

# The 117<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting

## Report

( ECO Secretariat, Monday, 09 October 2006 )

No. CPR/117th/2006/03

1. The 117<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held at the ECO Secretariat on 9<sup>th</sup> October 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 proposed amendments, for its 117<sup>th</sup> meeting:
  1. Adoption of the Agenda
  2. Adoption of the Draft Report of the 116th CPR Meeting
  3. Briefing by the Secretary General about the Informal COM Meeting in New York
  4. Preparations for 17th RPC Meeting (to be held in January/February 2007)
  5. ECO Secretariat's Budget for 2007
  6. Administrative Matters:
    - a. Appointments of:
      - i) Director (Energy, Mineral & Environment)
      - ii) Director (Transport & Communications)
      - iii) Conference Services & Public Relations Assistant
      - iv) Persian Translator/Typist
    - b. Appointments of:
      - i) Director (Human Resources & Sustainable Development)
      - ii) Assistant Director (Administration/General Affairs)
      - iii) Computer Operator
    - c. Appointment of DCCU Officer/Information Analyst
  7. Utilization of ECO Feasibility Study Fund:
    - a. Feasibility Study on ECO Transportation Corridors
    - b. Feasibility Study for Establishment of ECO Technology Transfer Centre
  8. Designation of M/s TAVANIR as coordinating company for Feasibility Study of Inter-Connection of Power Systems of ECO Member States
  9. Nomination of a company for reactivation and supervision of ECO Trade and Investment Information Network
  10. Events/meetings attended by the ECO Secretariat staff recently
  11. Any Other Business
    - a. Appointment of the Executive Director of ECI

## 12. Date of the Next Meeting

### **Item No. 2**

#### Adoption of the Draft Report of the 116th CPR Meeting

3. The CPR adopted the Report of its 116th meeting, which was circulated to member states vide Secretariat's note verbale No. SG/CPR/2006/1476 dated 4th September 2006, with some proposed amendments. The adopted report has since been circulated to member states vide Secretariat's note verbale No. SG/CPR/2006/1691 dated 10th October 2006.

### **Item No. 3**

#### Briefing by the Secretary General about the Informal COM Meeting in New York

4. The Secretary General informed the meeting that he visited New York, 22-26 September 2006, and participated in the informal meeting of the COM as well as the Joint Ministerial Meeting of ASEAN and ECO on the sidelines of UN General Assembly. He also represented ECO as observer in the 61st Session of the UN General Assembly. In addition, he held bilateral meetings with the Secretaries General of ASEAN and OIC. He gave a brief account of these meetings. A detailed report, in this regard, has since been circulated to member states vide Secretariat's note verbale No. ECO(CU)/61st UNGA/2006/1689 dated 8th October 2006.

5. He stated that during the deliberations, the interest shown by ASEAN in cooperation with ECO was very encouraging. Both sides agreed to intensify cooperation in four areas – trade, development of SMEs, narcotics control and tourism promotion. An MOU, signed to that end in January this year, would be implemented on priority. ASEAN promised to expedite its response to the Work Program which the Secretariat sent them in July this year.

6. Referring to his bilateral meetings with the Secretaries General of ASEAN and OIC, the Secretary General stated that these meetings were very fruitful and resulted in a clearer understanding to work for closer cooperation between our organizations.

7. While emphasizing on following up of the decisions of the ECO Ministerial Meeting and ECO external relations specially with the UN System and ASEAN, the Permanent Representatives appreciated the Azeri Mission and the Secretary General's comprehensive report as well as his efforts during the mission to New York.

### **Item No. 4**

#### Preparations for the 17th RPC Meeting (to be held in January/February 2007)

8. The Permanent Representative of Pakistan informed the meeting that authorities in Islamabad were considering to host the 17th Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC). The CPR welcomed Pakistan's initiative and requested that Pakistan may convey its decision within a month so that necessary preparations could be made well in time. The meeting decided that unless positive response was received from Pakistan, the Secretariat would make necessary arrangements to hold the RPC meeting at the ECO Secretariat, on non-hospitality basis, in the 2nd half of January 2007.

