

The 119th CPR Meeting

Report

(ECO Secretariat, Tuesday, 26 December 2006)

No. CPR/119th/04

Report of the 119th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representative (CPR) (ECO Secretariat – Tuesday, 26th December 2006)

1. The 119th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held at the ECO Secretariat on 26th December 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. The President of ECO Cultural Institute and the Dean of the College of Insurance & Management have also attended the meeting. (List of participants is attached as **Annex-I**).

2. Before starting the proceedings of the meeting, the CPR expressed its condolences to the Government and the people of Turkmenistan on the sad demise of His Excellency President Saparmurat Niyazov. The meeting also observed one minute silence to pay respect to the late Turkmen leader. The Chairman informed the meeting that he would be sending a formal condolence message, on behalf of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives, to Asghabat through Turkmen Embassy in Tehran. The text of the message is reproduced below:

“On behalf of the ECO Council of Permanent Representaives as well as on my own behalf, I wish to convey to the Government and the fraternal people of Turkmenistan sincere condolences on the sad demise of His Excellency President Saparmurat Niyazov. He was an historic figure who led Turkmenistan to progress and stability following its independence in 1991. The late President’s contributions in different fields of life in Turkmenistan as well as on the wider regional plane would be remembered for long. We stand by the brotherly people of Turkmenistan in this sad hour and fully share their grief. We pray to Allah, the Most Merciful, to rest the departed soul in eternal peace. May He also grant the people of Turkmenistan strength to bear his loss with equanimity.”

3. The Chairman welcomed a group of Iranian students (of post-graduate level) who were attending the CPR meeting to observe the working of this decision-making body of ECO. He expressed the hope that this interaction would promote better awareness of the ECO’s working and objectives among the academia.

Agenda Item No. 1

Adoption of the Agenda

4. The CPR adopted the following agenda for its 119th meeting:

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. ECI’s Budget for the year 2007
3. Statute of the ECO College of Insurance and Management
4. Adoption of the Draft Report of the 118th CPR Meeting
5. Preparations for the 17th RPC Meeting scheduled for 18-22 February 2007 at the ECO Secretariat, Tehran.
 - a. Confirmation of Participation
 - b. Draft Agenda

- c. Any Other Issue
- 6. Events/meetings attended by the ECO Secretariat staff recently
- 7. Designation of coordinating country for Feasibility Study of Inter Connection of Power Systems of ECO Member States
- 8. Implementation of TTFA and MMT
 - a. Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA)
 - b. Multimodal Transport and Trade Facilitation Project (MMT)
- 9. The ECO Secretariat's Budget for 2007
- 10. Administrative Matters:
 - a. Appointments of Staff at the Secretariat
 - b. Appointment of DCCU Officer/Information Analyst
- 11. Any Other Business
- 12. Date of the Next Meeting

Agenda Item No. 2

ECI's Budget for the year 2007

- 5. The CPR, on behalf of BOT, approved the budget of the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) for the year 2007, subject to the condition that Pakistan would convey its approval.
- 6. The President of the ECO Cultural Institute thanked the CPR for cooperation and requested their continued support for the future activities of ECI.

Agenda Item No. 3

Statute of the ECO College of Insurance and Management

- 7. The Dean of the ECO College of Insurance and Management briefed the meeting on the statute of the college. The CPR deliberated on the issue and requested that a meeting of the working group be convened to finalize the statute of the College at the earliest and submit the same to the CPR for consideration/endorsement, so it could be presented to the COM for final approval.

Agenda Item No. 4

Adoption of the Draft Report of the 118th CPR Meeting

- 8. The CPR adopted the Report of its 118th meeting, which was circulated to member states vide Secretariat's note verbale No. SG/CPR/2006/1918 dated 19 November 2006, with some amendments proposed by Pakistan. The report thus adopted has since been circulated to member states vide Secretariat's note verbale No. SG/CPR/2006/2135 dated 27th December 2006.

