

The 97th CPR Meeting

Report

(Tehran – April 5, 2005)

No. CPR/97TH/2005/04

1. The 97th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), held at the ECO Secretariat on April 05, 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, 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 Chairman once again observed that, keeping in view the importance of this decision-making body, the Ambassadors/Permanent Representatives of the member states may do their best to personally participate in the CPR meetings.

Item No. 1

Adoption of the Agenda

3. The CPR, with some amendments, adopted the following agenda for its 97th meeting:

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Adoption of the Draft Report of the 96th CPR Meeting
3. Administrative Matters
 - (a) Appointment to the post of Assistant Director/Chef de Cabinet
 - (b) Appointment as Program Officer/Expert on Transport (Utilization of the vacant post of Receptionist/Telephone Operator)
4. MOU between ECO Secretariat and ASEAN Secretariat
5. Preparation for the 1st Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) scheduled to be held in Tehran, Iran, on 12-13 April 2005.
 - (a) Participation
 - (b) Preparations
 - (c) Any other business
6. Preparation for the 15th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM)
 - (a) Official Confirmation
 - (b) Date of the Meeting/Preparations
 - (a) Any other business
7. Status of monetary contribution by the member states to the ECO Secretariat's Budget
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. Budget Proposals for DCCU
10. Briefing on the meetings/events attended by ECO staff recently.
11. Interior Ministers Meeting to be held on 18-20 April 2005 in Tehran
12. Any other business
 - (a) International Conference on Regional Cooperation in Transboundary River Basins to be held on 30 May to 1 June 2005 in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan.
 - (b) UNESCAP Training Programme
 - (c) EPG's Recommendations and draft ECO Vision 2015
 - (d) Briefing on Feasibility Study for Interconnection of the Power Systems of the Member States

13. Date of the next meeting

Item No. 2

Adoption of the Draft Report of the 96th CPR Meeting

4. The CPR adopted the report of the 96th CPR meeting, which was circulated among member states by the Secretariat vide its note No. SG/CPR/2005/0375 dated March 2, 2005. The Secretariat circulated the adopted report among member states vide its note No. SG/CPR/2005/0575 dated April 06, 2005.

Item No. 3

Administrative Matters

- (a) **Appointment to the post of Assistant Director/Chef de Cabinet**
- (b) **Appointment as Program Officer/Expert on Transport
(Utilization of the vacant post of Receptionist/Telephone Operator)**

5. The Selection Panel informed the 97th CPR meeting that it could not reach consensus to recommend a candidate to appoint against the post of Assistant Director/Chef de Cabinet and recommended to defer the selection/appointment against the posts of Assistant Director/Chef de Cabinet and Program Officer/Expert on Transport till next Selection Panel meeting which will be held before the 98th CPR meeting. Therefore, the CPR decided to defer the issue to its next meeting. It was also recommended that the Secretary General may organize the meeting among the relevant interested parties for further consultations before the next Selection Panel meeting.

6. Furthermore, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan observed that the recruitment to the posts at the ECO Secretariat may be made according to the financial contributions being paid by the member states, keeping in view the prevailing practices in the United Nations as well as the other international/regional organizations. Some member states expressed their reservations on the issue. However, the CPR requested the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to send their proposal to the Secretariat to be distributed to the member states for their consideration and further discussion in future CPR/SOM/COM.

Item No. 4

MOU between ECO Secretariat and ASEAN Secretariat

7. The CPR approved the MOU with all amendments proposed by the member states and authorized the Secretary General to sign the said MOU with Secretary General of ASEAN.

Item No. 5

Preparation for the 1st Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) scheduled to be held in Tehran, Iran, on 12-13 April 2005.

- (a) **Participation**
- (b) **Preparations**
- (c) **Any other business**

8. The CPR deliberated on the issue. After taking into consideration the quorum as well as level of participation, it has been decided to postpone the 1st Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) at least for about a month, giving more time to the member states to participate in the meeting at highest level. The Secretariat will announce the new date in consultation with the host authorities.

9. The Council requested the member states to expedite their confirmation for participation at the highest level once a new date is announced since it will be an important ECO body which will hopefully meet regularly in-between the two Meetings of the Council of Ministers and would be helpful to remove any obstacles in the way of the organization.

Item No. 6

Preparation for the 15th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM)

- (a) **Official Confirmation**
- (b) **Dates of the Meeting/Preparations**
- (a) **Any other business**

10. While thanking the Republic of Kazakhstan for its offer to host the 15th Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) in its capital, Astana, on August 20, 2005, the CPR requested the member states to confirm their participation in the aforesaid meeting on the proposed date.

11. The Secretariat, in consultation with the host authorities, will circulate the dates of the usual Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) that will possibly be as follows:

- a) 18 August 2005 : Senior Officials Meeting (SOM)
- b) 19 August 2005 : The Secretariat will prepare report and other related documents on the basis of the deliberations of the SOM.
- c) 20 August 2005 : 15th Meeting of the Council of Ministers

Item No. 7

Status of monetary contribution by the member states to the ECO Secretariat's Budget

12. The Secretariat informed the CPR that so far it has received contribution for the year 2005 from the Republic of Kazakhstan, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and partial payment from the Republic of Tajikistan. The CPR deliberated on the issue and urged those member states, who have not paid their contributions for the year 2005 as well as the previous years, to pay their contributions at the earliest, enabling the Secretariat to function smoothly which only depends on the contributions of the member states.

