

The 85th CPR Meeting

Report

(Tehran, January 18, 2004)

CPR/85th/2004/4

The 85th meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held at the ECO Secretariat on January 18, 2004, under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Medet Sadyrkulov, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic. The Permanent Representatives/Representatives of the Transitional Islamic State 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 ECO staff attended the meeting. The list of participants is placed at **Annex-I**.

2. After opening the meeting, the Chairman CPR welcomed H.E. Mr. Askhat Orazbay on assumption of office as the new ECO Secretary General. He assured the new Secretary General of his full support and cooperation to achieving the goals and objectives of the Organization. He wished him best of luck and success in his new career.

3. The member states also expressed felicitation to the new Secretary General on taking this new assignment. They hoped that during the tenure of H.E. Mr. Askhat Orazbay every possible effort will be made to strengthen relations among the ECO member states moving forward for sustainable development of the region. They assured to the new Secretary General of their cooperation in discharge of his duties.

4. In response, the new Secretary General thanked the member states and the Chairman for their valuable comments and commitment for support to him in carrying out his assignment. He also assured the member states that he would leave no stone unturned to making this Organization more efficient and more effective.

5. Furthermore, since the distinguished Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan H.E. Ambassador Mr. Tulegen Zhukeyev and the distinguished Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey H.E. Ambassador Mr. Selahattin Alpar are completing their assignments and going back to their capitals before the next CPR, the member states and the Chairman CPR paid gratitude to them for their invaluable contributions to the CPR proceedings. They admired for their diplomatic experience and said that they would be an asset to the Organizations wherever they are deputed. The member states and the Chairman wished them success in their future career.

6. Afterwards, the distinguished Representatives of Kazakhstan and Turkey responded to the compliments offered by the Chairman and the member states and wished that after their departure the Organization would continue progressing towards achievement of its goals and objectives. They thanked the Chairman, the member states and the Secretariat staff for cooperation extended to them during their tenure in Tehran.

Agenda Item No. 1**Adoption of the Agenda.**

7. CPR adopted the following agenda for its 85th meeting:
1. Adoption of the agenda.
 2. Adoption of the draft report of the 84th meeting of CPR.
 3. Preparation for 1st ECO Ministerial meeting on finance/economy to be held in Pakistan on January 29 - 30, 2004:
 - a) *Draft agenda.*
 - b) *Draft Islamabad Communiqué.*
 - c) *Confirmation of member states for participation.*
 4. Preparation for 1st ECO Ministerial meeting on Industry scheduled to be held in Tehran on January 25-27, 2004:
 - a) *Draft agenda.*
 - b) *Confirmation of member states for participation.*
 - c) *Draft Tehran Communiqué.*
 - d) *Provision of country reports to the Secretariat on industrial development strategies, programmes/projects along with their needs, potentials and proposals for regional cooperation in the field of industry.*
 5. Preparation for the 14th COM and 8th Summit meetings.
 6. Post 14th meeting of the Regional Planning Council evaluation and consideration of list of ECO events/meetings to be supported by Special Support Fund (SSF).
 7. Eminent Persons Group (EPG) – Report of the first meeting.
 8. Approval of ToRs of two pre-feasibility consultancies in connection with reconstruction of Afghanistan.
 9. ECO Awards – 2004.
 10. Follow-up of the implementation of the decisions of 13th COM and 7th Summit meetings.
 11. Status of mandatory contributions of the member states to the Secretariat budget.
 12. Briefing on meetings participated by ECO staff recently.
 13. Administrative matters.
 - i) *Appointment for the post of Assistant Director (Coordination Unit).*
 14. Any other business.
 - a) *Information about the implementation of the project “Feasibility Study on Interconnection of ECO countries Power Systems”.*
 - b) *Status of the establishment of ECO Science Foundation.*
 - c) *ECI’s 3-years plan for CPR’s approval.*
 - d) *Call of ECO Deputy Secretaries General on the Kyrgyz President during his visit to Tehran.*
 15. Date of the next meeting.

Agenda Item No.2**Adoption of the draft report of the 84th meeting of CPR.**

8. CPR adopted the report of its 84th meeting as circulated by the ECO Secretariat vide note verbale No.SG/CPR/2003/2198 dated December 29, 2003 without any amendment. The adopted report was circulated among the member states vide Secretariat’s note

No.SG/CPR/2004/0094 dated January 19, 2004.

Agenda Item No.3

Preparation for 1st ECO Ministerial meeting on finance/economy to be held in Pakistan on January 29 - 30, 2004:

- a) *Draft agenda.*
- b) *Draft Islamabad Communiqué.*
- c) *Confirmation of member states for participation.*

9. CPR approved the revised draft agenda of the First meeting of ECO Ministers of Finance/Economy circulated by the Secretariat on January 13, 2004.

