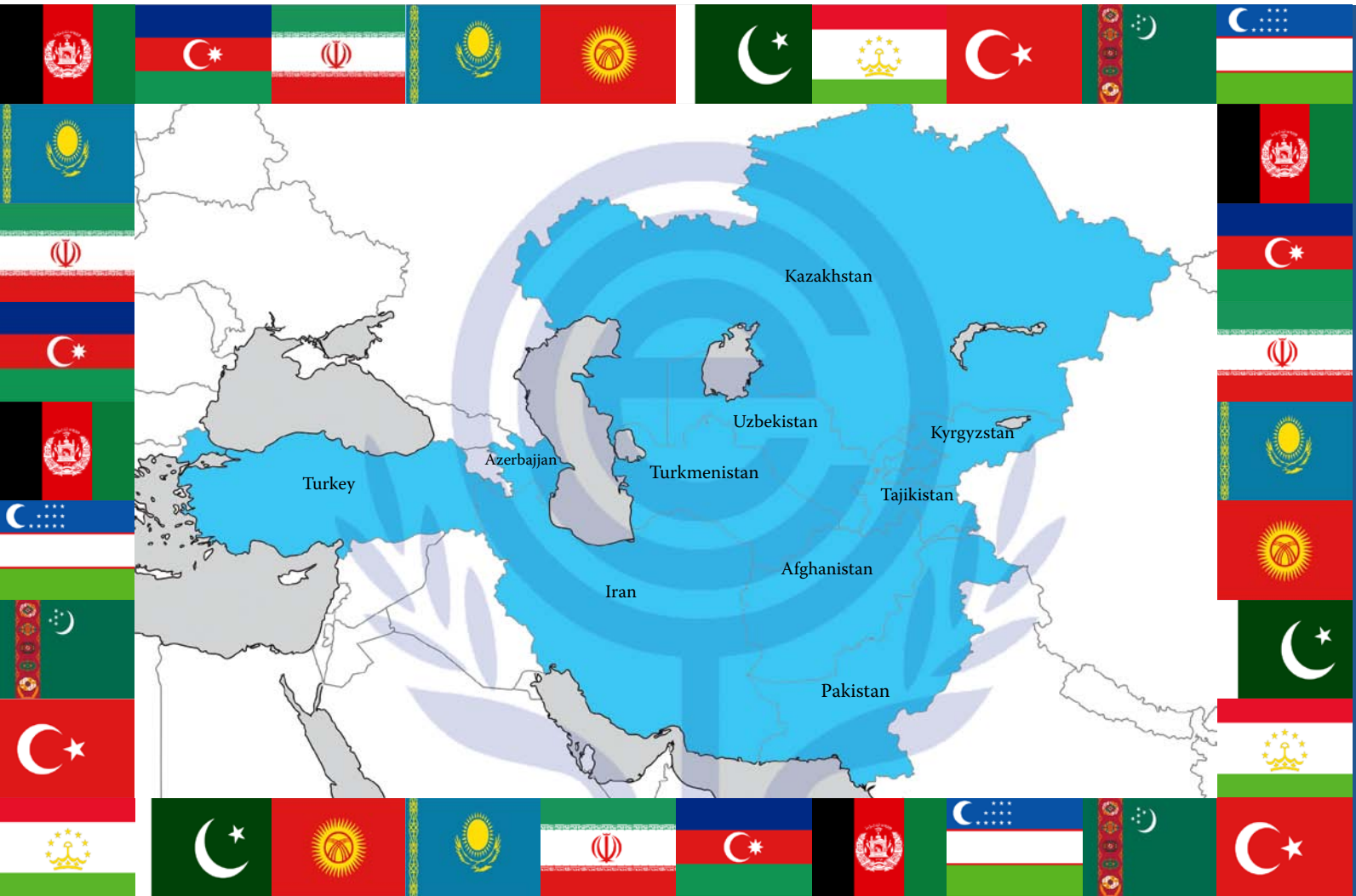


# THE FUTURE OF THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (ECO) ECO WILL HAVE A BRIGHT FUTURE WHEN IT GAINS DYNAMISM, VISIBILITY AND EFFICIENCY

## EKONOMİK İŞBİRLİĞİ TEŞKİLATI'NIN (EİT) GELECEĞİ EİT DİNAMİZM, GÖRÜNÜRLÜK VE VERİMLİLİK KAZANDIĞINDA PARLAK BİR GELECEĞE SAHİP OLACAKTIR

ORTADOĞU STRATEJİK ARAŞTIRMALAR MERKEZİ  
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN STRATEGIC STUDIES

مركز الشرق الأوسط للدراسات الاستراتيجية



**THE FUTURE OF THE ECONOMIC  
COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (ECO)  
ECO Will Have a Bright Future  
When It Gains Dynamism, Visibility and Efficiency**

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## **Ambassador (R) Numan Hazar**

Born in 1945 in Tarsus, Turkey. Graduated in 1966 from the Diplomatic Section of the Faculty of Political Science, Ankara University. Entered in 1967 Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Served in various diplomatic posts abroad: Second Secretary in Ottawa, Canada; First Secretary, in Nicosia, Cyprus; Counselor and First Counselor, in Washington, D.C., USA for two terms (seven years); Deputy Chief of Mission in New Delhi, India; Minister-Counselor, in Bonn, Germany; In Ankara, he served at the Office of the President of the Turkish Republic as well as Policy Planning, Cultural Affairs, Council of Europe Departments, Director General for Africa, East Asia and Pacific/Islamic Conference Organization (Ministry of Foreign Affairs). He was Ambassador to Lagos, Nigeria, Ambassador/Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg and later to UNESCO in Paris. He served as Ambassador/Diplomatic Adviser to the Minister of National Defense and later as Acting Chairman of the Inspection Board of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Retired in 2010. Appointed by Turkey in 2011 as Turkish Member for the ECO Eminent Persons Group (EPG) and elected as Chairman of the EPG. He is the author of two books in Turkish on "Turkish- African Relations", "International Politics and Civilizations", as well as various printed articles in Turkish, English, French and German on different international issues. He speaks French, German and English.

