the tenure of Dr. Shamil Aleskerov, Director (Energy, Mineral & Environment) for one month i.e. from 21st August 2006 to 20th September 2006.

b. **DCCU Officer/Information Analyst**

23. Since there was no consensus on the issue, the CPR deferred the issue to its next meeting.

c. **Creation of D-1 level (Category I) temporary post for a period of 8 months**

24. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan informed the meeting that since the new Secretary General is coming from Pakistan and he has some dynamic ideas to steer this organization, therefore, Pakistani side has proposed creation of a temporary post of D-1 level (Category I) for a period of eight months, effective from 1st September 2006 which may be designated as Adviser or Assistant to the Secretary General. After eight months, the post of Assistant Director (D-1) will be available and the aforesaid temporary incumbent will be adjusted against this post.

25. During the meeting, the two options were put forward to finance the post, either from the savings from the current budget for the year 2006, if any, or the CPR may approve supplementary budget for the purpose. The CPR requested the Secretariat to prepare the financial implementations with regard to the creation of the aforesaid post and circulate the same to the member states.

26. Since some member states were required consultations with their capitals, therefore, the issue was deferred to the next CPR meeting.

Agenda Item No. 9

ECI's Budget for 2006

27. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan informed the meeting that they are still awaiting instructions from the capital with regard to ECI's Budget for 2006.

Agenda Item No. 10

Any Other Business

• **Signing of MOU between ECO and OCHA**

28. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran informed the meeting that, considering the prevalence of natural disasters in the ECO region which causes humanitarian casualties and economic losses in the member states and the fact that issue of prevention and management of such disasters have already been in the agenda of the ECO regional cooperation, the Islamic Republic of Iran has proposed signing of MOU between ECO and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) which will pave the way for contribution of OCHA in the ECO's plans and projects in this regard.

29. While agreeing with the aforesaid Iranian proposal, the CPR requested the Secretariat to prepare the draft MOU and circulate the same to the member states for their views/comments. The CPR also requested the member states to expedite this issue as soon as possible.

Agenda Item No. 11

Date of the Next Meeting

30. The CPR decided to hold its next (116th) meeting on Wednesday, 30th August 2006 at the ECO Secretariat at 10:00 hours.

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- Since this was the last CPR meeting which was being attended by the Secretary General, therefore, the Chairman and other members of the CPR expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the hard work, excellent efforts and devotion the outgoing Secretary General has demonstrated during his two and a half years tenure and expressed their best wishes for his success in his future life.
- The CPR also expressed their appreciation for the hard work done by the outgoing Deputy Secretary General Mr. Orhan Isik. They also expressed their gratitude to Mr. Muhammad Waheed ul Hasan, Minister/Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, who is also shortly leaving Tehran for Islamabad, for his constructive and useful contribution to the work of the Council.
- Ambassador Askhat Orazbay expressed his thanks for the remarks made by the CPR with regard to his work done as the Secretary General of ECO and expressed confidence that the new Secretary General will hopefully put his efforts to enhance and accelerate the regional cooperation, in achieving the goals and objectives of ECO.

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