

The 90th CPR Meeting

Report

(Tehran – August 17, 2004)

_No. CPR/90th/2004/4 August 31, 2004

The 90th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held at the ECO Secretariat on August 17, 2004, under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Medet Sadyrkulov, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic. The Permanent Representatives/Representatives of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey and Turkmenistan as well as the ECO Secretary General along with the ECO staff attended the meeting. (List of participants attached as **Annex-I**).

2. The Chairman, referring to the two member states who did not participate in the meeting, informed that one of those member states neither informed the Chairman nor ECO Secretariat, therefore, he kindly requested that any member states who is not able to attend the meeting should inform in advance.

Agenda Item No. 1

Adoption of the Agenda

3. CPR adopted the following agenda for its 90th meeting:

1. Adoption of the Agenda.
2. Adoption of the draft report of the 89th meeting of CPR
3. Preparation for the 14th COM and 8th Summit meetings
 - a. Draft Agenda for SOM, 14th COM and 8th Summit meetings.
 - b. Confirmation for participation
 - c. Draft Dushanbe Declaration
 - d. Appointment of ECO Audit Board
4. Preparation for the informal meeting of COM in New York
 - a. Latest information
 - b. Confirmation for participation
5. Preparation for the 9th ECO-ASEAN Joint Ministerial meeting in September 2004 in New York on the sidelines of the forthcoming UN General Assembly Session
 - a. Confirmation for participation
 - b. Draft Agenda of the Meeting
6. Feasibility Study for Construction of Canal Crossings in Farah Province of Afghanistan.
7. IDB's letter on the selection of the Consultant for the preparation of the Feasibility Study for Interconnection of the Power System of the Member States
8. Modalities of utilization of Special Support Fund (SSF) of the Budget
9. Briefing on the meetings attended by ECO staff recently
10. Report of the Audit Board for the budget of the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) for the year 2003 and ECI's 3-Year Plan.
11. Financing a Consultancy from the ECO Feasibility Fund for preparation an ECO Business Plan for establishment of the ECO Trade and Development Bank.
12. Administrative matters
 - a. Appointment/Extension for the post of Assistant Director/Chef de Cabinet
 - b. Appointment for the post of Data Base Officer
13. Any other business
 - a. Informal Meeting of Ministers of Finance/Economy to be held in Washington D.C.
 - b. ECO Anthem

- c. Overpayment from the SS Fund for the 2nd ECO Regional Investment Conference, 7th General Assembly of ECOCCI and Financial Experts meetings held in Kabul, April 19-21, 2004.
14. Date of the next meeting

Agenda Item No. 2

Adoption of the Draft Report of 89th Meeting of CPR

4. The CPR adopted the report of the 89th CPR Meeting, which was circulated by the ECO Secretariat vide its note No. SG/CPR/2004/1512 dated August 8, 2004, with some amendments proposed by Iran and Pakistan. The Secretariat circulated the adopted report vide its note No. SG/CPR/2004/1600 dated 18 August 2004.

Agenda Item No. 3

Preparation for the 14th COM and 8th Summit meetings To be held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, from September 10-14, 2004

a. Draft Agendas for SOM, 14th COM and 8th Summit meetings.

5. The CPR discussed the revised draft agendas, which was circulated along with the draft report of the 89th CPR meeting vide Secretariat's note No. SG/CPR/2004/1521 dated August 8, 2004. In view of the practical difficulties, Pakistan agreed to delete the proposed items regarding Combating against Terrorism and Drug Trafficking from the agenda of the 8th Summit meeting but asked for their inclusion in the agendas of SOM and 14th COM meetings. Turkey reiterated its reservations about the proposed inclusion of Terrorism in the agenda of the meetings. Kyrgyzstan, while agreeing to include Drug Trafficking, proposed to delete the item on Terrorism from both COM and Summit meetings. Azerbaijan reiterated its support for inclusion of these items in the meetings. However, since there was no agreement on the final draft agendas, the CPR decided to defer this item to its next meeting.

b. Confirmation for participation

6. The CPR was informed that:
- i. Afghanistan, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan (being host country) and Turkey have confirmed their participation at the Presidential level while Pakistan confirmed that its Prime Minister will participate in the 8th ECO Summit meeting to be held in Dushanbe on September 14, 2004. .
 - ii. Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan (being host country) have confirmed to participate in the SOM and 14th COM meetings to be held in Dushanbe on September 10-12, 2004.
7. The CPR, referring to the status of confirmation, urged the other member states who had not yet confirmed their participation to do so at the earliest.
8. The CPR also emphasized that as per the Treaty of Izmir and Rules of Procedure, at least eight member states should confirm their participation at the Ministerial rank to hold the meeting of the Council of Ministers.

c. Draft Dushanbe Declaration

9. The CPR discussed the draft Dushanbe Declaration which was circulated vide Secretariat's note No. SG/Summit//2004/1491 dated August 5, 2004. Iran requested that two items to be included (i) specification of a time-span for the establishment of free trade area in ECO i.e. 7-10 years, and (ii) formalization of the Senior Officials meetings (SOM) for the Meeting of Council of Ministers (COM). Turkey informed that they were still awaiting views from the capital on the draft. Kyrgyzstan proposed that Para 5 relating to Terrorism should be deleted from the draft. CPR decided to re-consider the draft again in its next meeting.

d. Appointment of ECO Audit Board

10. The CPR agreed to recommend to COM to appoint the existing ECO Audit Board, comprising Iran, Pakistan and Turkey for another three years term.

