

The 93rd CPR Meeting

Report

(Tehran – November 8, 2004)

No. CPR/93rd/2004/04

The 93rd 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 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. The CPR adopted the following agenda for its 93rd meeting:

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Adoption of the Draft Report of the 92nd CPR Meeting
3. 15th Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC)
 - a. Venue and date of the meeting
 - b. Preparation for the RPC Meeting
 - c. Any other issue
4. Commemoration of ECO Day (November 28)
5. 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
6. Draft ECO Budget for 2005
7. Follow-up Report on the implementation of the decisions of the 14th COM and 8th Summit meetings
8. Feasibility Study for Construction of Canal Crossings in Farah Province of Afghanistan.
9. Report and Recommendations of EPG including ECO Vision 2015
10. SG's Recommendations presented to the 14th COM meeting
11. ECI's Three-Year Plan
12. Updated Report on the implementation of ECO Calendar of Events/Meetings for 2004-2005
13. Second Phase of Multimodal Transport Project Sponsored by ECO/IDB/UNCTAD/UNESCAP
14. ECO-ASEAN Cooperation
15. Any other business
 - a. Theft of Secretariat's money on August 16, 2004
 - b. Purchase of a car in lieu of two motorcycles
16. Date of the next meeting

Agenda Item No. 2 ***Adoption of the Draft Report of the 92nd CPR Meeting***

3. The CPR adopted the report of the 92nd CPR meeting, which was circulated by the ECO Secretariat vide its note No. SG/CPR/2004/1938 dated October 13, 2004, with a minor amendment in para 18 as proposed by Pakistan. The Secretariat circulated the adopted report vide its note No. SG/CPR/2004/2084 dated November 09, 2004.

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Agenda Item No. 3***15th Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC)***

- a. **Venue and date of the 15th RPC meeting**
- b. **Preparation for the 15th RPC Meeting**
- c. **Any other issue**

4. As there was no volunteer member state to host the 15th Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC), the Council decided to hold the meeting at the ECO Secretariat on a non-hospitality basis. The Council asked the Secretary General to propose dates to the member states for their consideration.

Agenda Item No. 4***Commemoration of ECO Day (28 November)***

5. The Council gave its consent to the following programmes for commemoration of ECO Day (November 28, 2004) which the Secretariat circulated among member states vide its note No. SG/ECODAY/2004/1956 dated October 14, 2004.

- Reception at ECO Secretariat on 28 November, 2004 (Sunday).
- Ambassadors of ECO Member States, Heads of International/Regional Organization based in Tehran, dignitaries/ambassadorial figures, important personalities from the local government dealing with different aspects of ECO activities and heads of focal points in the relevant Ministries will be invited.
- Prominent Journalists, Television and Radio Team as well as foreign correspondents based in Tehran will also be invited.
- Exchange of messages on account of ECO Day:

- i. Secretary General will send the messages to Foreign Ministers of ECO Member States.
- ii. Secretary General is also expected to receive the messages from Hon'able Heads of ECO Member States and Hon'able Foreign Ministers of ECO Member States. These messages will be published in special edition of ECO Bulletin.
- iii. The Foreign Ministers of ECO Member States may also exchange messages among themselves.

- Publication of special issue of ECO Bulletin with coverage of ECO Day.
- The Secretary General of ECO will pay a courtesy call on the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the occasion of ECO Day.
- The Secretariat will request the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran to arrange a short speech of ECO Secretary General on the Iranian National Television and Radio on ECO Day.
- The ECO Cultural Institute will arrange a function such as musical/film on the occasion of ECO Day on 29 or 30 November, 2004 for ECO Member States Embassies' Officers, ECO Secretariat officials plus their families and other guests at Iranian Nirvaman Cultural Centre.
- The Secretariat has requested the ECO Member States to arrange broadcasting of special/cultural program on their electronic media on the occasion of ECO Day and encourage their National Newspapers to publish reports/articles about it.

6. The Secretary General emphasized on the possibility of hosting a reception by the Foreign Ministers of the member states, especially the Republic of Tajikistan. The Chairman/Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan informed the meeting that Tajikistan, being the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, will celebrate the ECO Day in Dushanbe and a report in this regard will be submitted to the next CPR meeting.

Agenda Item No. 5***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. The Council deliberated on the issue at length in light of the letter received from IDB regarding selection of the Consultant and letter received from M/s NESPAK conveying its agreement to undertake the aforesaid project with an amount of US\$ 406,000/- which is being financed by the IDB for the purpose. Since there was a need for more deliberations and consultations, it was decided that the member states may discuss the issue bilaterally/informally and a decision in this regard was deferred to its next meeting.

