

The 118th CPR Meeting

Report

(ECO Secretariat, Tuesday, 14 November 2006)

No. CPR/118th/2006/03

Report of the 118th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representative (CPR) (ECO Secretariat – Tuesday, 14th November 2006)

1. The 118th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held at the ECO Secretariat on 14th November 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, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Turkey, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan as well as the ECO Secretary General along with the concerned staff of the Secretariat 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 for its 118th meeting:
1. Adoption of the Agenda
 2. Adoption of the Draft Report of the 117th CPR Meeting
 3. Preparations for the 17th RPC Meeting (to be held in January/February 2007)
 4. The ECO Secretariat's Budget for 2007
 5. Administrative Matters:
 - a. Appointments of Staff at the Secretariat
 - b. Appointment of DCCU Officer/Information Analyst
 6. Proposal for secondment of experts/researchers from member states for temporary assignment at the ECO Secretariat
 7. Designation of coordinating country for Feasibility Study of Inter-Connection of Power Systems of ECO Member States
 8. Nomination of a company for reactivation and supervision of ECO Trade and Investment Information Network
 9. Preparation for ECO Day
 10. Events/meetings attended by the ECO Secretariat staff recently
 11. Any Other Business
 12. Date of the Next Meeting

Agenda Item No. 2

Adoption of the Draft Report of the 117th CPR Meeting

3. The CPR adopted the Report of its 117th meeting, which was circulated to member states vide Secretariat's note verbale No. SG/CPR/2006/1704 dated 11th October 2006, with some amendments. The report thus adopted has since been circulated to member states vide Secretariat's note verbale No. SG/CPR/2006/1902 dated 16th November 2006.

Agenda Item No. 3

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

4. The Secretary General proposed the following two sets of dates for holding the 17th Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC):
 - i. 21-25 January 2007
 - ii. 18-22 February 2007
5. The CPR discussed the issue and agreed, in principle, to hold the said meeting on 18-22 February 2006, on non-hospitality basis, at the ECO Secretariat. However, Turkey will convey its consent.
6. The CPR requested the member states to formally confirm their participation in the 17th RPC meeting on the scheduled dates (18-22 February 2006) at the earliest possible so that the necessary arrangements could be made well in time.
7. Some member states raised the issue of financial constraints for participation in the 17th RPC meeting. The CPR discussed different options and requested the Secretariat to consider the possibility of utilizing Special Support Fund (SSF) for air tickets, with the maximum cost of US\$ 500 each, for two participants from each member state for the Preparatory Meetings of RPC.
8. Iran stated that it would consider the possibility of accommodating some participants at their Foreign Ministry guest houses on the discounted rates and would provide local hospitality such as transport, etc. During the meetings, the Secretariat would provide working lunches.

Agenda Item No. 4

ECO Secretariat's Budget for 2007

9. The CPR agreed, in principle, with the budget of the Secretariat for the year 2007 as revised/agreed during the Working Group meeting held on 22nd October 2006 which was circulated to member states via Secretariat's note No. ACC/2007-Draft Budget/2006/1794 dated 25th October 2006.
10. While conveying concurrence to the budget proposals, the Representative of Pakistan stated that he was awaiting a response to one sub-head "DCCU's Budget" from the concerned authorities of his country. He would hopefully convey it very soon.
11. Since some member states were still awaiting responses from their capitals, the CPR decided to defer the issue to its next meeting. Given the fact that the next meeting would be the last CPR meeting during the financial year 2006, member states were urged to formally approve the budget for the year 2007 in the next CPR meeting.

Agenda Item No. 5

Administrative Matters:

a. **Appointments of Staff at the Secretariat:**

12. The CPR deliberated on the recommendations of the Selection Panel and agreed as follows:

1. **Director (Trade & Investment) (D-2)**

Upon the request of Pakistan, the deadline for submission of nominations was extended till 30th November 2006 so that Pakistan could provide CVs of the present candidates and possibly send more nominations for the post.