10. The Secretariat informed CPR that the draft Islamabad Joint Communiqué to be adopted by the meeting will be taken up by the Senior Officials Meeting. CPR asked the Secretariat to circulate the same among the member states in due course and requested the member states to send their views to the Secretariat for inclusion in the Communiqué.

11. The Council requested the member states to send their views/comments on the Draft Islamabad Communiqué which will be first considered by the Senior Officials Meeting and then the Ministerial meeting would adopt it.

12. The Council urged the member states to expedite the process of sending confirmation for their participation in the meeting to the Secretariat as quickly as possible. In this regard, CPR agreed that confirmations should be sent to the Secretariat latest by January 21, 2004 (Wednesday).

13. The Permanent Representative of Pakistan informed CPR that the Government of Pakistan would extend local hospitality to each ECO Finance/Economy Minister (leader of the delegation) and four members of his delegation from January 28, 2004 to February 1, 2004.

14. CPR requested the host authorities to convey a detailed information note on the meeting arrangements etc. to the Secretariat for circulation among the member states.

Agenda Item No.4

Preparation for 1st ECO Ministerial meeting on Industry scheduled to be held in Tehran on January 25-27, 2004:

- a) *Draft agenda.*
- b) *Confirmation of member states for participation.*
- c) *Provision of country reports to the Secretariat on industrial development strategies, programmes/projects along with their needs, potentials and proposals for regional cooperation in the field of industry.*

15. CPR approved the agenda of the meeting as circulated by the Secretariat.

16. CPR was informed that so far, six member states including Iran being the host (Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey) had confirmed their participation in the meeting. The Council also urged the remaining member states to confirm their participation in the meeting as soon as possible.

17. The Secretariat informed CPR that the draft Tehran Declaration/Communiqué and the Plan of Action to be adopted by the meeting will be taken up by the Senior Officials meeting and the Secretariat will circulate the same among the member states in due course. CPR requested the member states to send their views to the Secretariat for inclusion in the Communiqué.

18. The Secretariat also informed the Council that since the quorum had been reached the meeting would be held as scheduled. On the other hand, CPR requested the member states who have not yet confirmed their participation in the meeting to do so as early as possible.

19. CPR also urged those member states who have not sent their country reports to the Secretariat to do so at the earliest.

Agenda Item No.5

Preparation for the 14th COM and 8th Summit meetings.

20. The Permanent Representative of Tajikistan informed CPR that his Government decided to host the 8th Summit on September 18, 2004, which will be preceded by 14th COM. CPR requested the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to convey to his Government to reconsider the decision of holding the Summit on September 18 as some of the Heads of States may be attending the annual UN General Assembly Session in the 2nd half of September.

Agenda Item No.6

Post 14th meeting of the Regional Planning Council evaluation and consideration of list of ECO events/meetings to be supported by Special Support Fund (SSF).

21. The 14th RPC meeting was hosted by the Republic of Turkey on December 4 – 6, 2003 in Istanbul. The member states expressed their views on the subject event and praised the Government of the Republic of Turkey for making excellent arrangements for the meeting.

22. CPR discussed the revised list of ECO events/meetings to benefit from Special Support Fund (SSF) in 2004 as circulated by the Secretariat during the meeting and decided to defer the approval of the list to its next meeting as some member states were still awaiting instructions from their respective capitals. Moreover, CPR asked the Secretariat circulate another revised version of the list among the member states taking into account the proposals made by the meeting.

Agenda Item No.7

Eminent Persons Group (EPG) – Report of the first meeting.

23. The Secretary General informed CPR that the First meeting of the Eminent Persons Group (EPG), set up in accordance with the decision taken at the 13th meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM), was held at the ECO Secretariat, Tehran, on January 13-15, 2004. The Eminent Persons (EPs), H.E. Ambassador Bagher Asadi (I.R. Iran), H.E. Mr. Turar K. Koichuev (Kyrgyzstan), H.E. Ambassador Javid Husain (Pakistan) and H.E. Ambassador (Retd) Önder Özar (Turkey) and the ECO Secretary General H.E. Mr. Askhat Orazbay participated in the meeting.

24. He stated that the EPs discussed substantive and procedural issues and requested the Secretariat to prepare a number of short analytical papers giving concise background information along with its views on the achievements/failures as well as clear

recommendations. The papers would be prepared and made available to the EPs well before the next meeting.

25. The general view of the CPR was that the EPG should mainly give its recommendations on the following issues:

- i. Taking note of the global trends in the world and the fields of activities of other international organizations.
- ii. Seeing if the work undertaken by ECO is compatible with these global trends.
- iii. Recommending new fields of activities to be taken up in the ECO, if necessary.
- iv. Setting up new priorities among these activities.
- v. Evaluating if the present organigram and the staff of ECO can cope with these activities and new priorities and therefore make suggestions for a more comprehensive and professional requirements of the Secretariat.

26. Some member states, that prima facie did not agree with the above proposal reserved their opinion on the subject till the receipt of views from their capitals.

