

JOINT COMMUNIQUE
of the results of 13th Meeting
of the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers)
of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Member States

On December 14-15, 2014 the city of Astana hosted the 13th Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Member States (hereinafter – the SCO or Organisation). The Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan K. Masimov, the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China Li Keqiang, the Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic D. Otorbayev, the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation D. Medvedev, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan K. Rasulzoda and the First Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan R. Azimov were in attendance.

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan K. Masimov chaired the meeting.

The SCO Secretary-General D. Mezentsev, the Director of the Executive Committee of the SCO Regional Counter-Terrorism Structure Zhang Xinfeng, the Chairman of the Governing Board of the SCO Business Council S. Sayid, authorised representative of the Council of the SCO Interbank Consortium S. Lykov took part in the meeting.

Representatives of the SCO observer states – the Chief Executive of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan A. Abdullah, the State Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India V. Singh, the Minister of Agriculture of the Islamic Republic of Iran M. Hojjati, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to the Republic of Kazakhstan Z. Sukhee, the Adviser to the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on National Security and Foreign Affairs S. Aziz, as well as the Chairman of the CIS Executive Committee, CIS Executive Secretary S. Lebedev, the EurAsEC Secretary-General T. Mansurov, the Executive Director of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia Gong Jianwei, the Director of Transport Division of the UNESCAP Li Yuwei were present at the meeting.

The President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N. Nazarbayev received the heads of delegations of the SCO member states.

The heads of government in a friendly, constructive and businesslike spirit exchanged views on a wide range of issues concerning the international and regional economic development, and in pursuance of the decisions of the Council

of Heads of SCO Member States (Dushanbe, September 12, 2014) considered priority areas of mutually beneficial cooperation.

1. The parties noted that the impact of the global financial economic crisis had yet to be fully overcome, numerous challenges continued to affect the world economy.

In this regard the parties confirmed the need to take joint measures with the aim of ensuring sustainable socioeconomic development of the SCO member states, boosting trade, economic and investment activities, developing cooperation in high-tech sectors of economy, modernising various branches of industry, implementing projects aimed to develop transport logistics, information communications and other kinds of infrastructure, raising the economic competitiveness and improving the living standards of citizens in SCO member countries.

2. The heads of government noted that in order to fulfill the decisions of Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of the SCO Member States (Tashkent, November 28-29, 2013) common steps were taken to invigorate economic and human cooperation, maintain economic stability, boost the investment appeal and the development of industrial output in SCO member countries.

The parties underlined the significance of expanding practical cooperation in finance, banking, science and technology, innovation, energy, including the use of alternative and renewable sources of energy, and customs, as well as in the field of agriculture, transport, telecommunications, as envisaged by the Action Plan on Implementation of the Programme of Multilateral Trade Economic Cooperation of the SCO Member States and the List of Activities on Further Development of Joint Projects in the SCO Framework for 2012-2016.

The heads of government welcome the initiative of the People's Republic of China to create a "Silk Road Economic Zone", and consider necessary to launch consultations and interaction among the SCO member states on this issue.

3. The heads of government noted the fruitful work of the Conference of ministers of the SCO member states in charge of external economic and trade activity, which took place on November 19, 2014 in Astana.

In order to carry out the instructions of the Council of Heads of Government (Tashkent, November 28-29, 2013), the ministers of the SCO member states in charge of external economic and trade activity, in conjunction with the SCO Secretariat conducted an assessment of the activity of Special Working Groups and took relevant decisions to further enhance their efficiency.

The heads of government instructed the ministries and departments responsible for external economic and trade activity, jointly with concerned ministries and departments of the SCO member states and with the involvement of the SCO Secretariat, SCO Business Council and SCO Interbank Consortium to take stock of projects envisaged by the Action Plan on Implementation of the Programme of Multilateral Trade Economic Cooperation of the SCO Member States, and if necessary, to update the mentioned document. They also instructed to start to draw up a draft List of Activities on Further Development of Joint Projects in the SCO Framework for 2017-2021 with the aim of its subsequent approval by the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of the SCO Member States in the established order.

4. The heads of government stressed the need for the soonest creation of funding mechanisms for project activity in the SCO framework with the aim of promoting economic growth, expanding trade economic links among the SCO member states.

5. The heads of government declared for boosting cooperation between government bodies and business institutions in the field of investment, establishing direct contacts among business communities of the SCO member states.

The parties underlined their interest in invigorating investment cooperation by implementing concrete projects in high-tech sectors of economy, transport logistics, information communications and other promising areas. The heads of government welcomed the proposal of the Chinese side to allocate funds being created by investment institutions of the People's Republic of China for financing economic projects in the SCO region.

The parties noted the fruitful work resulting from participation of SCO member states' representatives in international fora, exhibitions, roundtable seminars, in accordance with the SCO Plan of Activities and with due regard to the common interest.

6. The heads of government highly rated the work conducted by the transport departments of the SCO member states on the conclusion of the Agreement among the governments of the SCO member states on international road transportation facilitation (Dushanbe, September 12, 2014).

The Agreement will enable to make effective use of the existing transport infrastructure, raise the transit potential and stimulate the development of trade economic cooperation of the SCO member states.

