

The 88th CPR Meeting

Report

(*Tehran – June 06, 2004*)

_No. CPR/88th/2004/4 August 02, 2004

The 88th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held at the ECO Secretariat on June 06, 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 at ***Annex-I***.

2. The CPR congratulated H.E. Mr. Sabit Tairov on his appointment as the Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Tehran and welcomed him for his first presence in the meeting of CPR and wished him success during his tenure.

Agenda Item No. 1

Adoption of the Agenda.

3. CPR adopted the following agenda for its 88th meeting:

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Adoption of the draft report of the 87th meeting of CPR.
3. Preparation for the 14th COM and 8th Summit:
 - a) Draft agenda for SOM, 14th COM and 8th Summit
 - b) Confirmation for participation
 - c) List of international organizations to be invited to the Summit
 - d) Work Programme of ECO Secretariat for 2004
 - e) Follow-up of the implementation of decisions of other ministerial meetings
 - f) Information on arrangements and hospitality from Tajik authorities (host)
4. ECO Awards 2004
5. Audit Report for Secretariat's budget for 2003
6. Cost of mission for the two feasibility studies for reconstruction of Afghanistan
7. ECO Special Fund for projects of reconstruction in Afghanistan.
8. Modalities of utilization of Special Support Fund (SSF) of the Budget
9. ECO Events/Meetings:
 - a) Briefing on the meetings attended by ECO staff recently
 - b) Forthcoming ECO events
10. Status of monetary contribution by the member states to the Secretariat's budget.
11. Report of the Audit Board for the budget of the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) for the year 2003 and ECI's 3-Year Plan.
12. Financing a Consultancy from the ECO Feasibility Fund for preparation an ECO Business Plan for establishment of the ECO Trade and Development Bank.
13. Administrative matters
 - i) Appointment for the post of Director Economic Research & Statistics
 - ii) Appointment for the post of Assistant Director/Chef de Cabinet
14. Any other business

- a) Proposed List of ECO Events/Meetings to be supported by ECO Special Support Fund (SSF) in 2004.
- b) Process of holding the 2nd ECO Regional Trade & Investment Conference on April 18-19, 2004 in Kabul, Afghanistan

15. Date of the next meeting.

Agenda Item No. 2

Adoption of the draft report of the 87th meeting of CPR

4. The CPR adopted the report of its 87th meeting which was circulated by the ECO Secretariat vide its note verbal No. SG/CPR/2004/0708 dated May 01, 2004, with some amendments proposed by Turkey and Pakistan. The Secretariat has circulated the adopted report vide its note verbal No. SG/CPR/2004/1061 dated June 07, 2004.

Agenda Item No. 3

Preparation for the 14th COM and 8th Summit

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a) *Draft Agenda for SOM, 14th COM and 8th Summit*

5. CPR discussed the proposals made by the member states to include some items in the draft agenda which were prepared and circulated by the Secretariat earlier and decided to defer the finalization of the draft agenda to its next meeting. However, under this item CPR pointed out that a member state who may volunteer to host the 9th Summit should be identified and announced during the 8th Summit meeting under the relevant item of its agenda.

6. CPR also discussed the preparations of a draft Dushanbe Declaration to be adopted by the 8th Summit. Secretary General, with regard to the Declaration, informed the CPR that the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) set up by the 13th COM meeting drafted an "ECO's Vision 2015" and recommended that instead of submitting a routine draft Declaration, the draft on "ECO's Vision 2015" should be submitted to the 8th Summit Meeting to be held in Dushanbe in September 2004, for adoption. However, the EPG proposed that the draft may be reviewed and finalized by the member states with the help of the Secretariat before its submission.

7. The CPR will decide later on holding an Informal CPR meeting to discuss the final report of the meetings of EPG held on January 14-15, 2004 and May 22-25, 2004 respectively.

b) *Confirmation for participation*

8. CPR appreciated the written confirmation of the member states i.e. Afghanistan and IR of Iran, regarding the participation of H.E. Mr. Seyed Mohammad Khatami, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and H.E. Mr. Hamid Karzai, President of the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan, to the 8th ECO Summit. The Chairman CPR/Ambassador of Kyrgyz Republic informed the CPR that the Kyrgyz Republic will confirm its President's participation in the 8th ECO Summit in writing. The Permanent Representative/Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey also informed the CPR that the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey has already conveyed to the Secretariat officially the confirmation of participation of the President. Secretary General further informed the CPR that, during his country visits, the Presidents of Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey verbally confirmed their participation in the 8th Summit meeting.

c) *List of international organizations to be invited to the Summit*

9. CPR approved the attached list of international organizations (***Annex-II***) to be invited to the inaugural session of the 8th ECO Summit. CPR pointed out that only the heads of international organizations/agencies will be given the floor to make short statement during the inaugural session of the 8th Summit. However, the representatives of the heads international organizations may distribute statement during the Summit meeting.

d) *Work Programme of ECO Secretariat for 2004*

10. CPR endorsed the Work Programme 2004 of the Secretariat with an amendment proposed by the Permanent Representative of Turkey with regard to the Work Programme of Directorate of Energy, Minerals and Environment. The Work Programme will be submitted to the 14th COM meeting for its consideration/approval. .

e) *Follow-up of the implementation of decisions of other ministerial meetings*

11. The CPR considered the status of follow-up of the implementation of decisions of other sectoral Ministerial meetings and asked the Secretariat to submit the updated status report in this respect to the 14th Meeting of Council of Ministers for its consideration.

f) *Information on arrangements and hospitality from Tajik authorities (host)*

12. The Secretariat informed the CPR that it has already circulated the information received from Tajik authorities on arrangements and hospitality with regard to the forthcoming meetings of SOM, 14th and 8th Summit.