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## PRESENTATION

The Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), whose foundations were laid by Turkey, Iran, and Pakistan, has been operating for nearly half-century. Despite the fact that in early 1980's the functions of the Organization were periodically reduced; especially in early 1990's, an historical opportunity was taken in terms of the cooperation potential upon the accession of Central Asian Republics as well as Azerbaijan, and Afghanistan. It was such that in 1992, the Organization covered an area of 7 million square kilometers, and its total population reached 400 million.

The Organization, which has an extraordinary geopolitical and geoeconomic hinterland through the connection with Central Asia, Caucasus, Middle East, and even with Europe, is currently facing a pressure more than ever at the point of meeting the expectations. The fact that the Organization continued its existence even in the hardest times, and that it has carried on cherishing great hopes until today shows the fact that regional cooperation processes have really needed the Organization.

One of the most effective ways of avoiding negative effects of globalization, which yields revolutionary gains in terms of welfare levels, comforts and freedoms of societies, on national economies and local values is to assess the regional cooperation potentials as accurate as possible. While achievements of many regionalization and integration movements, which have been developing in parallel with globalization and even progressing more rapidly than that, and the opportunities they have presented to their stakeholders are obvious; the fact that there has not been any distinguished integration in the Economic Cooperation Organization's geography has taken place yet requires thinking it through carefully.

The fact that the Organization set a new agenda in 2005 entitled, "ECO 2015 Vision", and on the other hand, the fact that the desired preparations could not have been completed within the period of 7 years led to just concerns among the ones who wanted the success of the Organization. Therefore, recommendations to be prepared by the Eminent Persons Group, which was created for accelerating the works, and the approach of the member states towards the aforesaid preparation are extremely important. Recommendations to be handled in this mid-year will be concluded during the summit meeting to be held at the end of the year.

After all, what will carry the Organization to future is the common political will of the member states.

While publishing this valuable work of Mr. Numan Hazar as ORSAM; on the one hand we would like to contribute to the visibility of the Organization even if just a bit, on the other hand we would like to draw attention to will, vision and caution necessity required for reform. Because it is necessary to believe in order to achieve.

Hoping that the year 2012 leaves its mark in the next half-century of the Organization,

*Hasan Kanbolat*  
*ORSAM Director*



**By:** Numan HAZAR  
Ambassador (R)  
Turkey's Representative and Chairman  
of the ECO Eminent Persons Group

# THE FUTURE OF THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (ECO)\* ECO Will Have a Bright Future When It Gains Dynamism, Visibility and Efficiency

## Executive Summary

\* *The Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) countries in geographical terms, cover a vast area. This is geographically a contiguous territory with seven million square kilometers. They have, in total, a significant population of 350 million people. This population is predominantly Moslem.*

\* *The ECO region is located in a strategically important part of the world, with access to the Persian Gulf, the Indian Ocean, the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea. Proximity to major powers such as Russia, China and the European Union is another significant feature.*

\* *There is an affinity and very close cultural interaction among member states. Historical ties are also significant. There exists thousands of common words even with those which are linguistically different.*

\* *There exists transport linkages especially through cross-country railroad networks and highways in most of the member states.*

\* *There is a great potentiality for the success of the organization. In today's world, however, it is not possible to make a satisfactory assesment in view of and as compared to the high potentiality of member states which could carry out more in their cooperation in all fields where the ECO might have important stakes.*

\* *ECO can do, no doubt, much better. When the Organization is much more active, this will serve best interests of all member countries. Nevertheless, it is observed that it lacks a dynamism.*

\* *As we see it, there is a great potential for the member states to take benefit from the opportunities offered by the ECO on the way of cooperation and integration. Despite this positive ground, we can easily say that a strong political will is required to achieve the targets enshrined in the ECO Vision 2015.*

\* *One should emphasize, however, the fact that everything will depend on the political will of the member states to implement all necessary measures for a better functioning organization. But, we should always keep in mind the fact that, when the ECO functions in the future as an efficient, dynamic and visible international organization, this will serve, undoubtedly, only for best interests of all the member states.*

\* Views expressed in the article belong to its author. They should not be perceived as reflecting official policy of Turkey.



### 1. Establishment and Development of ECO

Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) was established to promote economic integration as well as technical and cultural cooperation among member states.

Originally, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey created in 1964 the organization of “Regional Cooperation for Development” (RCD). Indeed, RCD realized some economic, technical and cultural projects. During the cold war period in the bipolar era, the leaders of these coun-

tries believed that historical, cultural, geographical and religious bonds will be enough to realize close cooperation among the member countries to contribute to their efforts to ensure economic development and to raise their living standards. This plan was supported by the West in general and by the US in particular in order to prevent Soviet influence in a strategically important region. Nevertheless, in 1979 after the Islamic Revolution in Iran all activities of the organization were suspended. RCD as an international organization was dissolved in 1980.



In 1985, founders of the organization, aware of the importance of the regional cooperation and integration, decided to reactivate RCD, but they changed the name of the organization as Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). This new organization became active in 1990 when foreign ministers of three founding members signed in Islamabad during an extraordinary meeting an Amendment Protocol to the original Izmir Treaty. In 1992, Central Asian Republics (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan) as well as Afghanistan and Azerbaijan joined the Organization. ECO which thus became an organization with 10 members, acquired international recognition and prestige.<sup>1</sup>

After this historical introduction, I intend to dwell on the basic advantages of the organization which led the leaders of the member countries to create such a formation.