Agenda Item No. 6

Draft ECO Budget for 2005**(a) Secretariat's Budget Proposals**

8. The Council reviewed the Secretariat's budget proposals circulated to the member states and requested the Secretary General to prepare the revised budget proposals on the approved format with explanatory notes giving justification for fluctuation of more than 10% in any budgetary head, as per articles 4.1 and 4.2 of the Financial Regulations. The Council also observed that there was some over-estimation under some of the heads, for example, travel, reception/diplomatic obligations, purchase of furniture, etc. which needed reconsideration and justification.

(b) Budget Proposals for DCCU

9. The Council requested the Secretary General to prepare and circulate the revised budget proposals for DCCU and include in the agenda of the next CPR meeting as a separate agenda item. The Council also requested that a comprehensive report on the past activities of DCCU and its future programmes as well as the possibility of funding by donor agencies like UNODC and the liability of the member states may also be submitted.

Agenda Item No. 7***Follow-up Report on the implementation of the decisions of the 14th COM and 8th Summit meetings***

10. The Council appreciated the Secretariat for preparing the Follow-up Report on the implementation of the decisions of 14th COM and 8th Summit meetings and requested that an updated report may be submitted to the future CPR meeting.

Agenda Item No. 8***Feasibility Study for Construction of Canal Crossings in Farah Province of Afghanistan.***

11. The Council decided to defer the discussion on this issue and requested that this item may not be included in the agenda of the CPR until a progress report on the work of the previous feasibility study for rehabilitation of Nawar Bridge of Hesarak of Nangahar Province was available.

Agenda Item No. 9***Report and Recommendations of EPG including ECO Vision 2015***

12. Considering the decision of the 14th COM meeting with regard to the recommendations including ECO Vision 2015 prepared by the Eminent Persons Group (EPG), the Council decided to establish an open-ended Working Group to review the report of the EPG and formulate its views which will then be considered by the CPR. The Council asked the Secretary General to circulate a date for the first session of the Working Group.

Agenda Item No. 10***SG's Recommendations to the 14th COM meeting***

13. The Council took note of the decision of the 14th COM meeting with regard to the Secretary General's following two recommendations and asked him to prepare and circulate explanatory notes about these proposals:

- a) Designation of coordinators from the Member States for implementing projects in the priority areas;
- b) Revision of salary package of the staff of ECO Secretariat

14. On the issue of the designation of coordinators, the Council asked the Secretary General to clarify the responsibility of these coordinators and how they will work as well as the relationship between CPR and coordinators.

15. With regard to the revision of salary package of the staff of ECO Secretariat, the Council asked the Secretary General to prepare and circulate more detailed information i.e. existing salary structure/emoluments, proposed salary structure/emoluments, financial implications, and justification for the increase.

Agenda Item No. 11

ECI's 3-Year Plan

16. The Council deferred this item to its next meeting.

Agenda Item No. 12***Updated Report on the implementation of ECO Calendar of Events/Meetings for 2004-2005***

17. The Council took note of the updated report on the implementation of ECO Calendar of Events/Meetings for 2004-2005 and requested that an item on ECO Events/Meetings should be included in the agenda of all CPR meetings. Under this agenda item, the CPR may receive briefing on the meetings/events (ECO and Non-ECO) in which the Secretary General and the Secretariat staff had participated.

Agenda Item No. 13***Second Phase of Multimodal Transport Project Sponsored by ECO/IDB/UNCTAD/UNESCAP***

18. The Council reviewed the issue and asked the Secretariat to prepare the criteria (qualification) for selection of national consultants for the assignment. The Council further requested that while the Secretariat will request the member states to provide names of consultants, may also indicate a deadline for submission of names for national consultants. Upon receipt of the names from the member states, the ECO Secretariat may finalize the selection of national consultants in consultation with the UNCTAD and IDB.

Agenda Item No. 14***ECO-ASEAN Cooperation***

19. After detailed deliberations, the Council requested the Secretary General to submit a draft MOU to be signed between ECO Secretariat and ASEAN Secretariat for consideration of the member states and the Secretariat may continue to work with the ASEAN Secretariat. It further stated that a scope for future cooperation between the two organizations may also be envisaged.

Agenda Item No. 15***Any other business*****a. Theft of Secretariat's money on August 16, 2004**

20. The Council took note of the explanatory note prepared by the Secretariat and briefing by the Secretary General and requested that the Secretary General may fix responsibility for the incident and then report to the CPR.

b. Purchase of a car in lieu of two motorcycles

21. While deferring the decision on this matter to its next meeting, the Council requested the Secretariat to give a plausible justification to purchase a car instead of two motor cycles.

Agenda Item No. 16***Date of the next meeting***

22. The CPR decided to hold its next meeting on Tuesday, December 14, 2004 at 10:00 hours.

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