

The 94th CPR Meeting

Report

(Tehran – December 14, 2004)

No. CPR/94TH/2004/05

The 94th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), held at the ECO Secretariat on December 14, 2004, was chaired by H.E. Mr. Mirzoev Ramazon Zaripovitsh, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan. The Permanent Representatives/Representatives of the Islamic Republic 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 President of the ECO Cultural Institute and 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 94th meeting:

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Adoption of the Draft Report of the 93rd CPR Meeting
3. 15th Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC):
 - a) Secretariat's Briefing on the Preparations
 - b) Confirmation of Participation
 - c) Any other issue
4. 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
5. Draft ECO Secretariat's Budget for 2005
 - a) Secretariat's Budget Proposals for 2005
 - b) Authorization for expenditures for the year 2005.
6. Budget Proposals for DCCU
7. SG's Recommendations presented to the 14th COM meeting
 - 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
8. ECO Cultural Institute (ECI)
 - a) ECI's Three-Year Plan
 - b) ECI's Budget for 2005
9. Briefing on the meetings/events attended by ECO staff
10. MOU between ECO Secretariat and ASEAN Secretariat
11. Administrative Matters
 - a) Appointment to the post of Assistant Director/ Chef de Cabinet
 - b) Conversion/utilization of post of Receptionist/Telephone Operator as Programme Officer/Expert
12. Any other business
 - a) Theft of Secretariat's money on August 16, 2004
 - b) Purchase of a car in lieu of two motorcycles
13. Date of the next meeting

Item No. 2***Adoption of the Draft Report of the 93rd CPR Meeting***

3. The Council adopted the report of the 93rd CPR Meeting, which was circulated among member states by the ECO Secretariat vide its note No. SG/CPR/2004/2101 dated 11 November 2004, with some amendments in sub-items (a) and (b) of Agenda Item No. 15. The Secretariat circulated the adopted report among member states vide its note No. SG/CPR/2004/2270 dated December 16, 2004.

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

- a) ***Secretariat's Briefing on the Preparations***
- b) ***Confirmation of Participation***
- c) ***Any other issue***

4. The Council agreed, in principle, to the proposed dates (14-17 February 2005) for holding the 15th RPC meeting to be held at the ECO Secretariat on a non-hospitality basis which the Secretariat circulated among member states vide its Note No. PR/15th RPC/2004/2253 dated 13 December 2004.

5. The Council requested the member states to confirm their participation, in writing, and also convey the composition of delegations to the Secretariat at the earliest.

Item No. 4***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. The Council took note of the IDB's letter containing the date of 31 December 2004 for receiving proposed implementation plan of the aforesaid project. The Council also took note of the letter on the subject received from the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Tehran which the Secretariat circulated among member states vide its note No. EME/IDB/2004/2251 dated 13 December 2004.

7. The Council deliberated on the issue at length. Since member states still needed more time to discuss the issue, the Council requested the Secretary General to contact IDB management and inform them that the ECO was keen to implement the aforesaid project through the proposed financing of the IDB and request the Bank to extend the deadline (i.e. 31 December 2004) for around two months enabling the Secretariat to propose implementation plan for the aforesaid feasibility study.

8. The Secretary General informed the meeting that if his efforts to convince the IDB to extend the date for a response failed, an extraordinary meeting of the CPR would be called to take a final decision on the issue.

Item No. 5***Draft ECO Secretariat's Budget for 2005***

- a) ***Secretariat's Budget Proposals for 2005***

9. While agreeing, in principle, to the proposed draft budget of the Secretariat for the year 2005, the Council observed that overall increase was reasonable. However, it made some observations with regard to some of the heads of account such as travel, reception/diplomatic obligations, purchase of car, consumable and other services, etc. The Council also asked the Secretariat to prepare a report about actual expenditures of 2004 and circulate to member states. Finally, the Council decided to establish an open-ended Working Group to look into the budget in detail and submit its recommendations to the next CPR meeting for approval.

- b) ***Authorization for expenditures for the year 2005.***

10. As per Articles 7.2 and 7.3 of the Financial Regulations of the ECO Secretariat, the Council authorized the Secretary General to make payments to sustain Secretariat's essential functioning on provisional basis until the approval of the budget for the year 2005.

Item No. 6***Budget Proposals for DCCU***

11. Some member states expressed their views in this regard. The Council requested the Secretariat, while continuing its efforts to get the financial support of donors for DCCU, to propose a Plan for the continuation of the activities of this Unit by utilizing the available resources in the Secretariat.

Item No. 7***SG's Recommendations presented to the 14th COM meeting*****a) *Designation of coordinators from the Member States for implementing projects in the priority areas***

12. While welcoming the initiative of the Secretary General, the Council agreed, in principle, to the proposed recommendations and decided to establish a Working Group to formulate concrete and comprehensive proposals for designating coordinators among member states for smooth implementation of the projects and submit the same to the CPR for approval.

b) *Revision of salary package of the staff of ECO Secretariat*

13. The Council agreed, in principle, with the recommendations of the Secretary General to revise the salary package of the staff of the ECO Secretariat and indicated that it is the time for such revision. Therefore, the Council decided to establish an open-ended Working Group to formulate its recommendations and submit the same to the future CPR meeting for approval.

Item No. 8***ECO Cultural Institute (ECI:******a) ECI's Three-Year Plan******b) ECI's Budget for 2005******a) ECI's Three-Year Plan***

14. While taking note of the briefing given by the President of ECI and appreciating the hard work done by the ECI, the Council adopted, in principle, the ECI's Three-Year Plan. However, the Council asked the President of ECI to work closely with the member states and incorporate their views/comments in the Plan, with a view to prepare a comprehensive and consolidated long-term Plan for ECI's activities. The Council also asked ECI to prepare a time-table for the implementation of the aforesaid Plan and submit the same to the CPR.

c) ECI's Budget for 2005

15. The Council conditionally approved the ECI's Budget for 2005 and authorized the President of ECI to make payments provisionally until the formal approval of the budget.

Item No. 9***Briefing on the meetings/events attended by ECO staff***

16. The Council, while appreciating the list of events/meetings attended by the ECO Staff recently circulated among member states vide Secretariat's note No. SG/CPR/2004/2234 dated 06 December 2004 and the briefing provided by the Secretary General, emphasized that the participation in the Non-ECO meetings/events should be result-oriented.

Item No. 10***MOU between ECO Secretariat and ASEAN Secretariat***

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

Item No. 11**Administrative Matters****a) Appointment to the post of Assistant Director/Chef de Cabinet**

18. The Council extended the deadline for submission of nominations for the post of Assistant Director/Chef de Cabinet until 15th January 2005. However, the Council emphasized that there will be no more extension in deadline in this regard.

19. In light of the above, the Council decided to extend the tenure of Mr. Afzal Mirshakarov, the present incumbent Assistant Director/Chef de Cabinet, for a period of three months with effect from 10th January 2005.

20. Furthermore, the Council requested that all member states should send their nominations well in time to avoid the need for extension.

b) Conversion/utilization of post of Receptionist/Telephone Operator as Programme Officer/Expert

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

Item No. 12***Any other business*****a) *Theft of Secretariat's money on August 16, 2004***

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

b) *Purchase of a car in lieu of two motorcycles*

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

Item No. 13***Date of the next meeting***

24. The Council decided to hold its next meeting (95th) on Wednesday, 19th January 2005 at 10:00 hours.

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