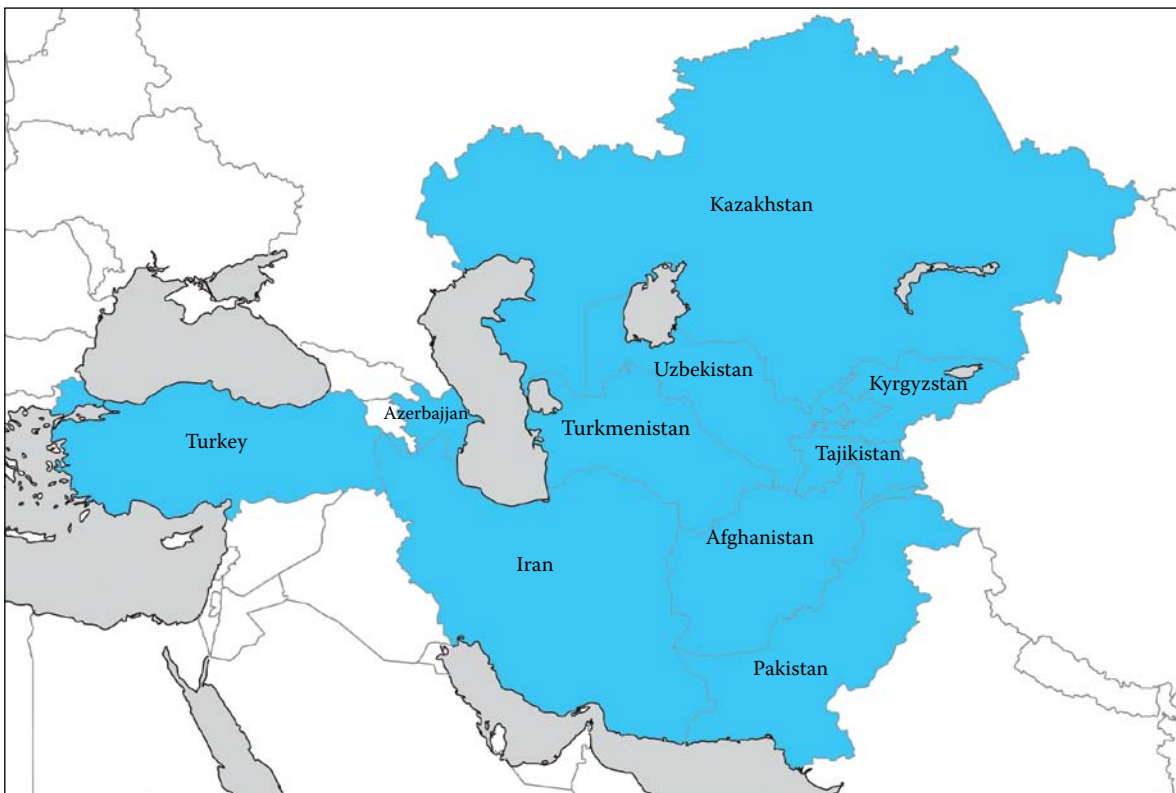
## 2. Basic Advantages of ECO

The ECO countries in geographical terms, cover a vast area. This is geographically a contiguous territory with seven million square kilometers.

They have, in total, a significant population of 350 million people. This population is predominantly Moslem.

The ECO region is located in a strategically important part of the world, with access to the Persian Gulf, the Indian Ocean, the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea.

There is an affinity and very close cultural interaction among member states. Historical ties are also significant. There exists thousands of common words even with those which are linguistically different. As Professor Halil İnalçık, the dean of the living Turk-



*Economic Cooperation Organization Region*

ish historians, indicates, historical researches confirm the fact that cultural affinity between Turkey, Iran and Pakistan is much closer and stronger than cultural affinity of Turks with Arabs.<sup>2</sup> Obviously, when we take into consideration all member states of ECO this fact becomes more apparent.

On the other hand, American political scientist Professor Samuel P. Huntington, while explaining his infamous thesis of the clash of civilizations, he refers to regional economic organizations as an indicator of civilisations' strengthening against nation-state and claims that the precondition of economic integration is cultural affinity. Among various cases, he mentions in details the ECO. He underlines the fact that "the success of these efforts has depended overwhelmingly on the cultural homogeneity of the states involved."<sup>3</sup>

Although I do not personally share his thesis highly criticized from various vantage points, I mention this only for the sake of his recognition that the ECO represents an organization based on cultural affinity.

Member states of the ECO are rich in natural resources and energy. They possess a positive economic variety which can help a flourishing future based on economic and social development.

Proximity to major powers such as Russia, China and the European Union is another significant feature.

There exists transport linkages especially through cross-country railroad networks and highways in most of the member states.

All these indicate that there is a great potentiality for the success of the organization. On the other hand, the global propensity toward adopting a development model based on mar-

ket economy and expansion of exports has induced ECO member states to pay much more attention to liberalizing their economies and to impart an increasingly more important role to the private sector in their countries.<sup>4</sup>

I must also add that basically the ECO is a technical organization not a political one, aimed at realising close economic and technical cooperation and integration among member states. Indeed, from the very beginning, the Organization has been able to bring about and to complete many significant projects.

### 3. Organizational Structure of ECO

ECO's headquarters is located in Tehran, Iran.

Main organs of the Organization are as follows:<sup>5</sup>

- 1- **Summit Meetings:** Heads of State or Governments hold Summit Meetings every two years (biennially) or more often if considered necessary by Member States . These meetings give opportunity for consultations at highest level as well as general guidelines.
- 2- **Council of Ministers (COM):** This is the highest policy and decision-making and executive body of the organization. Foreign Ministers of Member States participate in these meetings which are held at least once a year or when it is deemed necessary (extraordinary meetings).
- 3- **Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR):** The Council is composed of Ambassadors of Member States resident in Tehran accredited to the ECO as well as a Director General in charge at the Foreign Ministry of Iran. It is responsible on behalf of the Council of Ministers for carrying out its policies, for formulating issues

requiring decisions by Member States and for taking appropriate steps on matters connected with the implementation of the decisions of the Council of Ministers.