### **Item No. 5**

#### ECO Secretariat's Budget for 2007

9. The CPR deliberated upon the proposed budget of the Secretariat for the year 2007 and decided that an open-ended working group should consider the budget proposals and submit its recommendations to the next CPR meeting for consideration/approval.

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**Item No. 6**

## Administrative Matters:

**a. Appointments of Director (Energy, Mineral & Environment), Director (Transport & Communications), Conference Services & Public Relations Assistant and Persian Translator/Typist**

10. Having considered the recommendations of the Selection Panel, the CPR took the following decisions:

**1. Director (Energy, Mineral and Environment), Category I, D-2**

Dr. Salahuddin Ayyubov (Azeri National) be appointed as Director (Energy, Mineral & Environment) for a term of three years, effective 20<sup>th</sup> October 2006, in replacement of Dr. Shamil Aleskerov (Azeri National) who has already left the Secretariat on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2006 upon completion of his tenure.

**2. Director (Transport & Communications), Category I, D-2**

Mr. Mohammad Mirzaei Kahagh (Iranian National) be appointed as Director (Transport & Communications) for a term of three years, effective 7<sup>th</sup> November 2006, in place of Mr. Morteza Khalaj (Iranian National) who completes his tenure on that date, subject to the condition that Pakistan conveys its approval.

Iran was requested to kindly send CVs of two candidates so that Pakistan could convey its response.

**3. Conference Services & Public Relations Assistant, Category II, P-2**

Upon the request of the some member states, the deadline for nominations against the post of Conference Services & Public Relations Assistant was extended upto 15<sup>th</sup> November 2006. Since the post was being utilized in the Directorate of Energy, Mineral and Environment, member states were requested to kindly send qualified candidates who had experience in the energy field.

Furthermore, the tenure of present incumbent Mr. Talanbek Kasymbekov, currently assigned as Program Officer in the Directorate of Energy, Mineral & Environment, was extended for three months (i.e. till 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2007).

**4. Persian Translator/Typist Category II, P-1**

Miss Marjaneh Soltani (Iranian National) be appointed as Persian Translator/Typist, effective 20<sup>th</sup> October 2006, for a term of four years.

**b. Appointments of Director (Human Resources & Sustainable Development), Assistant Director (Administration/General Affairs) and Computer Operator**

11. The Permanent Representative of Afghanistan stated that in the spirit of cooperation he withdrew his reservation with regard to the appointment of Assistant Director (Admn/General Affairs). He expressed the hope that in the near future a P-level post be either vacated or revived and allocated to Afghanistan.
12. The CPR, while appreciating Afghanistan's understanding, requested the Secretariat to prepare a proposal in this regard and submit the same to the CPR for consideration. In its proposal, the Secretariat should also consider the budgetary provisions.
13. Afterwards, the CPR took the following decisions:

1. **Director (Human Resources & Sustainable Development), Category I, D-2**

Mr. Muzaffer Alacaogullari (Turkish National) be re-appointed as Director (Human Resources & Sustainable Development), for a term of three years, effective 18 August 2006.

It was observed that there was a need to strengthen the professional capacity of the Directorate of Human Resources and Sustainable Development with new staff.

2. **Assistant Director (Admin/General Affairs), Category I, D-1**

Mr. Mohammad Hasan Sheikholeslami (Iranian National) be appointed as Assistant Director (Administration/General Affairs), for a three-year term, effective 1<sup>st</sup> December 2006, in place of Mr. Abulghasem Tahmasebi (Iranian National).

3. **Computer Operator, Category II, P-1**

Mr. Mohammad Reza Malekooti (Iranian National) be appointed as Computer Operator (Category II, P-1), in place of Mr. Ahmad Tafaghodi (National of Iran), for a term of four years, effective 7<sup>th</sup> November 2006.

- c. Appointment of DCCU Officer/Information Analyst

14. The Secretary General informed the meeting that, as mandated by the 116<sup>th</sup> CPR meeting, he had been in consultation with Turkey and Iran and these consultations were required to be continued for some more time. The CPR agreed to defer the issue to its next meeting.

