

# The 7<sup>th</sup> Council of Ministers

## Report

( Tehran, 28-29 April , 1997 )

Adopted No. CON/COM-7/97/Rpt

1. The Seventh annual meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) was held in Tehran on 28-29 April, 1997. The representatives of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan Republic, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Republic of Uzbekistan attended the meeting. The Secretary General of ECO and officials of the Secretariat also attended the meeting. The list of participants is attached at Annex-I.

### **Agenda Item-1:**

#### **Inauguration of the Meeting:**

2. The Honorable President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, H.E. Ayatollah Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, inaugurated the meeting. Copy of his Inaugural Statement is attached at Annex-II.

### **Agenda Item-2:**

#### **Election of Chairman**

3. His Excellency Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was unanimously elected as Chairman of the Meeting. H.E. Dr. Velayati welcomed the esteemed Ministers/Heads of delegations and other participants, wishing them productive deliberations in this important meeting of ECO and a happy stay in Tehran.

### **Agenda Item-3:**

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

4. The Council adopted the Agenda for its meeting which is attached at Annex-III.

### **Agenda Item-4:**

#### **Appointment of the Drafting Committee**

5. The Council decided that the Senior Officials of the ECO Member States may act as the Drafting Committee to prepare the Report of the Meeting.

### **Agenda Item-5:**

#### **Statements by the Heads of Delegations**

6. The Meeting was addressed by the Chairman and the Heads of the participating delegations. Copies of the statements provided to the Secretariat are attached at Annex-IV. The Secretariat was asked to identify actionable points in the statements and submit them to the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) for appropriate action.

### **Agenda Item-6:**

#### **Report of the Secretary General on ECO activities during; the year 1996-97 and ECO's Relations with International Organizations**

7. The Secretary General presented his Report to the Council of Ministers on ECO's activities since the Extraordinary meeting of the Council held in Izmir on 14 September, 1996. The Council favorably noted the recommendations of the Secretary General pertaining to the improvement of the work and programmes of the Secretariat and expressed its appreciation at his efforts to promote productive relationship between ECO and other regional/international organizations. Copy of the Report is attached as [Annex-V](#).

#### **Agenda Item-7:**

Presentation of the Report of the Senior Officials meeting;

8. H.E. Mr. Hossein Kazempour Ardebili, Chairman of the meeting of the Senior Officials held in Tehran on 27-28 April, 1997, presented a Summary Report of their meeting to the Council. Copy of the Report of the Senior Officials meeting is at [Annex-VI](#).

#### **Agenda Item-8:**

Preparations for the Extraordinary Summit meeting 13-14 May, 1997

9. The Council noted that all member Governments had confirmed their participation in the Extraordinary Summit meeting. The Council also took note of the latest Work Programme for the Summit meeting prepared by the host Government as follows:

#### **Tuesday, 13th May, 1997**



Morning

1200-1500 hrs

1500-1700 hrs

2000 hours

Arrival of the Delegations.

Lunch.

First Session of the Summit meeting.

Official Dinner by President of Turkmenistan.

#### **Wednesday, 14th May, 1997**



1000-1200 hrs

Afternoon

Final Session of the Summit meeting.

Departure of the Delegations.

10. The Council approved the draft Ashgabat Declaration for submission to the Extraordinary ECO Summit meeting. The draft Ashgabat Declaration is placed at [Annex-VII](#).

#### **Agenda. Item-9:**

Review and Adoption of the Reports of the Council of Deputies and Council of Permanent Representatives

11. The Council approved the Reports of the Council of Deputies and the Council of Permanent Representatives held after the Extraordinary Meeting of ECO Council of Ministers in Izmir on 14th September, 1996 as recommended by the Senior Officials meeting.

## Agenda. Item-10:

### Administrative matters

- a. Review of Progress on Reorganization of ECO and Restructuring of ECO Secretariat (Para-2 of the implementation Plan).
- b. Approval of Appointment of Deputy Secretaries-General.
- c. Amendments to the Staff Regulations.
- d. Approval of ECO Budget for 1997

### Review of Progress on Reorganization of ECO and Restructuring of ECO Secretariat (Para-21 of Implementation Plan)

12. The Council noted favourably the Secretary General's Report on Re- organization of ECO and Re-structuring of ECO Secretariat, and endorsed his proposals on the interim arrangement related to the functioning of the ECO Secretariat under the new organizational set-up. The text of the Report is placed at Annex-VIII.

### Appointment of Deputy Secretaries-General

13. The Council approved the appointments of Dr. Sohrab Shahabi from the Islamic Republic of Iran and Mr. Altaf Hussain Agral from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the posts of Deputy Secretaries General in ECO Secretariat for a period of three years with effect from 1st July, 1997. The Council agreed that Dr. Shahabi will be responsible for Economic Cooperation Wing with the exception of Transport & Communications and Mr. Agral for Coordination Research Wing as well as Transport & Communications during the interim period.

### (c) Amendments to the Staff Regulations

- Article 24.3 of the Staff Regulations concerning the Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA)
- Salary Scale of the Staff employed under Category-III.
- Article 14.1 concerning the Special Bonus to be granted to the members of Category-III Staff.

14. The Council approved the amendments recommended by the Senior Officials as follows:-

- a. Regarding c(i) above, the Article 24.3 of the Staff Regulations of ECO Secretariat shall be amended as follows:

"Staff of the Secretariat and other officials authorized to travel on duty on behalf of the Organization under an approved travel order shall be entitled to a Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) in accordance with the scales approved by the Council as shown in Annex-III. If lodging is provided by the host Government or Organization, 50 per cent of the Daily Subsistence Allowance shall be admissible. If the lodging is not provided,

the Secretary General and Category-I officials will be paid the actual accommodation charges of single-room accommodation not exceeding the amount of full Daily Subsistence Allowance admissible upon presentation of Hotel Invoice plus 50% of the respective DSA."