- 4- **Regional Planning Council (RPC):** This body comprises the heads of the Planning Organizations and/or such other representatives of corresponding authority. The RPC meets at least once a year prior to the annual meeting of the Council of Ministers to evolve programmes of action along with a review of past programmes and evaluation of results achieved to be submitted to the Council of Ministers.
- 5- **Secretariat:** The Secretariat is headed by the Secretary General. It also comprises 3 Deputy Secretary Generals and such staff as the Organization may require. The role of the Secretariat is to initiate, coordinate and monitor the implementation of ECO activities and to service the meetings of the Organization.
- 6- **Specialized Agencies and Regional Institutions:** They are in specific fields of cooperation. The number, nature and objectives of the agencies and institutions are determined by the Council of Ministers. Specialized agencies include Cultural Institute, Science Foundation and Educational Institute. There are also various regional institutions such as ECO Shipping Company, Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Turkey proposed to host its headquarters in Istanbul, one of the major finance centers in the world), Trade and Development Bank, Reinsurance Company, Consultancy and Engineering Company etc.

The ECO used to have seven committees to carry out expert investigations. They submit their reports to the Regional Planning Coun-

cil (RPC). If adopted the reports are presented to the Council of Ministers. These committees are as follows: Economic and Trade Committee, Transport and Communications Committee, Agricultural Committee, Scientific, Educational and Cultural Committee, Energy Committee, Infrastructure Committee in Relation to Public Affairs (Health and Environment Committee) and Committee for Fighting Abuse of Narcotics Drugs.

The ECO realized various agreements to promote economic cooperation and integration.

*ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA):* Adopted in 2003 aimed at reducing tariffs. Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkey signed the Agreement.

*The Transit Transport Framework Agreement:* According to this Agreement a Transit Coordination Council was established. The Council has four committees: Insurance Committee, Railways Committee, Roadways Committee and Legal Committee.

There are also various agreements formulated by the ECO such as Encouraging and Protecting Investments, Cooperation among Cooperative Sectors, Establishment of ECO Smuggling and Customs Offences Data Bank, Reinsurance Company of ECO, Agreement on facilitating the issuance of visas for merchants and businessmen of the Member States, ECO Trade and Development Bank which became operational in 2006 ( its headquarters is located in Istanbul, Turkey) etc.

#### 4. The Search for a New ECO: Eminent Persons Group's Studies

In view of the slow progress of the ECO towards achieving its aims and objectives the

Council of Ministers decided in 2003 to set up an Eminent Persons Group ( EPG) among the member states with specific mandate to submit its recommendations, in collaboration with the Secretary General, to the Council of Ministers.

The EPG agreed that the ECO should have a vision strategy for the next decade considering the experiences of other economic organizations and the priorities of UN Millenium Development Goals.



*In 11th ECO Summit Meeting, which was held in İstanbul on December 23rd 2010, important decisions were taken on the future of Organization.*

The EPG suggested that a Senior Officials Meeting ( SOM ) may be held in between the two Council of Ministers' Meetings to closely monitor the status of implementation of various ECO projects. It also mentioned that, to energize the role of the member states in the ECO activities, ECO focal points in the Ministries of the Foreign Affairs as well as in other Ministries/organizations of the member states should be strenghtened. Member states are also encouraged to post officer (s) specializing in ECO affairs in their respective missions in Tehran to assist their Permanent Representatives to ECO.

The EPG report also said that the the decision-making process as prescribed in the Izmir Treaty should be maintained for the time being. However, while adhering to this article, the member states may be encouraged to take decisions on the basis of simple majority in the case of non-vital issues (according to the Izmir Treaty the decisions are taken in principle on the basis of unanimity).

Another important step taken by the Organization is the Document of ECO Vision 2015 adopted by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Member States in their meeting in Astana, Kazakhstan on 1 October 2005. <sup>6</sup>

In this Document Foreign Ministers declared that they wish to adopt a Vision of ECO taking into account the opportunities and challenges of the globalization process, the rapid social, economic, political and technological developments in the world and prospects in the decades ahead which need to be addressed adequately through a common and collective approach.

They also emphasized that sustained and intensified efforts are needed within the framework of ECO to implement social, economic, legal and administrative reforms and to provide for the efficient functioning of the market.

In the ECO Vision 2015 Document Foreign Ministers agreed, *inter alia*, on the following:

- A commitment to reduce tariffs to the extent already agreed in ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) and remove para tariffs and non-tariff barriers in trade among the ECO member states by the year 2015.
- A recognition that intergovernmental dialogue and programmes on technical cooperation in various fields.
- A more active and important role to be reserved to private sectors.
- The reiteration of the vital role of the banks and financial institutions in the ECO region in financing and accelerating economic growth as well as promoting privatization process and structural reforms.
- Promotion of investment in the ECO region particularly in the priority areas of trade, transport and energy.
- The importance of transport and communications infrastructure in promoting regional economic growth and cooperation.
- A commitment towards establishing inter-connection of electric power systems by 2015 in the ECO region to achieve better patterns of production exchange and trade of electricity, facilitating development of oil and gas pipeline networks to meet the entire region's energy requirements as well as to provide outlets for access to international markets.
- Harmonization of the financial and monetary policies of member states.
- Importance of economic and project research.
- Acceleration of the pace of industrial development of member countries.
- Adoption of policies and strategies for the promotion and attraction of Foreign Direct Investment.
- Cooperation in the fields of agriculture and environment.
- Taking necessary measures for the development of human resources and to improve social, educational and health standards of the ECO peoples.
- Measures on drug control, organized crimes and related matters.
- Promotion of tourism in the ECO region.

The ECO Vision 2015, also emphasized a vital role to be played in all relevant international fora to project and advance ECO's common views and interests, envisioning to intensify ECO's relationship with relevant international and regional organizations as well as financial institutions.

Undeniably, the ECO realized until now a significant progress. In today's world, however, it is not possible to make a satisfactory assessment in view of and as compared to the high potentiality of member states which could carry out more in their cooperation in all fields where the ECO might have important stakes. Since, at present, in the process of globalization, interactions worldwide are complicated and some countries including many developing ones benefit a lot, some countries, however, are losers or do not benefit enough from this state of affairs.

ECO can do, no doubt, much better. When the Organization is much more active, this will serve best interests of all member countries. Nevertheless, it is observed that it lacks a dynamism.

