

The 99th CPR Meeting

Report

(Tehran – Sunday, 29th May 2005)

No. CPR/99TH/2005/04

1. The 99th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR), held at the ECO Secretariat on May 29, 2005, was chaired by H.E. Mr. Mirzoev Ramazon Zarirovitsh, 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 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 99th meeting.
1. Adoption of the Agenda
 2. Adoption of the Draft Report of the 98th CPR Meeting
 3. Adoption of the Draft Report of the Extraordinary CPR Meeting held on May 8, 2005
 4. 1st Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) to be held on May 30-31, 2005 in Tehran:
 - (a) Confirmation of Participation
 - (b) Review of the Draft Agenda of SOM
 - (c) Preparations
 - (d) Any other business
 5. Designation of coordinators from the Member States for implementation of the important projects
 6. EPG's Recommendations
 7. Elaboration of New Mechanism of Staff Rotation in the ECO Secretariat
 8. 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
 9. Administrative Matters
 - a) Appointment to the post of Director (Economic Research & Statistics)
 - b) Appointment to the post of Program Officer/Expert on Transport (Utilization of the vacant post of Receptionist/Telephone Operator)
 - c) Appointment to the post of Assistant Director/Chef de Cabinet
 10. Briefing on the meetings/events attended by ECO Secretariat Staff recently
 11. Temporary appointments for DCCU:
 - a) Information Analyst
 - b) Trilingual Assistant
 12. Any other business
 13. Date of the next meeting

Item No. 2

Adoption of the Draft Report of the 98th CPR Meeting

3. The CPR adopted the report of the 98th CPR meeting, with some amendments proposed by the Islamic Republic of Iran, which was circulated among member states by the Secretariat vide its note No. SG/CPR/2005/0795 dated 9th May 2005. The Secretariat circulated the adopted report among member states vide its note No. SG/CPR/2005/0947 dated May 30, 2005.

Item No. 3

Adoption of the Draft Report of the Extraordinary CPR Meeting held on May 8, 2005

4. The CPR adopted the report of the Extraordinary Meeting of the CPR held on 8th May 2005, which was circulated among member states by the Secretariat vide its note No. SG/CPR/2005/0813 dated 10th May 2005. The Secretariat circulated the adopted report among member states vide its note No. SG/CPR/2005/0946 dated May 30, 2005.

Item No. 4

1st Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) to be held on May 30-31, 2005 in Tehran:

- (a) **Confirmation of Participation**
- (b) **Review of the Draft Agenda of SOM**
- (c) **Preparations**
- (d) **Any other business**

5. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran briefed the CPR that although the host authorities had made all necessary arrangements with regard to the 1st SOM which was scheduled to be held on May 30-31, 2005, and was expected to be attended at the level of Deputy Foreign Ministers but had to be postponed due to the reasons that most of the member states were not in a position to send their Senior Officials from their capitals at this stage.

Item No. 5

Designation of coordinators from the Member States for implementation of the important projects

6. After deliberations on the issue, CPR requested the Secretariat to notify the designated coordinating countries with regard to the following projects/agreements which had already been approved by the 98th CPR meeting and prepare an initial draft Plan of Action in the context of approved Terms of Reference, outlining the responsibilities and assistance which the concerned member states may be able to provide with regard to the implementation of the projects and submit the same to the concerned member states for consideration:

S. No.	Name of Project/Agreement	Designated Country
1.	Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for the Businessmen of ECO Member States.	Islamic Republic of Iran
2.	ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA)	Islamic Republic of Pakistan
3.	ECO Trade & Development Bank	Republic of Turkey

7. As the Republic of Kazakhstan was still not in a position to submit its proposal to be designated as coordinator for "**Container and Passenger Trains from Almaty to Istanbul on the Trans-Asian Railway main line**", the CPR deferred its decision on the issue to its next meeting, taking note of the interest of the Islamic Republic of Iran in this regard as well.

8. Furthermore, the CPR once again requested the other member states to communicate their interest for the remaining two projects at the earliest. The CPR also requested the Secretary General to take up the matter with the remaining member states to persuade them to accept the responsibility of coordinating the following two projects:

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

9. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran pointed out that his government has forwarded to the Secretariat a note giving views/comments on the consolidated report on EPG's recommendations forwarded by the Secretariat vide its note of 12th May 2005. He elaborated that these views mainly pertained to Item C of EPG's recommendations. However, there were some views also pertained to other sections of the report. It was, therefore, decided that one more meeting of the Working Group may be convened to consider the Iranian views as well as to finalize the draft ECO Vision 2015.

Item No. 7**Elaboration of New Mechanism of Staff Rotation in the ECO Secretariat**

10. The CPR appreciated the Secretariat for preparing a consolidated preliminary study on the issue and instructed the Working Group to take up this issue while deliberating on EPG's recommendations as mentioned in para 9 above.

