

The 92nd CPR Meeting

Report

(Tehran – October 11, 2004)

No. CPR/92nd/2004/04

The 92nd Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), held at the ECO Secretariat on October 11, 2004, was chaired by H.E. Mr. Mirzoev Ramazon Zaripovitsh, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan. 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. (List of participants attached as **Annex-I**).

Agenda Item No. 1

Adoption of the Agenda

2. CPR adopted the following agenda for its 92nd meeting:

1. Adoption of the Agenda.
2. Opening Statement of the new Chairman
3. Post Evaluation of the 14th Com and 8th Summit meetings
4. Briefing of Secretary General on the following Ministerial meetings:
 - a. Informal COM meeting held in New York on 28 September 2004
 - b. 9th ECO-ASEAN Joint Ministerial Meeting held in New York on 27 September 2004
 - c. Informal Finance/Economy Ministerial meeting held on the sidelines of the IMF/World Bank Meeting in Washington on October 4, 2004.
 - d. Ministerial Meeting on Environment held on October 4-6, 2004 in Istanbul, Turkey.
5. Feasibility Study for Construction of Canal Crossings in Farah Province of Afghanistan.
6. 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
7. Modalities of utilization of Special Support Fund (SSF) of the Budget
8. Report of the Audit Board for the budget of the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) for the year 2003 and ECI's three year plan
9. Administrative matters
 - a. Appointment for the post of Director Project Research
10. Any other business
 - a. 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.
 - b. Theft of Secretariat's money by burglars on August 16, 2004
11. Date of the next meeting

Agenda Item No. 2

Opening Statement of the new Chairman

3. Since the Chairmanship of COM has been assumed by the Republic of Tajikistan on September 12, 2004, the Secretary General invited H.E. Mr. Mirzoev Ramazon Zaripovitsh, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Tajikistan, to assume the Chairmanship of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR).

4. After assumption of the chairmanship, H.E. Ambassador Mirzoev Ramazon Zaripovitsh made a brief statement. He thanked the former Chairman for his sagacity and contribution for the success of the CPR meetings and assured the Council that with the cooperation of the Council and the Secretariat, ECO would continue to move forward to achieve its goals and objectives.

5. The Council congratulated the new Chairman and assured its full support to him for the successful conduct of the meetings. The Council also expressed its sincere gratitude and thanks to the former Chairman, H.E. Mr. Medet Sadyrkulov, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic for successfully conducting the CPR meetings with his diplomatic skill and foresight.

Agenda Item No. 3

Post Evaluation of the 14th COM and 8th Summit meetings

6. The Chairman expressed his thanks and gratitude to the member states for their active participation in the aforesaid meetings. The Chairman also thanked the Secretary General and ECO staff for the hard work they had done for the success of the above mentioned meetings.

7. While briefing the Council about these meetings, the Secretary General informed the Council that 14th COM Report and 8th Summit Summary Record have been circulated to member states vide Secretariat's notes No. SG/COM/2004/1833 dated September 22, 2004, and No. SG/SUMMIT/2004/1843 dated September 23, 2004, respectively. He further informed that the follow-up report on the implementation of the decisions of these meetings, identifying the actions to be taken by the member states as well as by the Secretariat, will be circulated to member states shortly.

8. The Secretary General further stated that Heads of State/Government and the Ministers emphasized the necessity of the practical aspect of implementation of the decisions already made by the decision-making bodies of ECO.

9. The Council expressed its gratitude and thanks for the warm hospitality extended to the delegations by the Republic of Tajikistan and successful organization of the meetings. The Council also thanked the Secretary General and ECO staff for their professionalism in preparing the ground for successful organization of the meeting and the necessary documentation for the purpose.

Agenda Item No. 4

Briefing of Secretary General on the Ministerial meetings:

- a. Informal COM meeting held in New York on 28 September 2004
- b. 9th ECO-ASEAN Joint Ministerial Meeting held in New York on 27 September 2004
- c. Informal Finance/Economy Ministerial meeting held, on the sidelines of the IMF/World Bank Meeting in Washington, on October 4, 2004
- d. 2nd Ministerial Meeting on Environment held on October 4-6, 2004 in Istanbul, Turkey.

10. The Secretary General informed the meeting that all ten member states participated in the informal COM meeting held in New York on 28 September 2004. The meeting was chaired by the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan. As per the decision of the 14th COM meeting, the informal meeting was held without agenda. The Secretary General further informed that he has proposed that:

- ECO Day may be observed on November 28, 2004 by hosting a reception by the respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs in the capitals of ECO member states;
- Coordinator countries for implementation of priority projects may be designated.
- Permanent Representatives of ECO member states to the United Nations may meet occasionally to discuss cooperation in the ECO region and formulate their ideas/views on different issues confronting the region.

The informal COM meeting agreed in principal to the above proposals.