The Secretary General of the ECO Mr Yahya Maroofi, in an interview for the First issue of *ECO Chronicle* magazine, he underlined, inter alia, the following:<sup>7</sup>

“I am personally satisfied with the current progress and status of the organization in that considering all the challenges confronting the Organization, we have managed to run a regional organization for over two decades. Nevertheless we have not been able to live up to expectations of our people. The region deserves more tangible progress the effects of which can trickle down to promise better future for the people of the region. There is no denying the fact that the ECO membership comprising ten countries of the region, throughout their history, have always had good cultural and trade relations with one another and today still enjoy rich mineral and industrial resources and potentials which could be utilized to fulfill the needs and demands of each other within the region. Besides, the region, in the past has made tremendous contributions to the advancement of science and

technology. The vast potential of the region in terms of human as well as material resources should be harnessed to the mutual benefit of member states. Towards that end, we have to sustain our efforts through the platform of ECO to reach our common destiny.”

As we see it, there is a great potential for the member states to take benefit from the opportunities offered by the ECO on the way of cooperation and integration. Despite this positive ground, we can easily say that a strong political will is required to achieve the targets enshrined in the ECO Vision 2015.

As a matter of fact, during the 11th Summit Meeting of ECO held in Istanbul on 23 December 2010 the President of the Republic of Turkey and the Chairman of the Summit Persons Group, comprising experts from the member states would be established shortly to make in-depth study/ review of the ECO Vision 2015.

President Gül, in his statement, referring to the fact that member states have set certain targets to be achieved until 2015 in order to strengthen cooperation among themselves in a wide range of areas from trade and investment to transport and communication, energy and environment to agriculture and industry, he said that the entry into force of the ECO Trade Agreement ( ECOTA ) will assist member states in passing over a critical threshold toward the economic integration.

One of the objectives of the ECO Vision 2015 Document has been to increase intra-trade in the ECO region which was 6% in 2005 to 20% by 2015. It is, however, observed that as of 2010, the intra-trade has remained at a ratio of 7% , registering only a slight increase of 1%.

President Gül also added the following: “Therefore, we have to admit that the 7% intra-trade is a failure for all of us. If we make a comparison, the intra-trade in the European Union equals to 65% of the total trade volume of the EU. Low performance recorded in this respect sets forth the absolute necessity for signing and implementing the ECOTA by all member states.”

President Gül expressed his pleasure for the approval of his proposal regarding the establishment of an “Eminent Persons Group” to conduct a comprehensive study with a view to adjusting ECO to the changing global circumstances and for more efficient implementation of the ECO vision 2015 as well as its possible revision.

Indeed, Istanbul Declaration, issued after the Summit Meeting, referred to the mission of the Eminent Persons Group ( EPG ) in following words, thus defining the mandate given to it:

The Heads of State/Government... “welcomed the initiative by Turkey to establish an Eminent Persons Group ( EPG ) to study and review the work of the Organization including the ECO Vision 2015 in order to enhance the dynamism, efficiency and visibility of the Organization and provide recommendations to be submitted to the Council of Ministers.”

In other words, the leaders of the ECO member states expressed their political will at the highest level and they put emphasis on recommendations by the Eminent Persons Group to enhance, I highlight these three words, the dynamism, efficiency and visibility of the ECO.

In 2011 member states appointed their representatives in the Eminent Pesons Group (EPG). The distinguished members of EPG are qualified personalities with an invaluable international or diplomatic experience.

The First Meeting of the EPG was held, upon the invitaion of Turkey as Chairman in Office, in Ankara on 25-26 July,2011. This inaugural meeting made possible a preliminary exchange of view among participating EPG members in the light of the mandate given by the Istanbul Summit. The Secretary General Maaroufi made also an introductory presentation. In this meeting. it was agreed on the schedule of the next meetings.

In the Second Meeting held in Tehran on 3-4 October 2011, the EPG adopted its Work Programme. During the Meeting the EPG made a review and evaluation of the overall performance of the Organization in terms of achieving its aims and objectives in different sectors during the last two decades. Views were expressed also on follow-up mecha-



*In case suggestions to be prepared by Eminent Persons Group is put into practice, ECO could be a much more functional organization.*



nism to monitor and evaluate the overall performance of the Organization, underlining the need to establish a Troika mechanism comprising the current, previous and future Chairman of the ECO. The EPG also agreed to take benefit of the experiences of other international organizations. It was also discussed issues related to the coordination and follow-up of decisions, the efficiency of communication between the Secretariat and the Member States as well as an increased level of participation of the Member States in the ECO's Meetings. EPG's scope of work also included to examine all ECO's basic and regulatory documents as well as sectoral strategies, programs and action plans, an analysis of institutional capacity, consideration of sufficiency of the available financial resources for implementation of envisaged plans and activities, a study of basic documentation of the ECO regional institutions/specialized agencies and their performance with the view to their better functioning.

The Third Meeting of the EPG took place in Tehran on 22-24 November, 2011 in Tehran. On this occasion the Secretariat made a detailed presentation on the current recruitment policy and practices of the Organization. The Secretariat expressed also its views on the current Organizational Chart as well as on a revised Organizational Chart it proposed. The briefing by the Secretariat was followed by an in-depth exchange of views among participants. EPG members also reviewed decision-making mechanism and considered solutions to this issue which blocks sometimes the decisions, thus functioning of the Organization.

During these meetings the EPG reached also some decisions. At this stage, they are not revealed since its work is confidential.



### Concluding Remarks

The EPG will continue to work during this year and prepare its report that will contain its recommendations aimed at enhancing efficiency, dynamism and visibility of the Organization. The report will be submitted by the EPG to the Council of Ministers prior to the ECO Summit Meeting. The Meeting of the Council of Ministers as well as the Summit Meeting are planned to take place in the course of 2012 in June if not possible later in the year in Baku, Capital City of Azerbaijan.

There will be in the months ahead an intensive working schedule for the EPG to study and to reach conclusions.

One should emphasize, however, the fact that everything will depend on the political will of the member states to implement all necessary measures for a better functioning organization. . But, we should always keep in mind the fact that, when the ECO functions in the future as an efficient, dynamic and visible international organization, this will serve, undoubtedly, only for best interests of all the member states.