Agenda Item No. 5

Preparations for the 17th RPC Meeting scheduled for 18-22 February 2007 at the ECO Secretariat, Tehran.

a. Confirmation of Participation

- 9. While confirming the acceptance of the proposed dates (18-22 February 2007) for holding the 17th RPC Meeting at the ECO Secretariat, the CPR urged the member states to send their composition of delegations, at the earliest possible, enabling the Secretariat to make necessary arrangements well in time.

b. Draft Agenda

10. The CPR took note of the Draft Agenda of the 17th RPC meeting circulated to member states vide Secretariat's note verbale No. SG/17th RPC/2006/1905 dated 15 November 2006.

c. Reimbursement of the Cost of Air-Tickets

11. The CPR considered the issue and approved utilization of 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, in accordance with the modalities of SSF and other rules and regulations on the subject

d. Any Other Issue

12. No issue was discussed under this agenda item.

Agenda Item No. 6**Events/meetings attended by the ECO Secretariat staff recently**

13. The CPR took note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the events/meetings attended by the ECO Secretariat staff since last CPR meeting as well as the Secretary General's briefing with regard to the 3rd Ministerial Meeting on Industry and his courtesy visits to Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. The CPR appreciated the Secretary General's efforts to promote ECO's interests and objectives.

14. The CPR also appreciated the Secretariat for holding a large number of events/meetings in a short-span of time and based on the proposal of Iranian representative, decided in order to avoid holding many meetings at the last months of the year, the Secretariat while preparing the draft of calendar of Events for 2007-2008, may take necessary measures and consult all member states to:

- Make appropriate arrangement to hold the meetings throughout the year.
- Reach the quorum according to the schedule of Events and Meetings.
- Distribute hosting the meetings among all member states.

15. The CPR requested the Secretariat to expedite preparation and circulation of the report of meetings/events held.

Agenda Item No. 7**Designation of coordinating country for Inter-Connection of Power Systems of ECO Member States**

16. The CPR deliberated the issue and designated Pakistan as the coordinating country for inter-connection of power systems of ECO member states.

Agenda Item No. 8**Implementation of TTFA and MMT****a. Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA)**

17. The CPR was informed that Iran will be hosting the 1st Meeting of Insurance Committee of Transit Transport Coordination Council (TTCC) on 26-27 February 2007 in Tehran. Turkey informed that the Turkish authorities were ready to host the 1st Meeting of the Railway Committee in March 2007. Pakistan informed that Pakistani authorities had expressed their readiness to host the 1st Meeting of Legal Committee in March 2007. The Secretariat was requested to propose suitable dates for these two meetings. The Representative of Iran stated that since there were new year holidays in Iran, according to the Iranian calendar, these meetings should be planned accordingly and probably before 15th March 2007.

18. The Secretary General expressed thanks to the Governments of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey and stated that the Secretariat would shortly indicate suitable dates for the meetings of the Technical Committees, Legal and Railway. He further stated that the meetings of these committees would be crucial for carrying forward progress on TTFA.

19. The CPR requested the other member states, especially the Central Asian countries, to volunteer hosting the 1st Meeting of the Road Committee.

20. The CPR observed that once the meetings of Technical Committees (Legal, Insurance, Railway and Road) would be held, the 2nd Meeting of the TTCC would be held to approve the outcome of these meetings. For that purpose, the CPR requested the member states to volunteer for hosting the 2nd TTCC Meeting as well.

21. The CPR was informed that the member states had been requested to introduce their nominees for the Legal and Insurance Committees before the end of December 2006 and for Road and Railway Committees before the end of January 2007. The CPR requested the member states, who had not yet introduced their nominees, to do so at the earliest.

b. **Multimodal Transport and Trade Facilitation Project (MMT)**

22. The CPR requested those member states, who have not yet provided their Country Reports and also have not nominated their National Consultants, to do so at the earliest so that this project could be finalized in due time.

Agenda Item No. 9

The ECO Secretariat's Budget for 2007

23. As per Article 3.2 of the Financial Regulations of the ECO Secretariat, the CPR approved the budget of the Secretariat for the year 2007 subject to the final concurrence by Kazakhstan.

