

# The 24<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting

## Report

(Tehran – 30 August, 1998)

Adopted. No. CON/CPR-24/98/Rpt(A) Dated: 23-09-1998

1. The Twenty-fourth Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held in the ECO Secretariat on 30 August, 1998. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Vyacheslav Gizzatov, Ambassador 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 placed at [Annex-I](#).

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

#### Adoption of the Agenda.

2. The draft Agenda proposed by the Secretariat was adopted with some modifications. The adopted Agenda is placed at [Annex-II](#).

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

#### Adoption of the Report of the Twenty-third Meeting of CPR.

3. The Report of the Twenty-third Meeting of CPR was adopted as prepared by the Secretariat. The text of the Report has been circulated vide Secretariat's Note No.CON/CPR-23/98-RPT(A) dated 31 August, 1998.

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

#### Consideration of the date and venue of the 3rd HLEG Meeting to finalize the Annexures of the Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA).

4. The Council decided that the 3rd HLEG Meeting to finalize the Annexures of the Transit Transport Framework Agreement will be held in the Secretariat on 27-30 September, 1998.

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

#### Consideration of the programme and dates of 9th RPC Meeting to be held in Turkey.

5. The Representative of the Republic of Turkey informed the CPR Meeting that the Government of the Republic of Turkey had agreed to host both the Preparatory and Review Meetings of the 9th RPC on 19-20 February, 1998 and the 9th RPC Meeting itself on 22-23 February 1999 in Istanbul and to extend local hospitality up to 5 delegates from each Member State and to an adequate number of officials from the ECO Secretariat.

6. The CPR expressed its gratitude to the Republic of Turkey for their kind gesture.

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

#### Kazakhstan's proposal to amend Article 36 of the ECO Rules of Procedure.

7. The Republic of Kazakhstan proposed to introduce an amendment in Article 18, Chapter III of the Rules of Procedure instead of Article 36 of the said document by adding a sentence which read as follows: "Any new agenda item, proposed by any Member State, will be adopted by the simple majority of total membership of ECO".

8. Since it was a new proposal, the Council requested the Republic of Kazakhstan to send the proposal in written form to the Secretariat for circulation among Member States and for putting it on the agenda of the next Meeting of CPR.

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

Kazakh proposal on the establishment of a Working Group on the level of Deputy Permanent Representatives to assist the CPR in the disposal of its business.

9. The CPR discussed the above proposal and observed that it required more deeper examination. In this regard, the Council requested the Secretariat to study the matter in detail and submit its recommendations to one of next meetings of CPR for consideration.

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

Administrative Matters:

##### a) Adoption of the Report of the ECO Audit Board.

10. The CPR adopted the report for the year 1997 of the ECO Audit Board which met at the Secretariat on 27-29 July, 1998.

11. However, the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan recalled that in accordance with the decision of the 13th Meeting of CPR the Auditors were supposed to present their Report directly to CPR.

12. The CPR advised the Secretariat to devise a procedure, in consultation with the Audit Board to find a practical way to implement the decision of the 13th CPR Meeting beginning from next year.

##### b) Disposal of Unserviceable items.

13. In compliance with Article 15.2 of the Financial Regulations and as recommended in para 5 of the Report of ECO Audit Board for 1997, the CPR authorized the Secretary General to liquidate the unserviceable items in the Secretariat by open auction.

##### c) Secretariat's proposal on the recruitment of "Assistants to Officers" in the Secretariat.

14. The CPR agreed on the proposal of the Secretariat to recruit "Assistants to Officers" and to modify the Annex-I and II of the ECO Staff Regulations by adding three such posts.

15. The CPR also recommended that the matter shall be submitted to the Informal Meeting of COM to be held in New York to enable the Secretariat to make the required allocation in its budget for 1999. Afterwards the approval of the COM will be obtained during its next meeting.

##### d) Proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran to replace Mr. Mohammad Jayad Tarokh nominated for the post of Research Officer by Mr. Behzad Alipour Tehrani.