The tenure of Mr. Naib Khan (Pakistani National), the present Director (Trade & Investment), was extended for two months i.e. till 12th February 2007.

2. Director (Energy, Mineral & Environment) (D-2)

While taking note of the nomination of Mr. Haji Melikov (Azeri National), replacing Dr. Salahuddin Ayyubov (Azeri National) who was earlier selected for that post by the Selection Panel/117th CPR meetings, the CPR requested the Government of Azerbaijan to submit more nominations against the post.

3. Legal Adviser (P-3)

The CPR took note of the following two candidates (Iranian Nationals) short-listed by the Selection Panel and requested the Secretary General to interview them and make final selection and appoint him as Legal Adviser (P-3), in replacement of Mr. As'ad Ardalan (Iranian National), for a term of four years, effective 1st December 2006, and inform the member states accordingly:

1. Mr. Sefa Taheri Shemirani
2. Mr. Bahram Heidari

4-7. Steno-Secretaries (Grade-2) (P-1) – Four Posts

- i. To appoint Mr. Amer Mahmood (Pakistani National) as Steno-Secretary (Grade-2) (P-1), replacing Mr. Asif Ali (Pakistani National), for a term of four years, effective 1st December 2006.
- ii. To appoint Mr. Muhammad Asif Ashraf (Pakistani National) as Steno-Secretary (Grade-2) (P-1), replacing Mr. Hafeez Ahmad Shah (Pakistani National), for a term of four years, effective 1st January 2007.

To extend the tenure of Mr. Hafeez Ahmad Shah, present Steno-Secretary, for one month i.e. till 31st December 2006.

- iii. To extend the tenure of Mr. Shir Aga Hamidi (Afghan National), present Steno-Secretary (Grade-2) (P-1) for one month i.e. till 31st December 2006 and, keeping in view the decision taken by the 116th CPR meeting, the Government of Afghanistan was requested to send more nominations against the above-mentioned post of Steno-Secretary.
- iv. To appoint Mr. Hooman Fathi (Iranian National) as Steno-Secretary (Grade-2) (P-1), (designated to work as Program Officer), replacing Mr. Mohammad Goharpay (Iranian National), for a term of four years, effective 4th January 2007.

8. Archivist/Librarian (P-1)

To appoint Mr. Mohammad Reza Sotoudeh (Iranian National) as Archivist/Librarian (P-1), replacing Mr. Asghar Hosseinzadeh (Iranian National), for a term of four years, effective 1st December 2006.

9. Accountant (P-3)

To extend the term of Mr. Assadollah Hooshmand, present Accountant, upto 30th April 2007.

Since there was some time till 30th April 2007, the CPR requested the Secretary General to interview the following two candidates (Iranian National) and make recommendations to the next Selection Panel/CPR meetings for appointment as Accountant (P-3):

1. Mr. Seyed Mohammad Bagher
2. Mr. Eisa Ansari Ramandi

Iran agreed with the request of the Secretary General that the selected Accountant be seconded to the Secretariat at least one month before his appointment while actually holding his present assignment in Iran. This would enable him to familiarize himself with accounting procedures and auditing process of the Secretariat.

10. **Protocol Assistant (P-2)**

To appoint Mr. Javed Aghazadeh (Iranian National) as Protocol Assistant (P-2), (designated to work as Program Officer), replacing Ms. Mojgan Golchin (Iranian National), for a term of four years, effective 1st January 2007.

11. **Program Officer for Trade (P-3)**

The CPR agreed to re-appoint Mr. Hasan Sahin (Turkish National) as Program Officer (P-3) conditionally that Turkey may consider sending more nominations for appointment against the above-mentioned post. The issue will be discussed in the Selection Panel if Turkey sends more nominations.

13. In addition, the CPR agreed with the recommendations of the Selection Panel that the issue of changing titles of the posts according to the present practice in the Secretariat, as proposed by some member states, may be reviewed by the CPR and approved by COM.