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

13. The CPR adopted the Proposal and the Terms of Reference, prepared by the Working Group, with regard to the designation of coordinators from the member states for implementation of the important projects and requested the member states to communicate their interest to be designated as coordinator for some project(s) as indicated in the aforesaid documents and requested the Secretariat to compile a list of member states with their interest and submit the same to the next CPR meeting.

14. The Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan indicated that the Islamic Republic of Pakistan may be designated coordinator for ECOTA and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey indicated that the Republic of Turkey may be designated coordinator for ECO Trade & Development Bank and Almaty-Tehran-Istanbul Container & Passenger Train.

(b) Revision of salary package of staff of ECO Secretariat

15. The CPR approved the recommendations, prepared by the Working Group, with regard to the revision of salary package of staff of ECO Secretariat, for submission to the 15th COM meeting for formal approval. (Approved recommendations are placed at **Annex-II** for ready reference).

Item No. 9

Budget Proposals for DCCU

16. The CPR approved the budget proposals for DCCU and requested the Secretariat to communicate the share of contributions of the member states as well as the relevant account number to which the member states may deposit their contributions.

Item No. 10

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

17. While taking note of the events/meetings attended by the ECO Secretariat staff, the CPR appreciated the efforts of the Secretariat for timely forwarding the reports of these meetings/events. Some Permanent Representatives further expressed their appreciation for the report on ECO's participation in the 2nd Ministerial Conference on Transport and Trade in Central and South Asia held at the Asian Development Bank in Manila on March 3-4, 2005.

Item No. 11**Interior Ministers Meeting to be held in Tehran on 18-20 April 2005**

18. While briefing about the arrangements being made with regard to the Interior Ministers Meeting to be held in Tehran on 18-20 April 2005, the Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran informed that so far four countries through bilateral channel have confirmed their participation. Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan also confirmed that their Interior Minister will participate in the meeting.

19. The Council urged the other member states to confirm their participation at the earliest (positively until Saturday, 9th April 2005), along with the flight details, so that the host authorities could make necessary protocol and other arrangements well in advance.

20. The Council further requested the member states that while confirming their participation in the meeting to the host authorities, they should also confirm their participation through the ECO Secretariat as well for smooth coordination between the member states and the Secretariat as well as the host authorities.

Item No. 12**Any other business****(a) International Conference on Regional Cooperation in Transboundary River Basins to be held on 30 May to 1 June 2005 in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan.**

21. The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan informed the meeting that the Republic of Tajikistan is hosting an International Conference on Regional Cooperation in Transboundary River Basins to be held on 30 May to 1 June 2005 in Dushanbe. In this regard, invitations are being addressed to the Heads of State around the world and International & Regional Organizations. He urged the ECO member states to actively participate in the aforesaid event which would further pave the way to collaborate among themselves.

(b) UNESCAP Training Program

22. The CPR was informed that all relevant documents with regard to the training course "*Participatory Project Design Based on the Logical Framework Approach*" being organized at the ECO Secretariat originally for the ECO Secretariat staff, with the assistance of UNESCAP on April 17-21, 2005 were sent to the member states. The CPR requested the member states that although the deadline for submission of names by member states for the aforesaid course has been passed but the diplomatic missions in Tehran may still nominate their respective diplomatic staff to attend the aforesaid training course/workshop, if they wish so.

(c) EPG's Recommendations, including draft 'ECO Vision 2015'

23. The Council decided that:

- I. EPG's Recommendations, which will hopefully be finalized by the Working Group and the CPR in their next meetings, may be submitted to the 1st Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) for further deliberations, before submitting to the 15th COM meeting for consideration.
- II. Draft 'ECO Vision 2015' along with the views/comments of the Working Group will be considered by the CPR in its future meetings and may be submitted to the 15th COM meeting.

(d) Briefing on Feasibility Study for Interconnection of Power Systems of the Member States.

24. The Secretary General briefed the Council about the signing of the contract with M/s Nespak and submission of the same to the IDB for endorsement. He further informed that the coordination for the project will be through the ECO Secretariat and the said project will be completed within eighteen months and requested for designation of national focal points.

25. The Council requested the member states to designate national focal points to provide the necessary information/data to prepare the feasibility study on inter-connection of power systems of the ECO member states.

26. Furthermore, the Secretary General informed the Council that a Workshop on Regional Energy Trade is tentatively scheduled to be held in June 2005. This workshop would aim to identify possible further activities for development of the regional energy trade and financial sources for their implementation. In this respect, other concerned financial institutions/donors and international organizations such as UNESCAP will also be invited to attend this event. He further informed that the World Bank had agreed to finance the workshop with an amount of US\$ 30,000 which will cover the airfare and lodging expenses for the participants from all ECO member states as well as other organizational expenditures. The Secretariat had already requested the member states to offer hosting the event. In case there will be no response until 15 April 2005, the venue of the workshop will be ECO Secretariat in Tehran.

27. The Council appreciated the effort of the Secretariat for cooperation and receiving technical and financial assistance from international organizations such as the World Bank and encouraged the Secretariat to continue its efforts on this line.

Item No. 13

Date of the next meeting

28. The CPR decided to hold its next (98th) meeting on Wednesday, May 04, 2005, at 10:00 hours.

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