16. The CPR decided to refer the matter to the Selection Panel scheduled to meet on 1st September, 1998. If recommended by the Panel, the proposal will be submitted to CPR for approval.

## **Agenda Item No. 8**

### Recent Developments concerning External Relations of ECO:

#### a) Consideration of the draft MOU between ECO and UNCTAD.

17. The CPR in principle approved the proposed signing of an MOU with UNCTAD and called upon the Member States to convey their views if any on the draft MOU to the Secretariat expeditiously so the Secretariat may submit the final draft to the next meeting of CPR for consideration.

#### b) ECO Energy Projects to be financed by World Bank.

18. The CPR authorized the Secretary General to hold talks with World Bank's officials within the framework of the Note circulated by the Secretariat. However, the CPR desired that the projects to be supported by the Bank shall be submitted to the Council for consideration on case by case basis. If required the Secretariat may ask assistance of the Bank for international consultancy for the projects.

#### c) ECO Secretariat's participation in the annual Meetings of the Board of Governors of World Bank/IMP in Washington as observer.

19. The CPR agreed on the participation of the ECO Secretariat in the annual meetings of the Board of Governors of World Bank/IMF in Washington as observer.

#### d) ECO Study Mission to the ASEAN Secretariat.

20. The CPR appreciated the report submitted by the ECO Study Mission on its visit to the ASEAN Secretariat and asked the ECO Secretariat to prepare a study paper analyzing various aspects to establish ECO Free Trade Area (ECO-FTA) on the pattern of the similar experience of other regional organizations, including ASEAN- AFT A and submit the study to CPR, within three months, for consideration.

#### e) Pakistan's proposal to form a Working Group of ECO Ambassadors at various International Fora where International economic issues are discussed.

21. Pakistan proposed that in order to encourage cooperation among ECO Member States on International Economic issues and to give ECO a higher profile in world fora, the ECO Ambassadors at various International fora where the international economic issues are discussed may form a group of ECO Ambassadors.

22. The CPR, while welcoming Pakistan's proposal, decided to study it after consulting the respective capitals and to take decision on it in its meeting to be held in October, 1998.

## **Agenda Item No. 9**

Any other businessa) Reply to the letter of President of Tatarstan.

23. The CPR agreed on the draft letter to be sent by ECO Secretary General to the President of Tatarstan, with addition of one sentence as proposed by the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan.

b) Proposal of ECO-CCI regarding the issuance of multiple entry visas to Executive/National Committee and Staff Members of ECO-CCI.

24. It was decided to defer this item to the next CPR meeting.

c) Invitation of IDB's representative to the 2nd SETG on Power.

25. The CPR accepted the proposal and authorized the Secretariat to invite representatives from IDB to participate in the subject meeting.

d) Proposals by the private sector to establish contacts with the ECO Secretariat in the fields of Energy Minerals and Environment Industries.

26. The CPR took note of the Secretariat's paper and exchanged views on the role of the private sector in the field of energy, without reaching any conclusion.

e) Environmental Issues.

27. It was decided to defer this item to the next CPR meeting.

f) Workshop on Small and Medium Size Enterprises.

28. As proposed by the Secretary General, the CPR agreed to invite ESCAP and UNIDO to the said Workshop to be held on 23-25 November, 1998 in Istanbul, Turkey.

g) Authorization of Secretary General to initiate contacts with IFAD.

29. The CPR authorized the Secretary General to initiate contacts with IFAD to institutionalize the cooperative relationship between the two organizations during his visit to Rome in September, 1998.

h) ECO-ASEAN International Trade Workshop

30. As requested by the organizers of the Workshop, the CPR authorized the Secretariat to pay \$40 for each Mission of the Member States who will participate in the Workshop to be held in New York on 1st October, 1998.

**Agenda Item No. 10**

Date of Next Meeting.

31. The Council decided to hold its 25th Meeting on Wednesday, 23rd September, 1998, at 0930 hours at the Secretariat.

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