

# The 98<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting

## Report

( Tehran – Wednesday, 04 May 2005 )

No. CPR/98<sup>TH</sup>/2005/05

1. The 98<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), held at the ECO Secretariat on May 04, 2005, 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 the ECO Secretary General along with the relevant ECO Secretariat staff attended the meeting. (List of participants are attached as **Annex-I**).

### **Item No. 1**

#### **Adoption of the Agenda**

2. The CPR adopted the following agenda for its 98<sup>th</sup> meeting:

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Adoption of the Draft Report of the 97<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting
3. 1<sup>st</sup> Senior Officials Meeting (SOM)
  - (a) Date of the Meeting/Confirmation of Participation
  - (b) Preparations
  - (c) Any other business
4. 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM)
  - (a) Dates of the Meeting/Confirmation of Participation
  - (b) Preparations
  - (a) Any other business
5. Designation of coordinators from the Member States for implementation of the important projects
6. EPG's Recommendations
7. Draft 'ECO Vision 2015'
8. Status of mandatory contribution by the member states to the ECO Secretariat's Budget
9. Audit Report for 2004
10. Temporary appointments for DCCU:
  - a) Information Analyst
  - b) Trilingual Assistant
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) Appointment as Program Officer/Expert on Transport (Utilization of the vacant post of Receptionist/Telephone Operator)
  - c) Appointment to the post of Director Economic Research and Statistics
13. Consideration of the level of participation of the Member States in the approved events of the Organization and realization of the events mentioned in the Calendar of Events
14. Any other business
15. Date of the next meeting

**Item No. 2****Adoption of the Draft Report of the 97<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting**

3. The CPR adopted the report of the 97<sup>th</sup> CPR meeting, which was circulated among member states by the Secretariat vide its note No. SG/CPR/2005/0597 dated April 07, 2005. The Secretariat circulated the adopted report among member states vide its note No. SG/CPR/2005/0777 dated May 05, 2005.

**Item No. 3****1<sup>st</sup> Senior Officials Meeting (SOM)**

- (a) ***Date of the Meeting/Confirmation of Participation***
- (b) ***Preparations***
- (c) ***Any other business***

4. Islamic Republic of Iran informed the CPR that they had decided to change the dates of the 1<sup>st</sup> Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) to be held in Tehran from 23-24 May 2005 to 30-31 May 2005, so that the quorum as well as participation at appropriate level were ensured. The Secretariat vide its note No.SG/1<sup>st</sup> SOM/2005/0766 dated May 04, 2005, has circulated these new dates in the CPR meeting.

5. The CPR requested the member states to confirm their participation, at an appropriate level, but not later than 21/22 May 2005 as requested by the host authority, along with flight schedule of the participants, so that the necessary arrangements could be made on time.

6. The CPR further requested the Permanent Representatives of the ECO Member States to approach their respective capitals and follow-up the matter vigorously to reach the quorum well in time so that the 1<sup>st</sup> SOM should be held on the aforesaid dates and it should not be postponed further. It further observed that attendance at the 1<sup>st</sup> SOM should be at an appropriate level (Deputy Foreign Ministers) so that the substantive issues should be discussed.

7. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran briefed the meeting about the arrangements being made with regard to the hosting of 1<sup>st</sup> SOM.

**Item No. 4****15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM)**

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

8. The CPR deliberated on the issue and requested the member states to confirm their participation in the forthcoming 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2005 in Astana so that the necessary arrangements may be made well in time.

9. The Secretariat informed the meeting that preparation of agenda for the 15<sup>th</sup> COM meeting is in the process. As soon as it is prepared, it will be circulated for CPR's consideration.

**Item No. 5****Designation of coordinators from the Member States for implementation of the important projects**

10. The CPR deliberated on the issue and approved the nominations for designation of coordinators as follows:

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name of Project/Agreement</b>	<b>Designated Country</b>
1.	Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for the Businessmen of ECO	Islamic Republic of Iran

	Member States.	
2.	ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA)	Islamic Republic of Pakistan
3.	ECO Trade & Development Bank	Republic of Turkey

11. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran indicated that his country's first priority is to be designated as coordinator for "*Container and Passenger Trains from Almaty to Istanbul on the Trans-Asian Railway main line*". However, taking into account the interest of the Republic of Kazakhstan on this issue, the decision with regard to the *Container and Passenger Trains* has been deferred to the next CPR meeting.

12. The CPR requested the other member states to communicate their interest for the following remaining projects at the earliest so that this matter can be finalized soonest possible:

S. No.	Name of Project
1.	Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA)
2.	Feasibility Study on Interconnection of ECO Countries' Power Systems funded by the Islamic Development Bank

### **Item No. 6**

#### **EPG's Recommendations**

13. Taking into account the EPG's recommendations and Working Group's deliberations on the issue, the Secretary General also proposed new Organizational Chart of the ECO Secretariat to the CPR which contains the following proposals:

- a) Two Directorates, namely; Directorate of Project Research and Directorate of Economic Research & Statistics may be merged into one Directorate and be named as "*Directorate of Project & Economic Research & Statistics*".
- b) A new Directorate namely; "*Directorate of Human Resources and Sustainable Development*" may be created and entrusted the tasks with regard to Health, Drug & Poverty Alleviation, etc. and will work under the supervision of Deputy Secretary General (Transport & Communications, Project Research, Economic Research & Statistics).
- c) Assistant Director (International Relations and Coordination Unit) may be designated as *Assistant Director (International Relations)* which will only look after the international relations.
- d) Assistant Director/Chef de Cabinet may be designated as *Assistant Director (Coordination & Follow-Up)* and will work under the supervision of Deputy Secretary General (Energy, Minerals & Environment and Administration) which will deal with the matters relating to the meetings of the decision-making organs such as "Summit, COM, SOM and CPR" and their follow-up.