Agenda Item No. 4***Preparation for the informal meeting of COM in New York***

- a. ***Latest information***
- b. ***Confirmation for participation***

11. The CPR, while thanking to the updated information on the preparation of the Informal Meeting of Council of Ministers (COM) to be held in New York on September 27, 2004, urged the member states who did not confirm their participation to do so as soon as possible. So far, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkey have confirmed their participation in the informal meeting of COM in New York. .

Agenda Item No. 5***Preparation for the 9th ECO-ASEAN Joint Ministerial meeting in September 2004 in New York on the sidelines of the forthcoming UN General Assembly Session***

- a. ***Confirmation for participation***
- b. ***Draft Agenda of the Meeting***

12. The CPR urged the member states to confirm their participation in the 9th ECO-ASEAN Joint Ministerial Meeting to be held between 28-30 September in New York on the sidelines of the forthcoming UN General Assembly Session. Since some member states were still awaiting instructions from their capitals for the draft agenda which was circulated to member states vide Secretariat's note No. ECO(CU)/ASEAN/2004/1487 dated August 4, 2004, the item was deferred to the next meeting.

Agenda Item No. 6***Feasibility Study for Construction of Canal Crossings in Farah Province of Afghanistan***

13. Since some member states were still awaiting views from their capitals and Permanent Representative of Afghanistan was not present at the meeting to explain to the member states on the importance of the study, the consideration of the study to be financed from ECO Feasibility Fund was deferred to the next meeting.

Agenda Item No. 7***IDB's letter on the selection of the Consultant for the preparation of the Feasibility Study for Interconnection of the Power System of the Member States***

14. The CPR discussed the letter received from the IDB on selection of the Consultant for preparation of the study. Some members proposed that the Secretariat be authorized to start negotiations with M/s NESPAK to reduce the estimated cost on preparation of the study from US\$ 498,000 to US\$ 406,000 i.e. the amount of funding by the IDB so that the ECO Secretariat would not have to pay from its resources. They were of the view that since the IDB had been given a clear mandate by the CPR, the IDB's decision may not be put to question. This could jeopardize the ECO's relations with the IDB, which was an important source of funding for the ECO projects. Some other member states proposed that the IDB be first requested to intimate the criteria of selection of the Consultant. Since no decision could be reached, it was decided that the issue be discussed in the next meeting.

Agenda Item No. 8***Modalities of utilization of Special Support Fund (SSF) of the Budget***

15. The CPR deferred this item to the next meeting.

Agenda Item No. 9***Briefing on the meetings attended by ECO staff recently***

16. The CPR, while appreciated the lists of events/meetings attended by the ECO Staff, urged the Secretariat to circulate the report of the recently held 5th Ministerial meeting on Transport & Communications held in Kyrgyzstan on August 11-12, 2004, as soon as possible.

Agenda Item No. 10***Report of the Audit Board for the budget of the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) for the year 2003 and ECI's 3-Year Plan***

17. The CPR deferred this item to its next meeting.

Agenda Item No. 11***Financing a Consultancy from the ECO Feasibility Fund for preparation an ECO Business Plan for establishment of the ECO Trade and Development Bank***

18. The CPR, while pointing out that so far only Turkey communicated the list of competent consultancy firms with estimated cost who could carry out such study, urged other member states to provide list of competent consultancy firms with estimated costs at the earliest.

Agenda Item No. 12***Administrative matter*****a. *Appointment/Extension for the post of Assistant Director/Chef de Cabinet***

19. The CPR agreed to extend the tenure of Mr. Afzal Mirshakarov, Assistant Director/Chef de Cabinet for a period of six months with effect from the expiry of his tenure i.e. July 10, 2004. Representative of Turkey reminded the CPR that, upon the expiry of the extended tenure of incumbent Assistant Director/Chef de Cabinet, Turkey would like to nominate a candidate for the post.

b. *Appointment for the post of Data Base Officer*

20. As recommended by the Selection Panel, the CPR appointed Syed Naveed Mustafa as Data Base Officer (Category II, P-3) for a period of four years with effect from September 01, 2004.

Agenda Item No. 13***Any other business*****a. *Informal Meeting of Ministers of Finance/Economy to be held in Washington on the sidelines of the IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings***

21. The CPR was informed that so far, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkey have confirmed their participation in the aforesaid meeting. The CPR urged other member states to confirm their participation at the earliest.

22. Turkey and Pakistan agreed to consult their capitals to find out if their respective Missions in Washington would be able to coordinate the above meeting.

b. ECO Anthem

23. The CPR deferred this item to its next meeting.

c. **Overpayment from the SS Fund for the 2nd ECO Regional Investment Conference, 7th General Assembly of ECOCCI and Financial Experts meetings held in Kabul, April 19-21, 2004.**

24. The CPR deferred this item to its next meeting.

Agenda Item No. 14

Date of the next meeting

25. The CPR decided to hold its next meeting on Tuesday, August 31, 2004 at 10:00 hours to discuss exclusively the preparations for the forthcoming 14th COM and 8th Summit meetings.

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