14. The Representative of Afghanistan raised the issue of Afghanistan's representation at the Secretariat. He was informed that the Secretariat had taken up the issue and was working on it.

b. **Appointment of DCCU Officer/Information Analyst**

15. The Secretary General informed the CPR that he had been in contact with both Turkey and Iran on the issue. The Turkish Ambassador expected a response from his capital. As soon as a reply was received from the Turkish Ambassador, he would take a decision considering the views of Turkey and Iran and inform the member states accordingly.

Agenda Item No. 6

Proposal for secondment of experts/researchers from member states for temporary assignment at the ECO Secretariat

16. The CPR deliberated the issue and approved, in principle, the proposal of the Secretariat on secondment of experts/researchers from member states for specific assignments at the Secretariat. The proposal was conveyed to member states vide Secretariat's note verbale No. PERS/Secondment/2006/1765 dated 19th October 2006. However, it was noted that the issue needed more homework. Although the Secretariat had offered to pay upto US\$ 1000 to the expert/researcher, the question of other expenses such as cost of accommodation, medical, insurance, local transport and airfares remained unanswered. During the meeting, some proposals were put forward by the representatives of member states.

17. The member states were requested to send their proposals, in writing, to the Secretariat so that a consolidated proposal could be prepared and presented to the member states along with modalities and other relevant documents for the consideration of the CPR.

18. The CPR agreed that this proposal be implemented for a period of one year on experimental basis and evaluated thereafter.

Agenda Item No. 7

Designation of coordinating country for Feasibility Study of Inter-Connection of Power Systems of ECO Member States

19. The Representative of Pakistan said that if his Embassy did not receive any response from Pakistan within a few days, it would gladly withdraw its offer in favour of Kyrgyzstan to be designated as coordinating country for feasibility study of inter-connection of power systems of ECO member states. The Representative of Iran stated that Iran would also support Kyrgyzstan.

20. Taking into consideration of the observations of the delegations, the CPR agreed that subject to the condition laid by Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan take the responsibility for the coordination of the project.

21. While expressing his appreciation to member states for supporting his country, the Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan said that he was still awaiting instructions from his capital.

22. In view of the above, the CPR decided to defer the issue to its next meeting.

Agenda Item No. 8

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

23. While adopting the agenda of its 118th meeting, it was noted that the Secretariat had responded to the query raised by Pakistan. A report on the issue was also presented to the CPR. Pakistan stated that the Report submitted by the Secretariat on the issue does not provide replies to the questions earlier raised by Pakistan delegation with the ECO Secretariat. Therefore, it was suggested that the agenda item be deferred till the Secretariat receives a presentation from the proposed company, M/s Raahbar Information Service Co.

24. The CPR observed that the technical and financial aspects of the project be ascertained. Also, the project should be completed with the minimum cost, utilizing the ECO Feasibility Fund.

25. In view of the foregoing, the CPR decided to defer the issue to its next meeting.

Agenda Item No. 9

Preparation for ECO Day

26. The CPR extended its greetings to the ECO family of states and the Staff of the Secretariat on the eve of ECO Day and concurred with the proposed program circulated to member states vide Secretariat's note verbale dated 3rd October 2006.

27. The Representative of Iran stated that in view of the importance of the event, Iran would be arranging a round-table conference under Eurasia Program at the Tehran University with the assistance of the ECO Secretariat and will invite academia, students of post-graduate level, press, representatives of foreign missions and Permanent Representatives of member states. There would be presentations by scholars, Iranian authorities and the ECO Secretariat about ECO's past performance and future role. The event would enable government and public personalities as well as the media to exchange views about ECO. Iran's representative requested active participation in this event.

28. The Representative of Pakistan informed that his Government had decided to issue a commemorative postage stamp on the eve of ECO Day. A request had been made to the Secretariat to provide a print of the postage stamp.