27. The CPR was of the view that the EPG should complete its work and finalize its recommendations two months prior to the 14th COM meeting in order to give time to the member states to review these recommendations and assess the need for the Group's continuation.

28. While majority of the member states opined that the EPG should submit its recommendations to the CPR for review before being finally submitted to the COM for approval, some member states informed they would require views from their capitals on the issue of submission of the EPG report to the CPR.

Agenda Item No.8

Approval of ToRs of two pre-feasibility consultancies in connection with reconstruction of Afghanistan.

29. CPR approved that the following two pre-feasibility studies totally amounting to around US \$ 24,000/- in connection with reconstruction of Afghanistan to be carried out by ECO-CEC to be financed by the ECO Feasibility Fund:

- i) Rehabilitation/Construction of Nawar bridge of Hesarak in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan - approximate cost US \$ 7,270/-
- ii) Electrical Distribution Network of Pol-I-Alam Centre of Loger Province, Afghanistan – approximate cost US \$ 16,000/-

Agenda Item No.9

ECO Awards – 2004.

30. As per ECO Awards Modalities, biennial ECO Awards distribution ceremony would be held on the sidelines of the next ECO Summit in Dushanbe in 2004. CPR agreed on February 15, 2004, as the last date for submission of nominations by the member states for ECO Awards and its Selection Committee.

31. CPR decided that the meeting of the Selection Committee would be held on March 1, 2004.

32. CPR urged the remaining member states to expedite nominations for the Awards and the Selection Committee and requested the member states to actively participate in the Selection Committee meeting.

Agenda Item No.10

Follow-up of the implementation of the decisions of 13th COM and 7th Summit meetings.

33. CPR appreciated the preparation of follow up report circulated by the Secretariat vide note No.PR/13th COM/2003/2100 dated December 14, 2003. CPR asked the Secretariat to update the report and circulate it among the member states before its next meeting.

Agenda Item No.11

Status of mandatory contributions of the member states to the Secretariat budget.

34. CPR was informed that the Secretariat vide its note verbale No.ACC/BUD/CONTR/2004/0026 dated January 7, 2004, circulated the UN Scale of Assessment and the contribution of each member state for 2004. CPR urged the member states to pay their outstanding contributions for the budget 2004 and requested those who have not paid their contributions for previous years to do so at the earliest.

35. Regarding the controversial contribution of Azerbaijan for the previous years, CPR asked the Secretary General and the concerned member state to finalize the issue before the next CPR meeting and inform CPR about the outcome of their meeting.

Agenda Item No.12

Briefing on meetings participated by ECO staff recently.

36. CPR appreciated the Secretariat's information on the ECO as well as non-ECO events/meetings recently held and participated by the relevant ECO staff in 2003.

Agenda Item No.13

Administrative matters.

i) *Appointment for the post of Assistant Director (Coordination Unit).*

37. CPR agreed to extend the term of Dr. Rizwan Ahmed, present incumbent of the aforesaid post upto March 27, 2004.

Agenda Item No.14

Any other business.

a) *Information about the implementation of the project "Feasibility Study on Interconnection of ECO countries Power Systems".*

38. The Secretariat circulated a note explaining the delay about late circulation of letter received from the Islamic Development Bank dated October 28, 2003. In this regard, CPR asked the Secretariat to take necessary measures to avoid such delay in future.

39. During the meeting, the Secretariat circulated a copy of the letter received from IDB dated January 17, 2004, about the Bank's response to the Secretariat's request for selection of a winner by the Bank itself.

40. With regard to the aforesaid respond of IDB, CPR decided that the Secretariat should send a letter again to IDB and asked the Secretariat to circulate the draft among the member states for their concurrence before sending it to IDB.

b) Status of the establishment of ECO Science Foundation.

41. CPR agreed with the recommendations of the Secretariat and the text of the Charter and Basic Documents of ECO Science Foundation and ECO Cultural Institute prepared by Secretariat and urged the member states to confirm their participation in the first meeting of the BOT meeting of the Science Foundation to be held in Islamabad.

c) ECI's budget for 2004 and its 3-year plan for CPR's approval.

42. Since the concerned member states were awaiting instructions from their respective capitals, this issue was deferred to next CPR meeting.

d) Call of ECO Deputy Secretaries General on the Kyrgyz President during his visit to Tehran.

43. The Chairman informed CPR that at his presence, the ECO Deputy Secretaries General Mr. Orhan Isik and Dr. Sohrab Shahabi called on the President of the Kyrgyz Republic H.E. Mr. A. Akaev during his official visit to Iran on December 21, 2003. He informed further that the two DSGs briefed the President about the recent activities of ECO i.e. 14th RPC meeting, the project on interconnection of ECO power systems, ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) etc. The Kyrgyz President while thanked the DSGs assured his fullest cooperation to ECO during the short call on.

Agenda Item No.15

Date of the next meeting.

44. CPR decided to hold its next meeting at **14:30 hours** on Tuesday, **February 24, 2004.**

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