### **Item No. 7**

#### **Utilization of ECO Feasibility Study Fund:**

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

15. The CPR was informed that the concerned Iranian company was not interested any more in the project.
16. Some member states proposed that the upper limit of utilization of ECO Feasibility Study Fund be enhanced to attract companies for ECO projects.

17. The CPR was also informed that the Secretariat had been in the process of preparing a proposal on revision of Functional Methodology, keeping in view the Iranian observation as well as the Steering Committee Meeting on Industry that the Regional Planning Council and the Secretariat should be involved more in the selection of technical projects and the utilization of ECO Feasibility Fund for that purpose.

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

18. The CPR was informed that the Steering Committee Meeting on Industry held on 16-17 September 2006 decided that the issue be discussed in the Experts Group meeting scheduled for 20-21 November 2006 in Tehran. Therefore, the CPR agreed to defer the decision to its future meeting till the experts' report was available.

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**Item No. 8**

Designation of M/s TAVANIR as coordinating company for Feasibility Study of Inter-Connection of Power Systems of ECO Member States

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19. The Representative of Iran informed the meeting that they were withdrawing the condition of payment of expenditures by M/s NESPAK with regard to the coordinating responsibilities of M/s TAVANIR and proposed that Iran be designated as coordinator country for Inter-Connection of Power Systems of ECO Member States in accordance with the modalities approved by the Council of Ministers.

20. The Representative of Pakistan stated that Pakistan had also been examining the possibility of accepting the responsibility of coordination for the project. Pakistan would convey its decision soon.

21. The Representative of Kyrgyzstan also informed the meeting that Kyrgyzstan was also considering undertaking the responsibility of coordination. A response in this regard would soon be conveyed.

22. The Representative of Iran stated that in case Kyrgyzstan was ready to be designated as coordinating country, Iran would support it.

**Item No. 9**

Nomination of a company for reactivation and supervision of ECO Trade and Investment Information Network

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23. The Representative of Pakistan informed the meeting that they were awaiting a response from the Secretariat with regard to its query such as activities and areas of expertise of the company to which the contract was going to be awarded as well as the financial implications of the project. He further stated that more companies from other member states along with the Iranian company be considered for the purpose.

24. The Representative of Iran stated that since it would not be a huge project, the Secretariat may look into other local companies as well along with the proposed company 'Rahbar Informatic Service Co', a subsidiary of the Iranian Ministry of Commerce.

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**Item No. 10**

Events/meetings attended by the ECO Secretariat staff recently

25. The CPR took note of the information on the events/meetings attended by the ECO Secretariat since 115<sup>th</sup> CPR meeting, provided by the Secretariat vide its note verbale No. SG/CPR/2006/1632 dated 1<sup>st</sup> October 2006. A revised updated information was also circulated during the 117<sup>th</sup> CPR meeting.

26. The Representative of Iran requested that the Secretariat should devise a mechanism to vigorously follow-up important projects such as ECOTA, TTFA, etc.

27. The Secretary General and Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran briefed the CPR about the preparations with regard to the 1<sup>st</sup> Ministerial Meeting of Interior scheduled to be held in Tehran on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2006, to be preceded by Senior Officials Meeting on 30-31 October 2006 and requested the member states, who had not yet been confirmed participation, to do so at the earliest so that the meeting should be convened on schedule.

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28. He further informed that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Finance had been scheduled for Ankara on 8-9 November 2006 and requested member states to confirm their participation as soon as possible.

29. The Representative of Iran briefed the meeting about the forthcoming Mayors' Conference scheduled for Tehran on 21-23 November 2006 and requested member states to confirm their participation at the earliest.

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

Any Other Business

##### **a. Appointment of Executive Director of ECI**

30. The CPR agreed, in principle, to appoint Mr. Orya Maqbool Abbasi (Pakistani National) as Executive Director of the ECO Cultural Institute, subject to the condition that if there were no reservations from the ECI member states by 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2006, the appointment of Mr. Abbasi would be considered as approved.

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

Date of the Next Meeting

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31. The CPR decided to hold its next (118<sup>th</sup>) meeting on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2006, at 10:00 hours, at the ECO Secretariat.

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