29. The Ambassador of Tajikistan proposed that all previous Secretaries General of ECO should be invited to the Reception to celebrate the ECO Day.
30. The Ambassador of Azerbaijan offered to invite a musical troupe from Azerbaijan to perform in Tehran on the eve of ECO Day. He requested other member states to participate in the event, if possible. He requested Iran to extend local hospitality including cost of accommodation, food and local transport. The Representative of Iran responded that Iran would consider providing three days stay for the troupe in Tehran. He would convey Iran's response after consulting the concerned department.
31. The Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan proposed that if some video material on ECO was available, it should be provided to member states for use by respective television channels to project ECO activities and efforts to achieve its goals and objectives.
32. The CPR urged member states to expedite sending messages from their Heads of State/Government and Foreign Ministers on ECO Day for publication in the special edition of the ECO Bulletin.
33. The Secretary General took note of the proposals/views expressed by the Honourable Ambassadors and Representatives of member states and said that invitations would be issued to former Secretaries General to attend the ECO Day Reception on 27th November, 2006, in Tehran. He further stated that material on ECO available at the Secretariat would be provided to member states for publicity.

Agenda Item No. 10

Events/meetings attended by the ECO Secretariat staff recently

34. The CPR took note of the information on the events/meetings attended by the ECO Secretariat recently, circulated vide Secretariat's note verbale No. SG/CPR/2006/1855 dated 7th November 2006.
35. The Secretary General expressed his sincere thanks to the Government of Afghanistan for arranging visit to Kabul and making a programme that included courtesy calls on Afghan dignitaries. However, he could not make the visit due to some technical reasons. A request had since been made to the Afghan authorities to kindly re-schedule the visit in the first week of January 2007.
36. The Representative of Pakistan asked for a feed-back on ECO-IDB-FAO Regional Workshop on Water Demand Management for Agriculture held in Islamabad on 5-11 November 2006 to know the decisions taken during the meeting which required follow-up. A report is being compiled and would be circulated shortly.
37. The Representative of Iran referred to Mayors' Conference scheduled for 21-23 November 2006 in Tehran and said that it had to postpone due to lack of quorum. The Municipality of Tehran would announce fresh dates (possibly during April 2007) for the said meeting.
38. The Secretary General informed the CPR that the quorum for 3rd Ministerial Meeting on Industry had been reached and thus the meeting would be held as scheduled on 30 November 2006 in Lahore, Pakistan. It will be preceded by High Level Experts Group Meeting on 28-29 November 2006. The CPR requested the remaining member states (Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) to confirm their participation. The CPR urged participation at Ministerial level for the success of the meeting.
39. The Representative of Iran stated that since the Experts Group Meeting on Transfer of Technology had been postponed due to lack of quorum, the issue of Transfer of Technology Centre would be discussed during the HLEG meeting (28-29 November, 2006) before the Industrial Ministers Meeting on 30th November. He requested member states to kindly include experts in their delegations so that fruitful deliberations could be held and relevant documents finalized.

Agenda Item No. 11

Any Other Business

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40. Under this agenda item, the following issues were raised:

- - i. The Representative of Iran stated that to strengthen the linkages of ECO with academia, some institutions had requested that their Post-Graduate Students (MA/Ph.D) be allowed to observe the proceedings of the CPR meeting at the ECO Secretariat. He stated that, if CPR agreed, the students would attend the next CPR meeting as observers for a short period. There was no objection from the delegations.
 - ii. During the meeting, the Ambassador of Azerbaijan raised the issue of one Azeri student who had not been officially admitted at the ECO College of Insurance despite the best efforts of the Ambassador with the College management. The Representative of Iran promised to render assistance in this regard and was sanguine that the matter would be amicably resolved soon.
- - iii. The CPR expressed appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Majid Safar, Deputy Director of ECO Affairs Bureau of Iranian MFA, for his excellent contribution in the ECO activities and wished him success in his new assignment in the Iranian Embassy in Tokyo. The Representative of Iran thanked the delegations for their kind words expressed for Mr. Safar.

Agenda Item No. 12

Date of the Next Meeting

41. The CPR decided to hold its next (119th) meeting on Wednesday, 6th December 2006, at 10:00 hours, at the ECO Secretariat.

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