11. On 9th ASEAN-ECO Ministerial Meeting which was held in New York on 27 September 2004, the Secretary General informed that nine countries from ASEAN and eight countries from ECO participated in the meeting. The meeting was coordinated and co-chaired by the Ministers from Malaysia and Tajikistan. He further informed the meeting that the ECO Secretariat approached the ASEAN Secretariat to cooperate in ten fields and recently the ASEAN expressed its readiness to cooperate in four fields i.e. trade and investment, narcotics control, small and medium sized enterprises as well as tourism. He informed the Council that an MOU on cooperation between ECO Secretariat and ASEAN Secretariat has been proposed and this proposal has received positive response from ASEAN Secretariat.

12. The Secretary General informed the CPR that Informal Finance/Economy Ministerial meeting was held in Washington on October 4, 2004, on the sidelines of the IMF/World Bank Meeting. The meeting was coordinated by the Turkish Embassy in Washington. Probably due to the change of date/time, the information could not

reach to the ECO Ministers/Permanent Representatives, therefore, only two Ministers i.e. Turkey and Pakistan, attended the meeting. The Ministers observed that such meetings would be useful for consultations.

13. He also informed the meeting that the second Ministerial Meeting on Environment was held on 4-6 October 2004 in Istanbul, Turkey.

14. He further stated that the reports of these meetings will be circulated to member states separately.

Agenda Item No. 5

Feasibility Study for Construction of Canal Crossings in Farah Province of Afghanistan

15. Since the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan was not present in the meeting, the Council preferred to discuss and make decision on this issue in its future meetings.

16. Meanwhile, the Council requested the Secretary General to ask ECO-CEC for a progress report on the work of the previous feasibility study for rehabilitation of Nawar Bridge of Hesarak of Nangahar Province, Afghanistan which was approved by the 88th CPR meeting held on June 6, 2004 and submit the same to the next CPR. Upon receipt of such report, the CPR would be in a better position to assess the ECO-CEC capability to prepare proposed new feasibility study.

Agenda Item No. 6

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

17. Taking into account the request of the Kyrgyz Representative, the Council decided to defer the substantial discussion and decision on the issue to its next meeting. However, the Council agreed that the member states may express their views.

18. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan informed the meeting that M/s NESPAK has agreed to carry out the Feasibility Study on Interconnection of Power Systems of ECO Member States at a reduced price of US\$ 406,000/- -- the amount which is being financed by the Islamic Development Bank for the purpose. He further stated that as reflected in the Dushanbe Declaration, the Heads of State/Government called upon the Secretariat and the member states to expedite the implementation of IDB-ECO project for feasibility study on interconnection of power systems of ECO member states, the CPR should take a final decision in this regard at the earliest.

19. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that due to the prestige and image of the organization, the IDB's decision may not be put to question and further stated that the CPR should evolve a mechanism to select a consultant for future projects by themselves.

20. The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey supported the views of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He also emphasized that the decision on the issue should be finalized in the 93rd CPR meeting.

Agenda Item No. 7

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

21. The Council approved the final text of the modalities which envisaged that only seven member states (Central Asian Republics, Azerbaijan and Afghanistan) would benefit from the Special Support Fund (SSF) as was the present practice. A copy of the adopted modalities is placed at **Annex-II** for future reference. While approving the modalities, the Council asked the Secretary General that the ceiling of US\$ 500 and US\$ 900 should be scrupulously adhered to.

Agenda Item No. 8

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

22. The Council approved the ECI's Audit Report which the ECI circulated to member states and the Secretariat vide its note No. ECI/83-40/128 dated 21 April 2004, while deferred the approval of ECI's Three-Year Plan which the ECI circulated among member states vide its note No. ECI/82-71/432 dated 27 December 2003 to its next meeting.

Agenda Item No. 9

Administrative matter

a. Appointment for the post of Director Project Research

23. The CPR agreed to appoint Mr. Muzaffer Alacaogullari (Nominee of the Republic of Turkey) to the post of Director (Project Research), Category I, D2, with effect from October 01, 2004, for the remaining part of the tenure of Mr. Mehmet Ali Saglam, which will expire on August 17, 2006.

Agenda Item No. 10Any other business**a. 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 considered the issue and approved the travel expenses and overpayment amounting to US\$ 6,451/- incurred from SSF for eight participants to the (i) 2nd ECO Regional Investment Conference, (ii) 7th General Assembly of ECO-CCI, and (iii) Financial Experts Meetings held in Kabul on April 19-21, 2004.

25. While approving the above expenditures, the Council re-emphasized that approved ceiling should be observed in order to avoid extra expenditures. The Council also observed that expenditures from Special Support Fund should be to the tune of approved ceiling and extra expenditures may be borne by the participating countries.

b. Theft of Secretariat's money by burglars on August 16, 2004

26. The CPR took note of the unfortunate incident and requested the Secretary General to submit a comprehensive report on the incident which also include the previous such kind of incidents, if any, and actions taken, along with a police report to the next CPR meeting for consideration and decision.

Agenda Item No. 11Date of the next meeting

27. The CPR decided to hold its next meeting on Monday, November 8, 2004 at 10:00 hours.

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