A copy of the proposed Organizational Chart is attached herewith as "***Annex-II***".

14. The CPR instructed the Working Group to continue its work and finalize its views/comments with regard to the EPG's recommendations and submit the same to the next CPR meeting. It was informed that the next Working Group meeting to finalize the aforesaid Report will be held on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2005 at 09:30 hours at the ECO Secretariat. The CPR requested the member states to send their representatives to the meeting with full authority to look into the remaining issues of the EPG's recommendations as well as the Secretary General's proposal so that the Working Group be in a position to present final text to the CPR to the extent possible.

### **Item No. 7**

#### **Draft 'ECO Vision 2015'**

15. The CPR decided that 'ECO Vision 2015' may be adopted rather than normal Communiqué as "Basic Reference Document" of the organization at the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) to be held on August 20, 2005, in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan. The CPR instructed the Working Group to finalize the

remaining paragraphs of the 'ECO Vision 2015' in one of its future meetings after the finalization of EPG's recommendations and submit the final version of the document to the CPR for its consideration.

16. Furthermore, the CPR decided to brief the 1<sup>st</sup> Senior Officials Meeting that the ECO Vision 2015 is being deliberated/finalized and will be sent to the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) for adoption as basic reference document.

#### **Item No. 8**

##### **Status of mandatory contribution by the member states to the ECO Secretariat's Budget**

17. The Secretariat informed the CPR that so far it has received financial contributions 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.

18. The CPR also requested the Secretary General to take up this matter directly with the Foreign Ministers/Finance Ministers of the relevant ECO Member States who have not paid their contributions for the several years and request their cooperation and intervention in this regard and inform the CPR of the results within two months along with his recommendations for further action.

#### **Item No. 9**

##### **Audit Report for 2004**

19. The CPR deliberated on the issue and requested the member states to send their views/comments on the Audit Report for the year 2004 which the Auditors from Iran, Pakistan and Turkey had prepared during their visit to the ECO Secretariat on 10-14 April 2005 and deferred consideration of the issue to its next meeting.

#### **Item No. 10**

##### **Temporary appointments for DCCU:**

- a) **Information Analyst**
- (b) **Tri-lingual Assistant**

20. The Secretary General informed the CPR that four countries, namely; Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkey have nominated their candidates for the post of Information Analyst for DCCU. He further informed that bio-data of the candidates of Pakistan and Tajikistan have not been received. He requested them to send bio-data of their candidates.

21. The Secretary General further informed the CPR that so far no nomination has been received for the post of Tri-lingual Assistant. He requested the member states to send nominations against this post at the earliest.

22. The Secretary General also informed that he will set-up a Committee within the Secretariat comprising himself, three DSGs and relevant Director to shortlist the candidates and he will present its recommendations to the next CPR for their consideration.

23. The Secretariat informed the CPR that no contribution with regard to DCCU has been received so far. The CPR urged the member states to send their financial contributions, as approved by the 97<sup>th</sup> CPR meeting, in this regard and instructed the Secretariat to appoint staff in DCCU as soon as first contribution is received.

#### **Item No. 11**

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

24. The CPR took note and appreciated the information with regard to the meetings/events attended by ECO Staff recently.

#### **Item No. 12**

##### **Administrative Matters**

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

25. The CPR deferred the issue to its next meeting.

b) **Appointment as Program Officer/Expert on Transport  
(Utilization of the vacant post of Receptionist/Telephone Operator)**

26. The CPR deferred the issue to its next meeting.

c) **Appointment to the post of Director Economic Research and Statistics**

27. The CPR deliberated on the issue and decided to discuss the administrative issues and the proposal of Kazakhstan which has been circulated among member states vide Secretariat's note No. No. ADM/Misc/2005/0745 dated May 01, 2005 and other relevant proposals and comments from other member states.

**Item No. 13**

**Consideration of the level of participation of the Member States in the approved events of the Organization and realization of the events mentioned in the Calendar of Events**

28. The CPR deferred the issue to its next meeting.

**Item No. 14**

**Any other business**

(a) **Information from the Representative of Iran**

29. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran proposed that the 100<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) should be commemorated. He informed that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran is considering to host the 100<sup>th</sup> CPR meeting outside Tehran. A high-level official from Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs will inaugurate the meeting. He stated that Permanent Representatives and their Deputies will be invited. He proposed that the Chairman of the CPR and the Secretary General may give joint interview to the print and electronic media to give an expose of the Economic Cooperation Organization. He will convey further information to next CPR meeting.

30. The CPR appreciated and welcomed the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the 100<sup>th</sup> CPR meeting.

**Item No. 15**

**Date of the next meeting**

31. The CPR decided to hold its next (99<sup>th</sup>) meeting on Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> May 2005 at 10:00 hours. As this would be the last CPR meeting before the 1<sup>st</sup> Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) to be held on 30-31 May 2005, it was decided that the 99<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting will mainly concentrate on the issues relating to the 1<sup>st</sup> SOM.

32. Furthermore, the CPR decided to hold an Extraordinary CPR Meeting on Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> May 2005 at 14:00 hours to discuss administrative issues.

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[\[Home\]](#) - [\[Back\]](#)