This provision will enter into force upon the approval of the Council.

- b. Approved the recommendation of Senior Officials regarding the new Salary Scales of Category-III staff which is attached at Annex-IX.
- c. Approved the amendment to Article 14.1 of the Staff Regulations of ECO Secretariat as recommended by Senior Officials. The amended Article is as follows:

"The Secretary General may grant Special Bonus once a year to deserving staff members in Category-III upto one month salary on the occasion of their national/religious festival."

#### Approval of ECO Budget for 1997

15. The Council approved amounting to US\$ 1,128,771/-. The annual Budget of ECO Secretariat for 1997.

16. The Council also approved the amendment to Article 3.2 of the Financial Regulations of ECO Secretariat. The amended Article is as follows:

"The Budget of the Secretariat and Specialized Agencies shall be examined and adopted on behalf of the Council of Ministers by the Council of Permanent Representatives for submission to the Council of Ministers for final approval. In case the meeting of the Council of Ministers is not expected within 30-days after the adoption of the Secretariat's Budget by the Council of Permanent Representatives, the Council of Permanent Representatives shall have the authority to approve the Secretariat's Budget on behalf of the Council of Ministers. During the consideration of the Budget finance and accounting experts of the Member States contributing the Budget may participate in the meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives."

#### **Agenda Item-11:**

##### Review and Adoption of the Report of Regional Planning Council (RPC)

17. The Council approved the Report of the Seventh Meeting of the Regional Planning Council held in Tehran on 26-27 February, 1997 and called upon the Member States to actively participate in ECO Events/Meetings scheduled for 1997- 98, as well as expedite the implementation of all agreed ECO Projects/Programmes.

#### **Agenda Item-12:**

##### ECO Plan of Action on Drug; Control and the Status of DCCU

18. The Council of Ministers noted that already a Unit to coordinate drug control activities has been provided for in the new Organizational Chart of the ECO Secretariat under Assistant Director (Coordination). Accordingly, keeping in view the economic priorities of ECO, the Council of Ministers agreed that at this stage it is not necessary to

either upgrade the Unit or to have an independent, Assistant Director to deal with this work. The Secretary General, as an interim measure, may make adjustments in the supervision of the work pertaining to drug control coordination.

**Agenda Item -13:**

Approval of the Annual Calendar of Events for 1997-98 and Secretariat's Work Programme

19. The Council approved the Annual Calendar of Events and Secretariat's Work Programme for the year 1997-98 as recommended by the Senior Officials. The approved Annual Calendar of Events for 1997-98 and Secretariat's Work Programme are attached at Annex-X.

**Agenda Item -14:**

Submission of Annual Reports of ECO's Specialized Agencies and Regional Institutions Article-X of the Treaty of Izmir)

20. The Council took note of the Reports of ECO's Specialized Agencies and Regional Institutions namely; ECO Chamber of Commerce & Industry, ECO College of Insurance, ECO Shipping Company and ECO Cultural Institute.

**Agenda Item -15:**

Consideration of the draft Articles of Agreement of ECO Reinsurance Company

21. The Council approved the Articles of Agreement for the establishment of ECO Reinsurance Company and urged the contracting parties to expedite the signing of the said Agreement.

22. The Council also took note that necessary amendments in the Articles of Agreement of ECO Trade & Development Bank and the Memorandum of Understanding on ECO Reinsurance Company had been made, and urged the signatory Member States to expedite its implementation.

**Agenda Item -16:**

Consideration of the draft Charter of ECO Educational Institute

23. The Council took note of the Report of the Expert Group meeting held on 15th April, 1997 in Ankara on the above subject.

**Agenda Item -17:**

Meeting of Presidents of ECD National News Agencies

24. The Council was informed about the Charter of ECO News Agencies as finalized during the meeting of the Presidents of ECO National News Agencies.

**Agenda Item -18:**

Consideration of the Report of the meeting of Interim Committee of ECO Cultural Institute

25. The Council received the Report of the meeting of Interim Committee of ECO Cultural Institute held on 27 April, 1997 and urged the Member States to expedite finalization of all related documents of ECO Cultural Institute and:

- 1.) Member States are requested to expedite ratification process of the relevant Charter.
- 2.) The Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) would be authorized to finalize and approve the relevant documents of the ECO Cultural Institute mentioned in the Report of the Interim Committee of the Institute.
- 3.) Nomination of Mr. Akbar Parvaresh as the President of the Cultural Institute by its Board of Trustees is approved. However, the tenure of his office shall commence from the date of approval of the relevant documents by CPR.

**Agenda Item-19:**  
Any Other Business

**Agenda Item -20:**  
Date and Venue of the Next Meeting

26. The Council decided to hold its Eighth Annual Meeting in Almaty on a date to be set in due course.

**Agenda Item -21:**  
Adoption of the Report

27. The Council unanimously adopted the Report of its meeting.

**Agenda Item -22:**  
Vote of Thanks and Closing: of the meeting:

28. The Council expressed its profound thanks to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the excellent arrangements to host this meeting and for the warm hospitality extended to the delegations. The Council also expressed its appreciation to the Chairman for the efficient manner in which he steered the meeting to a successful conclusion. The Council also expressed its appreciation and thanks to the Secretary General and his staff for their valuable services to facilitate the work of the meeting.