

**Draft Report**  
**of the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the**  
**Council of Permanent Representatives of ECI (ECI-CPR)**

(ECO Headquarters, 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2013)

The Council of Permanent Representatives of ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) convened its 10<sup>th</sup> meeting at the ECO Headquarters on 7 April 2013, under the Chairmanship of the representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Republic of Tajikistan as well as delegations of the ECO Secretariat and ECO Cultural Institute. (List of Participants is attached as Annex. I).

**Agenda of the Meeting**

Agenda of the Meeting had been circulated among Member States vide Urgent Note No. ECI/524/108 dated 6 April 2013. As decided in its 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting, the Council was expected to continue deliberations on current management problem.

At the outset, Chairman referred to the deliberations and decisions of the previous ECI-CPR meeting on 3 April, 2013 and informed Member States that the envisaged formal consent of the Government of Pakistan on the appointment of the new Executive Director, Mr. Jabbari, as expected by 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2013, had not been received. He requested the ECI Member States to make decision on how ECI would be run in the absence of president and executive director, taking into account that Dr. Ayoubi, the incumbent ECI President had left the Institute on 4 April 2013.

Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, while acknowledging that the formal consent of his Government regarding the appointment of Mr Jabbari was still under consideration, disagreed with the urgency of the case because the post of Executive Director had been vacant for two months and would be no harm to continue until the arrival of the new President on 12 April. He said

that as soon as the new President takes on his duties, he would pursue the matter.

Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran reminded the Council that the 8<sup>th</sup> ECI-CPR Meeting decided at referendum the appointment of the new Executive Director with the understanding that the formal consent of the Government of Pakistan be circulated before the termination of office of Mr Owaisi, the former ECI Executive Director, on 24 February 2013. He explained that “ad referendum’ implies that, in case of no formal objection to the appointment by 24 February, the decision on appointment should be considered as final. He also expressed the strong dissatisfaction of his delegation on the approach taken by Pakistan to make appointment of the Executive Director conditional on the arrival of the new President. He further asserted that this kind of conditionality would be considered by the Islamic Republic of Iran as blocking the nomination of Mr. Jabbari by Pakistan which constituted an unfriendly reciprocity while Iran had showed its full support on the appointment of Mr. Arif and his timely assumption of duties. He also emphasized that any problem arising from the current lack of management in the ECI would be attributed to Pakistan. He proposed since there was no formal objection to the decision on appointment of Mr Jabbari as the new Executive Director, it could be decided that he takes on his duties meanwhile the formal consent of Pakistan would be received.

Representative of Pakistan denied any linkage between the arrival of the new President and the assumption of duties by Mr Jabbari as the new Executive Director. He clarified that although Ambassador of Pakistan expressed no objection to the nomination in the ECI-CPR Meeting, the formal consent of Government of Pakistan was necessary. He also referred to other important urgent issues in ECI such as the annual contributions by some Member States, excluding Pakistan, which were still unpaid. He also referred to dues of former Executive Director which were still unpaid. He stressed that Pakistan did not share the idea that ECI management was an urgent matter.

Representative of Tajikistan asked the Meeting to focus on its agenda in order to find a solution for the early assumption of duties by new Executive Director

in this critical time. Regarding the other issues, he stated that the budgetary matters had been discussed before and was not on the agenda of this meeting. While requesting the flexibility of Pakistan Delegation, he requested the Member States to find a solution for the case of Mr Jabbari. He also supported the proposal of Iran on the provisional assumption of duties by the new Executive Director.

While reiterating that lack of objection to the appointment of Mr Jabbari could not lead to his assumption of duties, representative of Pakistan stated that ECI-CPR is not the competent body for the appointment of high officials.

Representative of Iran referred to the amendment of the Chapter one, section C, Para 3/h of Rules of Procedure indicating that in issues of urgency, ECI-CPR can take a decision. In the current situation, ECI-CPR is in the position to make a decision and allow Mr Jabbari takes on his duties.

Representative of Pakistan explained that the level of issues mentioned in the Rules of Procedure is incomparable with the current matter.

Representative of Iran stated that the list of issues mentioned in the Rules of Procedure is indicative not exhaustive and includes the current management situation as well.

Regarding the dues of former Executive Director, representative of ECI clarified that all his dues had been cleared and a blank cheque had been issued and given to him personally.

Regretting that the Meeting could not find a solution, Chairman again appealed to the Member States to continue their efforts to find a solution in order to ensure that ECI functions effectively and smoothly especially at the period of transition of the Presidency.

**The 10th Meeting of the  
ECI Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)**

**List of Participants**

Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:

- Mr Amiri, Cultural Councillor

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

- Mr Seyed Jalalidin Alavi, Director, ECO Affairs Bureau, MFA,
- Mr Javad Heydari, Senior Expert, ECO Affairs Bureau, MFA.

Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan:

- Mr. Sohail Seddiqui, Charge d' Affaires,
- Mr. Muhammad Zeeshan Ahmed, Counsellor.

Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan:

- Mr Ekramoldin Nematov, Deputy Ambassador

ECO Secretariat:

- Mr Bahram Heydari, Legal Adviser

ECO Cultural Institute:

- Mr Seyed Majid Ghafelebashi, External Relation