

# The 18<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting

## Report

( Tehran – 24 February, 1998 )

No. CON/CPR-18/Rpt Dated: 05-04-1998

1. The Eighteenth Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held at the ECO Secretariat on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 1998. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. V.H. Gizzatov, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The Representatives of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan Republic, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey, Turkmenistan, Republic of Uzbekistan and the Secretary General of ECO attended the meeting. The list of participants is attached as Annex-I.

2. Before the Meeting started discussions on its Agenda, the Consultant of UNDP Mr. Ragaa Makharita briefed the CPR about the UNDP Project on the Capacity Building of ECO Secretariat.

3. The Council called upon the Member States to study the detailed Project Document which has been circulated by the Secretariat recently so that it can be considered in the next meeting of CPR and submitted for approval to the Council of Ministers Meeting.

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

#### Adoption of the Agenda

4. The Council agreed on the proposals of Turkey and Pakistan to include the issues regarding ECO Educational Institute and ECO Science Foundation in the Agenda Item No. 7 and adopted the Agenda as placed at Annex-II.

### **Agenda Item No. 2**

#### Adoption of the Report of the Seventeenth Meeting of the CPR.

5. The Council adopted the Report of its Seventeenth Meeting held on 19 January, 1998. The adopted Report has been circulated separately vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No. CON/CPR/17/98 dated 24 February 1998.

### **Agenda Item No.3**

#### Consideration and approval for the recruitment of ECO Staff in Category-II

6. Secretary General briefed the Council on the recommendations made by the Panel for selection of two Programme Officers, one Research Officer and one Database Officer as follows:

- i) Dr. Umurzakov Kubat from Kyrgyz Republic and Mr. Fazli Sak from Turkey for the posts of Programme Officer.
- ii) Mr. Mohammad Ali Kabir from Iran for the post of Research Officer.
- iii) Mr. Saeed Ahmad from Pakistan for the post of Database Officer.

7. The appointment of officers mentioned at serial Nos. 6(i) and 6(ii) above was approved by the CPR. However, it was agreed to take [mal decision about the appointment of the Data Base Officer from Pakistan at the next meeting of the CPR. Meanwhile, the Government of Pakistan would either confirm the nomination of Mr. Saeed Ahmad or present another and better candidate.

8. The Council noted with regret that the Secretariat did not receive any nominees for the above mentioned posts from the Member States namely, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, who are not represented or are inadequately represented in the Secretariat.

#### **Agenda Item No.4**

Consideration of the UNDCP Project Document for ECO Drug Control Programme and confirmation of the Authorization to the Secretary General to sign the said Document

9. The Council renewed the authorization already given to Secretary General to sign the Project Document of UNDCP for ECO Drug Control Coordination Unit. The Secretary General will sign the Project Document during his forthcoming visit to Vienna.

10. The Permanent Representative of Pakistan emphasized that the recruitment of one expert for one month, one programme officer and one trilingual translator for one year will be at the expense of UNDCP and during one year period no other staff will be provided by the Secretariat. He stressed that the DCCU should remain under the control and supervision of Assistant Director (Coordination) within the existing organizational structure of the Secretariat. He also stated that the whole matter concerning the future of DCCU and the one programme officer and one translator will be reviewed by CPR at the end of the Project implementation period for appropriate decision.

11. The Secretary General stated that the views expressed by Permanent Representative of Pakistan as mentioned in para 10 will be taken into account and he will write to the Executive Director of UNDCP, informing him that ECO Secretariat will not be able to assign any regular staff to the Drug Control Coordination Unit during the current year due to budgetary constraints. The issue will be reconsidered at the beginning of the next year.

#### **Agenda Item No.5**

Preparations for the 8th Meeting of the Regional Planning (RPC) to be held in Tehran in April 1998.

12. The Council reviewed the preparations for the Eighth Meeting of RPC and agreed on the following:

- a) to consider the revised Calendar of Events and Work Programme of ECO Secretariat for 1998-99 at the next Meeting of CPR.
- b) to hold consultations between the representatives of the relevant departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and ECO Secretariat to make the necessary arrangements for the review/preparatory meetings.

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

Consideration of the Documents on the Modalities. Scope and Procedures for granting Observer / Dialogue Partnership Status in ECO.

13. The Council decided to defer the consideration of this item to its next meeting.

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

Consideration and Finalization of the Documents of ECO Cultural Institute. the Charter of ECO Educational Institute and the matters related to ECO Science Foundation.

14. The Council welcomed the progress made in this regard by the Group of representatives of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey and deferred the whole matter for its next meeting. Meanwhile, the Council requested the Iranian delegation to submit the outcome of the trilateral meeting to the Secretariat for circulation among the Member States before the next meeting of the CPR.