Item No. 8**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**

11. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran briefed the CPR about their proposal to insert the aforesaid agenda. After outlining the difficulties being faced by the member states to attend the meeting/events indicated in the Calendar of Events approved by the RPC which are the integral part of the activities of ECO Secretariat, he suggested the following measures for consideration of the member states:

- a) From next year, the Calendar of Events may carefully be prepared and focused should be on action-oriented important events/meeting which can be arranged/attended by the member states.
- b) A directory of national focal points may be prepared, especially indication of relevant contact personnel in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as in the other relevant Ministries with whom the Secretariat may communicate directly along with Embassies in Tehran to avoid unnecessary delay to get a response. The directory should indicate the name(s) of the official, his title, postal address, telephone & fax numbers and e-mail address.
- c) Keeping in view the experiences of other regional/international organizations, the idea of establishing field offices (to be manned by local staff with reasonable salary) in the ECO member states' capitals may be explored. These field offices will be a coordinating point between the ECO Secretariat in Tehran as well as the ECO member states.
- d) Due to the financial problems being faced by the member states to attend the meetings, the use of SSF may be expanded to cover all ten member states instead of the seven presently allowed and for the maximum meetings of ECO Calendar of Events.

12. The CPR took note of the proposals and requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to submit its aforesaid proposals in written form to the Secretariat so that it can be circulated among member states for consideration. Later on, based on the Iranian proposal and the views/comments received from the member states along with Secretariat's possible proposals, the Secretariat will prepare the consolidated report for consideration of the CPR.

Item No. 9**Administrative Matters****a) Appointment to the post of Director (Economic Research & Statistics)**

13. The CPR deliberated on the issue of the appointment of Mr. Kubat Umurzakov (National of the Kyrgyz Republic) as Director Economic Research and Statistics, for the remaining period of Mr. Ermek Ibrahimov (National of the Kyrgyz Republic) who left the Secretariat on 22nd April 2005. As some member states have observations on the issue, the CPR decided to defer the decision to its next meeting.

b) Appointment to the post of Program Officer/Expert on Transport

(Utilization of the vacant post of Receptionist/Telephone Operator)

14. The CPR decided to appoint Mr. Mehran Khamisizadeh (National of the Islamic Republic of Iran) as Expert on Transport in Category II (P-I), with effect from 29th May 2005 for a four years term.

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

15. The CPR was informed that the post of Assistant Director/Chef de Cabinet has been lying vacant since 10th April 2005 with the departure of Mr. Mirshakarov on expiry of his extended tenure. It was further informed that there were four candidates for the aforesaid post (i.e. Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Turkey). As there was no consensus, the CPR deferred the issue to its next meeting.

Item No. 10

Briefing on the meetings/events attended by ECO Secretariat Staff recently

16. The CPR took note of the briefing made by the Secretary General and appreciated the information provided by the Secretariat with regard to the meetings/events attended by the ECO Secretariat Staff recently.

Item No. 11

Temporary appointments for DCCU:

a) Information Analyst

17. The CPR agreed with the recommendations of the Secretary General to temporarily appoint Mr. Ozgur Sefa Sezer (National of the Republic of Turkey) as Information Analyst with effect from 29th May 2005 upto 31st December 2005, in the salary package (equivalent to Category II, P3) as indicated in the Terms of Reference circulated among member states vide Secretariat's note No. DCCU/Personnel/2005/0595 dated 7th April 2005.

b) Trilingual Assistant

18. The Secretary General informed the CPR that so far no nomination has been received for the post of Trilingual Assistant. The CPR requested the member states to send nominations against this post at the earliest.

Item No. 12

Any other business

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

Item No. 13

Date of the next meeting

(a) Extraordinary CPR Meeting

20. The CPR decided to hold an Extraordinary CPR Meeting on Wednesday, 15th June 2005 at 10:00 hours to take up all agenda items which was included in the 1st SOM, which has been postponed. The CPR requested the Permanent Representatives to do their best to personally attend this meeting especially with the aim of finalizing these issues to be included in the agenda of the 15th COM meeting scheduled to be held on August 20, 2005.

(b) 100th CPR Meeting

21. The Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran informed the CPR that their Ministry of Foreign Affairs has proposed to host the 100th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) in a ceremonial manner in Qeshm Island on Friday-Saturday, 24-25 June 2005 and invited the Permanent Representatives and their Deputies as well as 6-7 ECO Secretariat staff to the meeting. The expenditures with regard to their travel by air from Tehran to Qeshm Island and back as well as boarding/lodging in Qeshm Island will be borne by the Islamic Republic of Iran. He further informed that the senior officials from the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs along with the officials of Qeshm Island will attend the inaugural ceremony of 100th CPR meeting. He requested for confirmation of participation latest by 15th of June 2005 so that the arrangements can be made accordingly.