

The 95th CPR Meeting

Report

(Tehran – January 19, 2005)

No. CPR/95TH/2005/04

The 95th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), held at the ECO Secretariat on 19 January 2005, was chaired by H.E. Mr. Mirzoev Ramazon Zaripovtsh, 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 the Representative of the ECO Cultural Institute and the ECO Secretary General along with the ECO Secretariat staff attended the meeting. (List of participants attached as **Annex-I**).

Item No. 1

Adoption of the Agenda

2. The CPR adopted the following agenda for its 95th meeting:
 1. Adoption of the Agenda
 2. Adoption of the Draft Report of the 94th CPR Meeting
 3. 15th Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC) scheduled to be held on February 14-17, 2005:
 - a) Draft Agenda
 - 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. ECO Secretariat's Budget for 2005
 6. Budget Proposals for DCCU
 7. Utilization of Special Support Fund for some activities in the first quarter of 2005
 8. Holding of Senior Officials Meeting (SOM)
 9. ECI's Budget for 2005
 10. Briefing on the meetings/events attended by ECO staff
 11. MOU between ECO Secretariat and ASEAN Secretariat
 12. 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
 13. Any other business
 - a) Theft of Secretariat's money on August 16, 2004
 14. Date of the next meeting

Item No. 2

Adoption of the Draft Report of the 94th CPR Meeting

3. The CPR adopted the report of the 94th CPR meeting, which was circulated among member states by the Secretariat vide its note No. SG/CPR/2004/2275 dated 16 December 2004, with some amendments in Para 11 of Agenda Item No. 6 and Para 14 of Agenda Item No. 8(a). The Secretariat circulated the adopted report among member states vide its note No. SG/CPR/2005/0131 dated January 20, 2005.

Item No. 3***15th Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC)
scheduled to be held on February 14-17, 2005:***

- a) **Draft Agenda**
- b) **Confirmation of Participation**
- c) **Any other issue**

4. The CPR deliberated and approved the draft agenda for the 15th RPC meeting scheduled to be held on 14-17 February 2005 at the ECO Secretariat in Tehran. **(Annex-II)**

5. The CPR was informed that so far Afghanistan, Iran and Turkey have confirmed their participation in the aforesaid meeting. The Permanent Representatives of Pakistan and Tajikistan have also confirmed their countries' participation in the meeting.

6. The CPR requested other member states, who did not confirm their participation yet, to confirm their participation at the earliest and convey their composition of delegations.

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***

7. The CPR deliberated on the issue and took note of the developments on the subject and called upon all the parties, in view of the importance of the project, to expedite the conclusion of the agreement with a view to finalize the issue by the next CPR meeting.

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

8. The CPR noted the good work of the Working Group on the budget and approved the Budget of the Secretariat for the year 2005 amounting to US\$ 1,996,668 plus US\$ 99,833 (5% of the budget) as the Feasibility Fund in accordance with Article 18 of the "Functional Methodology of ECO", by allowing US\$ 30,000 under Item No. 15 "Purchase of Car" and using of sale proceeds from the present car to buy a new car for the Secretary General. (Thus, total budget for the year 2005 is: US\$ 2,096,501). The CPR approved the budget on behalf of the Council of Ministers as per Article 3, Para 2 of the Financial Regulations of the ECO Secretariat.

9. On Item No. 3 "Travel Expenses", the Council observed that reasonable ratio between ECO and Non-ECO Events should be maintained and the allocation for the ECO and Non-ECO Events which are not included in the Calendar of Events may be around 10% of the relevant head of account.

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

10. The CPR deliberated on the issue. As some member states were still awaiting responses from their capitals regarding financing of the Drug Control and Coordination Unit (DCCU), the CPR decided to defer the decision to its next meeting. However, the CPR took note of the arrangements the Secretary General has made, on temporarily basis, for the continuation of the DCCU by utilizing the available resources of the Secretariat. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran informed that his country will consider positively provision of the services of an Information Analyst to the DCCU on a temporary basis.

11. Furthermore, the CPR requested the Secretary General to continue discussion with the donors like UNODC and EU for the financing of the project.

12. The CPR also observed that the member states should complement the efforts of the ECO Secretariat in this regard by asking their Embassies in Brussels and Vienna to discuss this matter in their bilateral meetings with the donor agencies and encourage them to finance the project.

Item No. 7**Utilization of Special Support Fund for some activities in the first quarter of 2005**

13. The CPR approved the utilization of Special Support Fund for one participant from each of the seven member states (Central Asian Republics, Azerbaijan and Afghanistan) in the following meeting/event:

1. Seminar on Trade and Investment Information Networking in the ECO Region (Karachi: 31 January 2005 – 01 February, 2005)
2. 3rd Expert Working Group meeting on Environment to be held on 23-24 February, 2005 at Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Item No. 8**Hosting of Senior Officials Meetings (SOM)**

14. The CPR decided on the principle that the Senior Officials Meeting (between the intervals of two Meetings of the Council of Ministers) shall be hosted by the Member State who hold the rotating Chairmanship of the Council of Ministers.

15. The Republic of Tajikistan, the current Chairman of the Council of Ministers, regretted that, due to the limited time available, it will not be able to host the Senior Officials Meeting before the 15th Meeting of the Council of Ministers as per the decision contained in para 14 above.

16. The Islamic Republic of Iran, on exceptional case, offered to host the 1st Senior Officials Meeting in Tehran in April 2005. The Secretariat will circulate the exact dates of the Senior Officials Meeting in consultation with the Iranian authorities. The CPR welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the meeting.

Item No. 9***ECI's Budget for 2005***

17. The CPR approved the draft budget of the ECI for the year 2005 with the observation of Pakistan that this would be on a tentative basis.

Item No. 10***Briefing on the meetings/events attended by ECO staff***

18. The CPR was informed that no meeting/event was scheduled due to the vacation period at the end and beginning of the New Year.

Item No. 11***MOU between ECO Secretariat and ASEAN Secretariat***

19. The CPR deferred the item to its next meeting.

Item No. 12**Administrative Matters****a) Appointment to the post of Assistant Director/Chef de Cabinet**

20. The Selection Panel informed the CPR about their deliberations on the issue that they could not reach to a consensus yet to recommend the candidate for the said post. Therefore, after some deliberations, the CPR decided to defer the decision on the issue to its next meeting, thus there will be a more time for consultations among the concerned Member States and the Selection Panel. The next Selection Panel will consider the issue and make its recommendation to the CPR for final approval.

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

21. The Council approved the proposal of the Secretariat regarding utilization of a vacant post of Receptionist/Telephone Operator (Category II, P-I) as Programme Officer/Expert. The Council also took note of the Kyrgyz proposal regarding upgradation of the post of Assistant/Public Relations and Conference Services (P-2), presently occupied by Mr. Talantbek Kasymbekov, to the post of Programme Officer (P-3).

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Item No. 13

Any other business

a) *Theft of Secretariat's money on August 16, 2004*

22. The Council authorized the Secretary General to write off loss of cash and other valuables due to the theft on August 16, 2005, with the observation that the Secretariat will take appropriate measures to avoid the recurrence of this kind of incidents in future.

b) *Information from the Representative of Iran*

23. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran informed the meeting about the willingness of the Ministry of Interior of Iran to host the meeting of the ECO Ministers of Interior in Tehran in the third week of March 2005 as envisaged in para xviii of the Dushanbe Declaration 2004. He further stated that formal confirmation along with the exact dates will be sent to the Secretariat shortly.

Item No. 14

Date of the next meeting

24. The Council decided to hold its next (96th) meeting on Tuesday, 1st March 2005 at 10:00 hours.

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