## ENDNOTES

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- 1 Elaheh Koolaee and Hormoz Davarpanah, *The Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Achievements and Prospects*, Tehran, University of Tehran, 2010, pp.2-8.
- 2 Halil İnalçık, *Rönesans Avrupası Türkiye'nin Batı Medeniyetiyle Özdeşleşme Süreci*, İstanbul, Türkiye İş Bankası Yayınları, 2011, p.351.
- 3 Samuel P. Huntington, *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*, London, Simon and Schuster UK Ltd, 1996, pp.133-134.
- 4 Koolaee and Davarpanah, op.cit. page 1.
- 5 Economic Cooperation Organization Treaty of Izmir ECO Vision 2015, Tehran 2009.
- 6 Economic Cooperation Organization Treaty of Izmir ECO Vision 2015, Tehran 2009, pp.21-32.
- 7 *ECO Chronicle*, August-September 2001, Issue 1, Tehran, pp.12-13.

**APPENDIX: Economic and Social Datas of ECO Region\***
**Table-1: Population (Thousand people)**

Country	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Afghanistan</b>	NA	21410.9	21797.8	22191.4	23177.7	23591.9
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	8048.6	8111.2	8172.0	8234.1	8306.5	8391.9
<b>Iran</b>	63663	65264	65540	66480	67477	68467
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	14883.6	14858.3	14858.9	14909.0	15013.0	15147.0
<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	4915	4955	4993	5039	5093	5144
<b>Pakistan</b>	137500	140500	146000	146800	149700	152500
<b>Tajikistan</b>	6188	6312.8	6441	6573	6710	6850
<b>Turkey</b>	67420	68365	69302	70231	71152	72065
<b>Turkmenistan</b>	5285	5505	5788	6120	6250	6544
<b>Uzbekistan</b>	24650.4	24964.4	25271.8	25567.7	25864.4	26167
<b>ECO Region</b>	353964.5	360246.6	368164.5	372145.2	378743.6	384867.8
<b>World Total</b>	6070581	6134790	6210505	6286477	6361888	6437682
<b>ECO Share in World Total (%)</b>	5.83	5.87	5.92	5.91	5.95	5.97

**Table-2: Population Growth Rate (%)**

Country	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Afghanistan</b>	NA	1.92	1.92	1.92	2.03	2.03
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.1
<b>Iran</b>	1.46	1.35	1.56	1.43	1.49	1.46
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	-0.2	-0.1	0.1	0.6	0.8	1.0
<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.1	1.1	0.9
<b>Pakistan</b>	2.15	2.07	2.02	1.96	1.91	1.86
<b>Tajikistan</b>	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
<b>Turkey</b>	1.41	1.40	1.37	1.34	1.31	1.28
<b>Turkmenistan</b>	3.7	4.16	5.14	5.73	2.12	4.7
<b>Uzbekistan</b>	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
<b>ECO Region</b>	1.9	1.55	2.28	0.96	1.50	1.53
<b>World</b>	1.3	1.05	1.23	1.22	1.19	1.19

\* Elaheh Koolaee and Hormoz Davarpanah, *The Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Achievements and Prospects*, Tehran, University of Tehran Press, 2010, pp.170-178.

**Table-3: Adult Literacy Rate (%)**

Country	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Afghanistan	36.9	NA	NA	NA	28.1	29
Azerbaijan	98.8	98.8	98.8	98.8	98.8	98.8
Iran	76.26	77.53	78.79	80.94	81.71	82.33
Kazakhstan	99.5	99.5	99.5	99.5	99.5	99.5
Kyrgyzstan	98.7	98.7	98.7	98.7	98.7	98.7
Pakistan	47.1	49.0	50.5	51.6	53.0	53.0
Tajikistan	99.5	99.8	99.8	99.8	99.8	99
Turkey	86.5	86.3	87.5	88.3	87.4	88.1
Turkmenistan	98.0	98.0	98.0	98.0	98.0	99
Uzbekistan	99.2	99.2	99.2	99.2	99.2	NA

**Table-4: Total Labor Force (Thousand people)**

Country	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Afghanistan	7416.6	7560.2	7707	7856.5	8231	NA
Azerbaijan	3748.2	3763.4	3777.5	3801.4	3865.0	3906.5
Iran	37190	37190	37200	38100	38600	40830
Kazakhstan	7107.4	7479.1	7399.7	7657.3	7840.6	7901.7
Kyrgyzstan	1912.7	1939.0	1976.6	2017.2	2065.5	2116.5
Pakistan	40385	41236	43012	43879	45946	46819
Tajikistan	1794	1872	1904	1932	2130	NA
Turkey	23078	23491	23818	23640	24289	24565
Turkmenistan	2120	2179	2244	2320	NA	NA
Uzbekistan	9018.4	9173.5	9367.8	9621.2	9945.5	10224.0
ECO Region	133770.3	135883.2	138406.6	140824.6	142912.6	136362.7

**Table-5: Unemployment Rate (%)**

Country	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Afghanistan	NA	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.6	NA
Azerbaijan	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4
Iran	14.3	14.2	12.8	11.8	10.3	11.5
Kazakhstan	12.8	10.4	9.3	8.8	8.4	8.1
Kyrgyzstan	3.0	3.1	3.1	2.8	2.8	3.3
Pakistan	7.82	7.82	8.27	8.27	7.69	7.69
Tajikistan	2.7	2.3	2.5	2.4	2.0	2.1
Turkey	6.5	8.4	10.3	10.5	10.3	10.3
Turkmenistan	2.4	2.6	2.5	2.5	NA	NA
Uzbekistan	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3

**Table-6: GDP Per Capita (\$US)**

Country	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Afghanistan	-	90	201	215	247	290
Azerbaijan	665	714	775	897	1060	1518
Iran	1238	1409	1776	2130	2520	3330
Kazakhstan	1229	1491	1658	2068	2874	3703
Kyrgyzstan	278	309	323	384	436	478
Pakistan	537	513	506	568	655	727
Tajikistan	158	171	190	237	310	337
Turkey	2941	2146	2622	3412	4187	5016
Turkmenistan	950	1259	1503	1867	2271	2624
Uzbekistan	556.46	465.94	382.12	396.16	463.99	579.43
ECO Region	1126	1008	1166	1440	1740	2117