24. As per Article 7.2 and 7.3 of the Financial Regulations, the Secretary General was authorized to make payments against the current expenditures on the basis of the budget of 2006 until the formal approval of the budget for 2007.

25. The concerned Ambassadors will meet in a week's time in the ECO Secretariat to discuss the new proposal received from Kazakhstan with regard to their contribution to the budget of the Secretariat which would be presented to the next CPR meeting. The Secretary General, in consultation with the concerned Ambassadors, would fix a date for the meeting.

Agenda Item No. 10

Administrative Matters:

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

26. The CPR considered the recommendations of the Selection Panel and agreed as follows:

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

The issue was deferred to the next Selection Panel/CPR, enabling the Ambassador of Azerbaijan to interview Mr. Ali Khanbutayev. If he found it necessary, he would submit new nominations. However, if no selection could be made by the end of January 2007/next CPR meeting, the Secretariat would request other member states to forward their nominations for the post.

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

To appoint Mr. Waqar Ahmad Shah (Pakistani National) as Director (Trade & Investment), (D-2), replacing Mr. Naib Khan (Pakistani National), for a term of three years, with effect from 13th March 2007.

Furthermore, keeping in view the 17th RPC meeting scheduled for 18-22 February 2007, the tenure of Mr. Naib Khan, present Director (Trade & Investment), was extended for another month till 12th March 2007.

3. **Conference Services & Public Relations Assistant (P-2)**

The issue was deferred to the next Selection Panel/CPR meetings.

However, keeping in view the 17th RPC meeting scheduled for 18-22 February 2007, the tenure of the present incumbent Mr. Talantbek Kasymbekov (Kyrgyz National) was extended for three months from 4th February 2007 till 3rd May 2007.

4. **Social Secretary to the Secretary General (P-2)**

To appoint Mr. Mahmoud Goharpay (Iranian National), as Social Secretary to the Secretary General (P-2), effective 1st January 2007, for the remaining tenure of Mr. Mohammad Hassan Sheykhholeslami which will expire on 31st July 2010.

5. **Steno-Secretary (P-1)**

After reviewing nominations received from Afghanistan, it was decided to re-appoint Mr. Shir Aga Hamidi (Afghan National) as Steno-Secretary (P-1) for another term of four years, effective 1st December 2006.

Furthermore, the CPR requested the Afghan delegation to kindly provide qualified staff for the future nominations.

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

Since Turkey informed that they were not submitting additional nominations, it was decided to re-appoint Mr. Hasan Sahin (Turkish National) as Program Officer (P-3) for another term of four years, effective 4th January 2007.

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

27. The Secretary General briefed the meeting on the issue. He stated that both Iran and Turkey accepted his proposal that each country hold the post of DCCU Officer/Information Analyst for a period of two years. After four years, the post will be opened to other member states. He noted that the Secretariat was in urgent need of the

relevant staff. He expressed the hope that Iran and Turkey would decide bilaterally as to who should take the first two-year term.

28. However, while thanking the Secretary General for his efforts, both Iran and Turkey requested him to make further consultations with their Ambassadors to reach a final decision and inform other member states accordingly. It was agreed that the issue may be decided finally and not have to be discussed in the future CPR meetings. The CPR approved the above procedures.

Agenda Item No. 11

Any Other Business

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

29. The Representative of Iran raised the issue. After receiving the information from the Secretariat about the estimated cost of the project (around US\$ 20,000), he proposed that the Secretary General may be authorized to evaluate several local companies and select one of them for implementation of the project at a maximum cost of US\$ 20,000 from the ECO Feasibility Study Fund. The Representative of Pakistan stated that Iran send its proposal in writing to the Secretariat for further consideration by the member states.

Agenda Item No. 12

Date of the Next Meeting

30. The CPR decided to hold its next (120th) meeting on **Tuesday, 23rd January 2006, at 10:30 hours**, at the Secretariat.

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