### **Agenda Item No.8**

#### Consideration of the Modalities of ECO Awards.

15. The Council favourably considered the Modalities of ECO Awards as prepared by the Committee in its meeting held on 25-26 November, 1997 and recommended to submit it to COM for approval. The Council agreed to incorporate the editorial amendment regarding Section 'E' of the Report of the Meeting of the Committee as suggested by the Permanent Representative of Pakistan.

16. With regard to various ECO specialized agencies such as ECO Cultural Institute, ECO Science Foundation and ECO Educational Institute it was agreed that each of those institutions may separately arrange awards in their own fields.

### **Agenda Item No.9**

#### Reconsideration of the draft Agenda of the 2nd Transport Ministerial Meeting.

17. After lengthy discussion, the Council agreed to delete the proposed Item No. 8 (Consideration of Draft Transit Transport Framework Agreement prepared with UNCTAD Technical Assistance) from the draft Agenda. However, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan stated that according to ECO Rules of Procedure, Para 19, Chapter III, Agenda " .... any Member State may propose the inclusion of any new agenda item before the adoption of the final agenda in the meeting". Along with that Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan said that any Member State has the right to raise at the meetings any issues which it considers vital and very important for the country.

18. It was agreed to include in the draft Agenda the Item No.9 (Establishment of Permanent Commission on Transport and Communications, in pursuance of para-16 of Ashgabat Declaration adopted at the Extraordinary Summit Meeting held in 1997) as proposed by the Secretariat. The revised Draft Agenda approved by the Council is placed at Annex-III.

19. The Council approved the following international organizations to be invited to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ministerial meeting of Transport:

UNDP, UNCTAD, UNESCAP, UNECE, IDB, International Road Traffic Organization! International Union of Railways (UIC), International Railways Cooperation Organization (OSJD), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

20. The Secretary General urged the Permanent Representatives to take necessary action for expeditious communication of the composition of their respective delegations along with their flight schedules.

21. The Representative of Turkey expressed that with regard to the inclusion of Item No. 9 into the draft Agenda, they will convey their views later.

### **Agenda Item No. 10**

#### Recent developments concerning the External Relations of ECO.

22. The Secretary General informed the Council

- a. on the latest developments regarding the cooperative relations of ECO With UNCTAD, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC);
- b. about his meeting with the representative of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, last November;

- c. and his meeting with the Deputy Foreign Minister of Ukraine last December;
- d. the letter he addressed to Asian Development Bank in Manila to establish formal relations between ECO and the Bank,
- e. on the invitation of the Asian Clearing Union to participate in the meeting of their Board of Directors to be held in May, 1998 in Karachi.

23. The Council expressed its appreciation for the efforts made by Secretary General to expand relations with other regional and international organizations.

24. The Representative of Turkey stated that being motivated mainly by political considerations, GCC is not considered as a suitable partner for ECO at this stage. On the other hand, the Secretariat was requested to prepare and circulate an informative paper on the SADC.

25. The Permanent Representative of Pakistan proposed to delete the second sentence of the second para of the "Note on Proposed Cooperation between ECO and UNCTAD" which has been circulated by the Secretariat. This was agreed to by CPR.

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

#### Any other Business.

##### The Budget of the Secretariat for 1998:

26. In accordance with the para 3.2 of the ECO Financial Regulations, the CPR finally approved the Budget of the Secretariat for the year 1998 on behalf of the Council of Ministers.

##### Audio System for the Conference Hall:

17. The Secretary General briefed the Council about his contacts with different companies for the purchase of audio system for the Conference Hall of the Secretariat. The offer from a Japanese company is being awaited. In order to evaluate all the offers and decide on one offer the issue has been postponed to next meeting of the CPR.

##### Draft Almaty Declaration

28. The draft Almaty Declaration as prepared by the High-Level Experts Group has been circulated among the Member States vide Secretariat's Note Verbale No.CON/Suy/802948 dated 16 February, 1998. The Council decided to take up and finalize the said draft Declaration in its next Meeting.

##### Programme of the Senior Officials, COM and Summit Meetings:

29. The Secretariat circulated to Member States the dates proposed (10-12 May, 1998) by the Government of Kazakhstan for holding the Summit Meeting. No objection has been received by the Secretariat so far. Meanwhile, a tentative programme covering the Senior Officials, Council of Ministers and Summit Meetings has been proposed to the host authorities by the Secretariat.

30. The whole issue will be taken up at the next meeting of the CPR.

**Agenda Item No. 12**

Date of Next Meeting

31. The Council agreed to hold its Nineteenth Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 1998 at 0930 hours at the Secretariat.

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