**Table-7: GDP Growth Rate (%)**

Country	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Afghanistan	NA	-20	28.6	14.3	9.4	14.5
Azerbaijan	11.1	9.9	10.6	11.2	10.2	26.4
Iran	5.93	5.38	7.83	8.03	6.5	5.4
Kazakhstan	9.8	13.5	9.8	9.3	9.6	9.4
Kyrgyzstan	5.4	5.3	0.0	7.0	7.0	-0.2
Pakistan	3.91	2.0	3.10	4.7	7.5	8.6
Tajikistan	8.3	9.6	10.8	11.0	10.3	6.7
Turkey	7.4	-7.5	7.9	5.8	8.9	7.4
Turkmenistan	18.6	20.4	15.8	17.1	14.7	9.6
Uzbekistan	3.8	4.2	4.0	4.2	7.7	7.0
ECO Region	6.2	1.1	7.3	6.9	8.0	7.6

**Table-8: Total Foreign Direct Investment (mln US \$)**

Country	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Afghanistan	136.5	235.4	173.7	220.55	NA	346.00
Azerbaijan	3017.8	4192	4161.5	3790.7	4442.4	3844.8
Iran	482	99.6	30			
Kazakhstan	2213.3	5391.5	1721.1	10566.70	17578.80	6500
Kyrgyzstan	147.0	175.6	210.3	335.60	324.00	481.00
Pakistan	798.0	949.0	1524.0	3520.00	5140.00	3621.00
Tajikistan	31.6	22.4	54.5	385.2	388.4	481.0
Turkey	1253	1978	8638	19982.00	22795.00	20471.00
Turkmenistan	100	-15.3	61.5	731.00	799.00	820.00
Uzbekistan	70	1.17	45.4	164.00	721.00	969.60

**Table-9:** Composition of GDP By Sectors (%)

Country	Sectors	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Afghanistan	Agriculture	57.0	53.3	44.5	45.1	40.7	38.9
	Industry	23.2	24.7	19.5	18.3	22.8	24.4
	Service	19.8	22	36	36.6	36.5	37.4
Azerbaijan	Agriculture	15.9	14.8	14.0	12.4	11.0	9.2
	Industry	36.0	37.6	37.4	37.3	38.3	47.5
	Service	48.1	47.6	48.6	50.3	50.7	43.3
Iran	Agriculture	11.7	11.2	11.3	10.8	9.8	8.1
	Industry	39.8	36.8	39.2	38.5	40.1	48.1
	Service	48.4	52.0	49.5	50.07	50.01	43.8
Kazakhstan	Agriculture	8.2	8.8	8.0	7.9	7.1	6.4
	Industry	32.6	30.07	29.5	29.1	29.3	29.7
	Service	53.5	54.7	56.9	57.7	59.5	60.1
Kyrgyzstan	Agriculture	34.2	34.5	34.4	33.6	29.9	28.5
	Industry	25.0	23.1	17.9	17.3	19.2	17.3
	Service	29.6	31.4	35.6	36.8	38.3	40.7
Pakistan	Agriculture	25.9	24.9	24.1	24.0	22.9	22
	Industry	23.3	23.8	23.7	23.6	25.5	26
	Service	50.7	51.3	52.1	52.4	51.6	51
Tajikistan	Agriculture	25.1	23.8	22.2	24.2	19.2	21.4
	Industry	23.3	23.8	23.7	23.6	25.5	26
	Service	50.7	51.3	52.1	52.4	51.6	51
Turkey	Agriculture	13.6	11.4	11.4	11.6	11.1	10.1
	Industry	22.5	24.2	24.2	23.8	23.8	24.4
	Service	63.8	64.4	64.4	64.6	65.1	65.6
Turkmenistan	Agriculture	23.00	23.8	20.08	25.0	28.5	NA
	Industry	35.0	37.0	36.0	44.0	42.7	NA
	Service	42.0	39.2	43.2	31.0	28.8	NA
Uzbekistan	Agriculture	30.1	30.0	30.01	28.6	26.4	25.0
	Industry	14.2	14.1	14.5	15.8	17.5	20.7
	Service	55.7	55.9	54.4	55.6	56.1	54.3

**Table-10: Total Length of Railways (km)**

Country	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Afghanistan	NA	0	0	0	0	0
Azerbaijan	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
Iran	6.7	7.15	7.26	7.26	7.58	8.34
Kazakhstan	14.5	14.6	14.6	14.6	15.1	NA
Kyrgyzstan	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Pakistan	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8
Tajikistan	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.95	0.95	NA
Turkey	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7
Turkmenistan	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	NA
Uzbekistan	3.5	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0

**Table-11: Net Ton- Kilometers Carried by Railways (mln.ton-km)**

Country	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Afghanistan	NA	0	0	0	0	0
Azerbaijan	5770000	6141000	6980000	7719000	7536000	9524000
Iran	14179000	14613000	15842000	18048000	18182.000	19127000
Kazakhstan	124983000	135653000	133088000	147672000	163454700	173814700
Kyrgyzstan	337900	331600	394600	561700	71400	661800
Pakistan	4370925	4519528	4572734	4819756	5336000	5532000
Tajikistan	1326200	1250000	1086200	1085500	1117500	1062600
Turkey	9895346	7561601	7224000	8669000	9417000	9152000
Turkmenistan	6303000	6437000	7476000	NA	NA	NA
Uzbekistan	15020500	15731900	18427900	18886600	18006900	18090000