Agenda Item No. 4

ECO Awards 2004

13. CPR agreed that the meetings of Working Group and Selection Committee to select the ECO awards winners will be held on June 21-22, 2004 and June 28-29, 2004, respectively. CPR expressed its wishes that the recommendations for ECO awards winners be submitted to the next CPR meeting for endorsement.

Agenda Item No. 5

Audit Report for Secretariat's budget for 2003

14. CPR endorsed the Audit Report to be submitted to the 14th Meeting of Council of Ministers for consideration/approval. However, CPR pointed out that the observations/recommendations of the Audit Board as mentioned in its report i.e. advances, utilization of Special Support Fund, recovery of excess payments, preference to use member states' airlines, etc. should be adhered to.

Agenda Item No.6

Cost of mission for the two feasibility studies for reconstruction of Afghanistan

15. CPR approved the feasibility study for rehabilitation of Nawar Bridge of Hesarak Nangahar Province, Afghanistan with the total cost of US\$ 11,200/- (US\$ 7,200/- plus cost of Mission to Afghanistan amounting to US\$ 4,000/-) to be financed from the ECO Feasibility Fund and authorized the Secretary General to sign the agreement with the implementing agency i.e. ECO Consultancy and Engineering Company (ECO-CEC) and Government of Afghanistan.

16. The Permanent Representative of Afghanistan informed the CPR that the feasibility study for "Electrical Distribution Network of Pol-I-Alam Centre of Loger Province" which was going to be financed from ECO Feasibility Fund and implemented by ECO-CEC had already been done through other relevant sources. Therefore, CPR agreed that the financing of the said feasibility study from the Feasibility Fund should be substituted by another priority project for Afghanistan and requested Afghanistan Government to convey to the Secretariat another project as soon as possible to be submitted to CPR for approval and implementation by ECO-CEC through ECO Feasibility Fund.

Agenda Item No.7

ECO Special Fund for projects of reconstruction in Afghanistan.

17. Since some member states were awaiting instructions from their capitals on the modality for establishment of ECO Special Fund as agreed by the Financial Experts meeting held on April 21, 2004 in Kabul, the CPR deferred this item to its next meeting.

- **Agenda Item No.8**

Modalities of utilization of Special Support Fund (SSF) of the Budget

18. Some member states expressed their views on the draft Modalities of Utilization of Special Support Fund (SSF) as prepared by the Secretariat. CPR asked the Secretariat to circulate revised draft Modalities incorporating the views of the member states for the next CPR meeting. Member States will convey to the Secretariat their views on the Modalities in written form at the earliest.

- **Agenda Item No.9**

ECO Events/Meetings:

- a) **Briefing on the meetings attended by ECO staff recently**
- b) **Forthcoming ECO events**

19. CPR, while appreciating the lists of events/meetings attended by the ECO Staff since the beginning of the year 2004 and the forthcoming events/meetings, urged the member states to confirm their participation in the forthcoming meetings. List of forthcoming events/meetings is attached as **Annex-III**.

- **Agenda Item No.10**

Status of monetary contribution by the member states to the Secretariat's budget.

20. The Secretariat circulated the status report (**Annex-IV**) of the unpaid contributions of the ECO member states from 1998-2004. The CPR urged the member states who did not do so to pay their contributions to the Secretariat's budget as soon as possible.

- **Agenda Item No.11**

Report of the Audit Board for the budget of the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) for the year 2003 and ECI's 3-Year Plan.

21. The CPR deferred the above item to its next meeting.

- **Agenda Item No.12**

Financing a Consultancy from the ECO Feasibility Fund for preparation an ECO Business Plan for establishment of the ECO Trade and Development Bank.

22. The CPR requested the Secretariat to inform the member states of the details of the Consultancy from the ECO Feasibility Fund for preparation of an ECO Business Plan for establishment of the ECO Trade and Development Bank including the reasons for its being unsatisfactory as well as the steps taken to remedy such situations in future. The CPR also requested the Secretariat to inform the member states of the details of any other Consultancies in which it might have come across unsatisfactory performance.

- **Agenda Item No.13**

Administrative matters

- i) **Appointment for the post of Director Economic Research & Statistics**
- ii) **Appointment for the post of Assistant Director/Chef de Cabinet**

23. Within the framework of the recommendations of the Selection Panel, the CPR discussed the matters regarding the appointment for the post of Director Economic Research & Statistics and the extension of the incumbent Assistant Director (Chef de Cabinet) and decided to defer the decision on the issues to its next meeting, thus there will be more time for informal consultations among the concerned Member States; namely Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic and Republic of Tajikistan to reach an agreement. The three concerned member states will inform their agreed formula on the issue to CPR for consideration.

24. In the light of the above, the CPR decided to extend the tenure for one month in respect of Director Economic Research and Statistics, Mr. Ernek Ibrahimov, starting from July 24, 2004, and Assistant Director (Chef de Cabinet) Mr. Afzal Mirshakarov, starting from July 10, 2004.

Agenda Item No.14Any other business**(a) Proposed List of ECO Events/Meetings to be supported by ECO Special Support Fund (SSF) in 2004**

25. The CPR agreed with the Permanent Representative of Pakistan that the Training Course on WTO Agreement on Agriculture in the list of ECO events/meetings should not be supported by SSF.

(b) Process of holding the 2nd ECO Regional Trade & Investment Conference on April 18-19, 2004 in Kabul, Afghanistan

26. Since the concerned Deputy Secretary General who would make explanation to CPR on the process of holding the Conference was on leave the CPR deferred the matter to its next meeting.

Agenda Item No.15Date of the next meeting.

27. The CPR decided to hold its next meeting on Monday, 19 July 2004, at 1000 hours.

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