

The 96th CPR Meeting

Report

(Tehran – March 1, 2005)

No. CPR/96TH/2005/04

1. The 96th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), held at the ECO Secretariat on March 1, 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 ECO Secretary General along with the ECO Secretariat staff attended the meeting. (List of participants attached as **Annex-I**).

2. The Council observed that, keeping in view the importance of this decision-making body, the Ambassadors/Permanent Representatives of the member states may do their best so that they could personally participate in the CPR meetings.

Item No. 1

Adoption of the Agenda

3. The CPR adopted the following agenda for its 96th meeting:

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Adoption of the Draft Report of the 95th CPR Meeting
3. Post-briefing on the 15th Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC)
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. MOU between ECO Secretariat and ASEAN Secretariat
6. Preparation for the 1st Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) scheduled to be held in Tehran, Iran, in April 2005.
 - (a) Dates of the Meeting/Participation
 - (b) Draft Agenda
 - (c) Any other issue
7. 15th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM)
 - (a) Venue and Date of the 15th COM meeting
 - (b) Preparations
 - (c) Any other issue.
8. SG's Recommendations presented to the 14th COM meeting
 - (a) Designation of coordinators from the Member States for implementation of the important projects
 - (b) Revision of salary package of staff of ECO Secretariat
9. Utilization of Special Support Fund (SSF) during 2005
 - (a) List of selected events/meetings to be supported by SSF
 - (b) Utilization of SSF for accommodation of participants for the Meeting of High Level Experts on Transport
10. Budget Proposals for DCCU
11. Briefing on the meetings/events attended by ECO staff recently.
12. Administrative Matters

- (a) Appointment to the post of Assistant Director/Chef de Cabinet
 - (b) Adjustment/Appointment against the post of Steno-Secretary (P-II)
13. Any other business
 14. Date of the next meeting

Item No. 2**Adoption of the Draft Report of the 95th CPR Meeting**

4. The CPR adopted the report of the 95th CPR meeting, which was circulated among member states by the Secretariat vide its note No. SG/CPR/2005/0141 dated January 23, 2005, with some amendments under item No. 6, Para 10, and item No. 12(b), Para 21, proposed by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Kyrgyz Republic, respectively. The Secretariat circulated the adopted report among member states vide its note No. SG/CPR/2005/0364 dated March 2, 2005.

Item No. 3**Post-briefing on the 15th Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC).**

5. The Secretary General briefed the CPR about the successful organization of the 15th Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC) held on February 14-17, 2005, at the ECO Secretariat, with good participation from the member states. He further informed that the final report of the 15th RPC meeting has been circulated among member states vide Secretariat's note No. PR/15th RPC/2005/0306 dated February 22, 2005.

6. The CPR thanked the Secretary General and ECO staff for the hard work they had done for the success of the meeting and prepared the necessary documentations for the purpose. The CPR also expressed its gratitude and thanks to the Islamic Republic of Iran for assistance/courtesies rendered to the ECO Secretariat and participating delegations from member states.

7. The CPR observed that there is a need to have a follow-up mechanism and close relations and cooperation between the Directorates of the ECO Secretariat and national focal points in sub-sectors in the member states in order to ensure full implementation of the RPC recommendations. The CPR further observed that there is also a need for closer interaction between SOM – the newly inducted important body and RPC in order to gain the maximum benefits from the role and activities of these two important bodies.

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**

8. After briefing by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Kyrgyz Republic on successful discussions and developments on the subject matter, the CPR approved the selection of M/s NESPAK as the Consultant, as recommended by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), to prepare a feasibility study for Interconnection of the Power Systems of the ECO Member States and authorized the Secretary General to sign a contract with M/s NESPAK and take further steps to implement the project as had been indicated by the IDB. The CPR congratulated the concerned parties on finalizing the issue that would pave the way for further collaboration between the member states.

Item No. 5**MOU between ECO Secretariat and ASEAN Secretariat**

9. The CPR agreed, in principle, to the draft MOU with amendments as proposed by the member states. The CPR approved the MOU and authorized the Secretary General to sign the said MOU with Secretary General of ASEAN, after receiving the positive approval/response from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and

Republic of Turkey. The aforesaid member states informed the meeting that as soon as they received instructions from their capitals, the same would be conveyed to the Secretariat. In case, there would be some counter amendments/proposals from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Republic of Turkey, the issue would again be deliberated and finalized in the next CPR meeting.

Item No. 6

Preparation for the 1st Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) scheduled to be held in Tehran, Iran, in April 2005.

(a) *Dates of the Meeting/Participation*

10. The CPR took note of the proposed dates (12-13 April 2005) for the 1st Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) to be hosted by the Islamic Republic of Iran in Tehran. The CPR was informed that so far, Kyrgyz Republic and Republic of Turkey have officially confirmed their participation in the aforesaid meeting. The CPR requested the other member states to confirm their participation in the meeting along with composition of their delegations as early as possible.

11. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran informed that Iranian side would provide hospitality to 1+2 (3 delegates from each member states) with full boarding/lodging/transportation, etc.

(a) *Draft Agenda*

12. The CPR considered the revised draft agenda for the 1st Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) to be held on 12-13 April 2005 in Tehran as it has been circulated among member states vide Secretariat's note No. SG/1st SOM/2005/0346 dated 28 February 2005. A copy of the said revised draft agenda is attached as ***Annex-II***.

(c) *Any other issue*

13. The CPR did not discuss any issue under this agenda item.

Item No. 7

15th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM)

(a) *Venue and Date of the 15th COM meeting*

(b) *Preparations*

(c) *Any other issue.*

14. The Secretary General, in consultation with the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan, informed the CPR that the 15th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) will be hosted by the Republic of Kazakhstan in its new capital, Astana, on 20 August 2005 (tentatively), to be preceded by Senior Officials Meeting on 18-19 August 2005. The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan informed that an official confirmation to this effect will be conveyed to the Secretariat through the Embassy's note verbale soon. The CPR welcomed the offer of the Republic of Kazakhstan to host the next COM meeting.

Item No. 8

SG's Recommendations presented to the 14th COM meeting

(a) *Designation of coordinators from the Member States for implementation of the important projects*

15. Since some member states were still awaiting instructions to the draft proposal along with its Terms of Reference, prepared by the Working Group of the CPR, for designating coordinators among member states for smooth implementation of the projects, the CPR decided to finalize this issue in its next meeting.

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

16. Since the issue was still to be deliberated and finalized by the next meeting of the Working Group which has been scheduled to be held on March 7, 2005, the CPR decided to defer this issue to its next meeting. However, the CPR emphasized that there was a need to increase the salaries of the staff, particularly the

Professional Staff who are the professional backbone of the organization.

Item No. 9

Utilization of Special Support Fund (SSF) during 2005:

(a) *List of selected events/meetings to be supported by SSF*

17. The CPR approved the list of ECO Events/Meetings for the year 2005 to be supported from Special Support Fund (SSF) which was taken from the list of ECO Calendar of Events/Meetings approved by the 15th RPC meeting. A copy of the approved list of events/meetings to be supported from SSF is placed at **Annex-III**.

(b) *Utilization of SSF for accommodation of participants for the Meeting of High Level Expert on Transport*

18. The Council approved the proposal of utilization of SSF for accommodation of participants, in addition to the travel airfare, for the Meeting of High Level Experts on Transport to be held at the ECO Secretariat to finalize the ECO Road Map, as envisaged in the Modalities of the Utilization of SSF.

Item No. 10

Budget Proposals for DCCU

19. While agreeing, in principle, to the need of financial support from the member states for continuation of DCCU, the CPR requested the Secretary General to prepare and circulate the revised budget proposal for DCCU keeping in view the present staff strength of the Secretariat who could possibly be assigned extra work of the DCCU and offer of Iranian authorities for provision of a relevant officer to DCCU on temporary basis.

Item No. 11

Briefing on the meetings/events attended by ECO staff recently.

20. The CPR, while appreciated the list of events/meetings attended by the ECO staff, urged the Secretariat to circulate the reports of these meetings as soon as possible.

Item No. 12

Administrative Matters

(a) *Appointment to the post of Assistant Director/Chef de Cabinet*

21. The Selection Panel informed the CPR that they could not reach to a final conclusion to recommend the candidate for the post of Assistant Director/Chef de Cabinet. The Selection Panel also emphasized that the concerned parties namely Republic of Kazakhstan, Republic of Tajikistan and Republic of Turkey may hold further informal consultations with each other and submit their recommendations with regard to the post of Assistant Director/Chef de Cabinet to the next Selection Panel meeting. In view of the foregoing, the CPR decided to defer the decision on the issue to its next meeting.

(b) *Adjustment/Appointment against the post of Steno-Secretary (P-II)*

22. The CPR agreed to appoint Mr. Ali Ahmad Chaudhry, (National of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan), who is presently working as Steno-Secretary (P-1) at the ECO Secretariat, against the P-2 level post of Steno-Secretary to be vacated by Mr. Muhammad Akbar (National of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan) on completion of his tenure on September 28, 2005, for the remaining period of his normal tenure at the ECO Secretariat which will expire on February 20, 2008, therefore, the Secretariat will circulate the post of Steno-Secretary (P-1) in due time.

Item No. 13

Any other business

(a) *Information from the Representative of Iran*

23. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran informed the meeting that the Minister of Interior of Iran was sending official invitations to his counterparts in the member states to attend the Meeting of the ECO Ministers of Interior proposed to be held in Tehran on 18-20 April 2005. He requested the member states to respond to the aforesaid invitation at the earliest. He further informed that the Iranian side would provide hospitality to 1+3 (4 delegates from each member states) with full boarding/lodging/transportation, etc.

Item No. 14

Date of the next meeting

24. The CPR decided to hold its next (97th) meeting on Tuesday, April 5, 2005, at 10:00 hours.

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