**Table-12: Total Length of Asphalted Roads (th.km)**

Country	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Afghanistan	NA	0.4	0.4	0.642	0.973	2
Azerbaijan	7	7	7	7	7	6.6
Iran	101	113.1	118.2	121.0	NA	124.6
Kazakhstan	11.9	12.1	12.3	13.4	14.5	NA
Kyrgyzstan	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2	NA
Pakistan	138.2	144.6	148.8	153.2	158.5	162.8
Tajikistan	12.6	13	12.2	12	11.9	NA
Turkey	138.6	145.6	150.9	153.6	152.3	154.4
Turkmenistan	12.2	12.2	12.2	NA	NA	NA
Uzbekistan	42.1	42.2	42.3	42.3	42.1	41.6

**Table-13: Total Production of Energy (thousand tons of oil equivalent)**

Country	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Afghanistan	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Azerbaijan	1608	1631	1608	1830.5	1870	1946.9
Iran	NA	240619	237981	272990	292073	317335
Kazakhstan	117298.2	118279.7	132303.2	148186.6	157301.9	NA
Kyrgyzstan	14931	13667	11922	14021	15141	14891
Pakistan	26497	27344	29075	31142	36782	40226
Tajikistan	14247	14382	15302	16509	16491	17087
Turkey	26047	24576	24259	23783	24332	26898
Turkmenistan	45968	50443	53645	58551	NA	NA
Uzbekistan	4031.0	4125.3	4248.9	4192.5	4274.9	NA

**Table-14: Total Consumption of Energy (thousand tons of oil equivalent)**

Country	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Afghanistan	NA	597.6	592.2	741.2	623.4	691.1
Azerbaijan	1412	1469	1403	1583	1630	1677
Iran	NA	95266	102170	107556	117439	128894
Kazakhstan	66889.9	67789.0	81291.5	85668.7	88571.8	NA
Kyrgyzstan	11918	11543	10044	11748	11865	12230
Pakistan	25280	25251	25599	26308	28979	32104
Tajikistan	15580	15731	16087	16518	16835	NA
Turkey	80500	75402	78331	83826	87818	91286
Turkmenistan	13885	15309	16606	17203	NA	NA
Uzbekistan	4141.1	4167.8	4241.8	4192.0	4253.4	NA

**Table-15: Total External Debt (\$US mln)**

Country	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Afghanistan	NA	NA	NA	269.67	472.99	558.6
Azerbaijan	1092	1366	1340	1575	1588	1650
Iran	7953	9012	12530	17024	23074	24491
Kazakhstan	3284.7	3262.1	2944.1	3073.2	2732.7	1776.6
Kyrgyzstan	1386.1	1423.3	1516.6	1754.2	1949.8	1882.2
Pakistan	32254	32144	33400	33352	33307	34037
Tajikistan	1226	1022	1010	1031	822	872
Turkey	118080	113190	130060	145220	162400	168080
Turkmenistan	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1007
Uzbekistan	4418	4279	4260	4249	4322	4133



**Table-16: ECO Countries Total External Trade (\$ US min)**

Country		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	Import	1176	1696	2452	2101	2177	2471	2744	9301
<b>Afghanistan</b>	Export	137	68	100	144	305	384	416	2000
	<i>Balance</i>	-1039	-1628	-2352	-1957	-1872	-2087	-2328	-7301
	Import	2917.3	3745	3832.9	5216.6	7131	8558	5267.6	5712.2
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	Export	2610.5	3487.9	3726	5123.5	7008	8096	6372.2	6058.4
	<i>Balance</i>	-306.8	-257.1	-106.9	-93.1	-123	-462	1104.6	346.2
	Import	15086	18129	22036	29561	38199	40969	NA	NA
<b>Iran</b>	Export	28461	23904	28237	33991	43852	60012	NA	NA
	<i>Balance</i>	13375	5775	6201	4430	5653	19043	NA	NA
	Import	5040	6446	6584	8408.7	12781.2	17352.5	23676.9	32756.4
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	Export	8812.2	8639.1	9670.3	12926.7	20096.2	27849	38250.4	47755.3
	<i>Balance</i>	3772.2	2193.1	3086.3	4518	7315	10496.5	14573.5	14998.9
	Import	554.1	467.2	586.8	717	941	1101.3	1718.2	3201
<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	Export	504.5	476.2	485.5	581.7	718.8	672	794.1	2011
	<i>Balance</i>	-49.6	9	-101.3	-135.3	-222.2	-429.3	-924.1	-1190
	Import	10810	10209	11252	13037	17905	25331	30540	39966
<b>Pakistan</b>	Export	8913	9186	9874	11844	12954	15917	16976	19052
	<i>Balance</i>	-1897	-1023	-1378	-1193	-4951	-9414	-13564	-20914
	Import	675	687.5	720.5	880.8	1191	1330	1725.4	2555
<b>Tajikistan</b>	Export	784.3	651.5	736.9	797.2	915	909	1399	767
	<i>Balance</i>	109.3	-36	16.4	-83.6	-276	-421	-325.6	-1788
	Import	54502.8	41399.1	51553.8	69339.7	97539.8	116774	139576	170057
<b>Turkey</b>	Export	27774.9	31334.2	36059.1	47252.8	63167.2	73476	85535	107213
	<i>Balance</i>	-26727.9	-10064.9	-15494.7	-22086.9	-34372.6	-43298	-54041	-62844
	Import	1785	2349	2119.4	2512	2850	4364	2557.7	3780
<b>Turkmenistan</b>	Export	2505.5	2620.2	2855.6	3632	4000	6174	7155.5	9114
	<i>Balance</i>	720.5	271.2	736.2	1120	1150	1810	4597.8	5334
	Import	2947.4	3136.9	2712	2964.2	3816	4091.3	4781.6	6736
<b>Uzbekistan</b>	Export	3264.7	3170.4	2988.4	3725	4853	5408.8	6389.8	8991
	<i>Balance</i>	317.3	33.5	277.4	760.8	1037	1317.5	1608.2	2255
	Import	95493.6	88264.7	103849.4	134738	184531	222342.1	275187	343464.6
<b>ECO Region</b>	Export	83767.6	83537.5	94732.8	120017.9	157869.2	198897.8	192088	240961.7
	<i>Balance</i>	-11726	-4727.2	-9116.6	-14720.1	-26661.8	-23444.3	-83099.4	102502.9

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