In this regard the parties underlined the importance of the soonest validation of the mentioned Agreement.

The heads of government noted the active involvement of the UNESCAP and the SCO Secretariat in preparing the draft of the Agreement, and declared for further development of cooperation between the two organisations.

The heads of government accentuated the significance of cooperation in the field of automobile, railway and air connection in the SCO region, among others by implementing projects aimed to modernise and create new transport infrastructure facilities.

The parties underlined the importance of effective exploration of the capabilities of international multimodal logistics centres currently operating in the region as well as of creating new ones.

7. The heads of government highly rated the pace of fulfilling the Agreement among the governments of the SCO member states on cooperation and mutual assistance in customs affairs (Tashkent, November 2, 2007) as well as interdepartmental documents in customs area.

The heads of government noted the signing on December 15, 2014 in Astana of the Memorandum among the customs services of the SCO member states on mutual assistance in the field of development and application of a risk management system and the Protocol on the interaction of the customs services of the SCO member states in the field of law enforcement, which are designed to facilitate further improvement of the legal framework and increase the level of cooperation in customs area.

8. The heads of government underlined the significance of comprehensive development of interaction in the field of agriculture in bilateral and multilateral formats with the aim of implementing the Agreement among the governments of the SCO member states on cooperation in the field of agriculture (Tashkent, June 11, 2010). They declared for conducting joint fundamental and applied scientific research on organic food production technology, developing high-tech innovation projects in the field of agriculture.

In this regard the parties noted the results of the third Conference of ministers of agriculture of the SCO member states held on October 9, 2014 in Moscow.

9. The parties noted the importance of developing cooperation in the field of energy, including the use of alternative and renewable sources of energy, with the aim of further reducing or restricting the release of pollutants into the atmosphere, including greenhouse gas, as well as diminishing specific amounts of energy consumption.

10. The heads of government noted the contribution of the SCO Business Council and SCO Interbank Consortium (hereinafter – IBC) to the development of economic cooperation in the SCO framework.

The parties underlined the need to pragmatically implement the Action Plan on strengthening financial cooperation and assisting regional development adopted by the SCO IBC Council, as well as the agreements based on the outcomes of the SCO Business Council Governing Board meeting and SCO Business Forum (Dushanbe, September 10-11, 2014).

The heads of government noted the need to enhance the efficiency of joint activity of the SCO Business Council and SCO IBC with the aim of expanding links among entrepreneurs and investors of SCO member states, as well as observer states and dialogue partners.

11. The heads of government noted the important results of the second Conference of ministers of justice of the SCO member states (Vladivostok, September 18-19, 2014) aimed to further strengthen legal cooperation in the SCO framework, in particular the protection of legitimate rights and interests of individual citizens and entities.

12. The heads of government expressed satisfaction at the results achieved in cultural and human cooperation, declared for further development of multilateral and bilateral ties in the field of culture, science and technology, education, healthcare, sport, tourism, which serves to deepen mutual understanding among peoples, promotes mutual enrichment and rapprochement of cultures, the spread of knowledge about traditions and customs of peoples living in the SCO region.

13. The heads of government underlined the significance of the outcome of the Conference of ministers of culture of the SCO member states (Dushanbe, June 10, 2014) aimed to fulfill the Agreement among the governments of the SCO member states on cooperation in the field of culture (Bishkek, August 16, 2007).

14. The heads of government noted the results of the Conference of ministers of education of the SCO member states (Barnaul, October 8, 2014) aimed to implement the Agreement among the governments of the SCO member states on cooperation in the field of education (Shanghai, June 15, 2006).

15. The heads of government underlined the need for the soonest completion of the procedure necessary for the validation of the Agreement among the governments of the SCO member states on science and technology cooperation (Bishkek, September 13, 2013), the development and adoption of a List of joint science and technology projects and an Action Plan on the fulfillment of the mentioned Agreement.

16. The heads of government noted the need for greater focus on matters of environmental protection and establishment of practical interaction in this field with the aim of preserving the nature and resource potential of the SCO member states for the sake of present and future generations.

17. The heads of government instructed to continue with the efforts on practical implementation of the Agreement among the governments of the SCO member states on cooperation in the field of healthcare (Astana, June 15, 2011).

18. The heads of government noted the importance of increasing cooperation of the SCO member states in the field of controlling infectious diseases, which pose a serious threat to the health and development of mankind, as well as their prevention.

To that end, the competent ministries and departments of the SCO member states were tasked to enhance joint work on raising sanitary control, as envisaged by the Programme of alerts about epidemic emergency caused by infectious diseases on the territory of SCO member states (Tashkent, November 29, 2013).

19. The heads of government declared for further augmentation of trade economic and investment cooperation with the observer states and dialogue partners, as well with international and regional bodies.

20. The heads of government approved the SCO Secretariat Report on the pace of fulfilling the Programme of multilateral trade economic cooperation of the SCO member states.

21. The parties adopted the budget of the Organisation for 2015, took decisions on the issues concerning financial and organisational activity of the SCO permanent bodies.

The heads of government noted the excellent organisation and staging of Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of the SCO Member States, and expressed gratitude to the Kazakh side for its warm hospitality.

The next Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of the SCO Member States is due to be take place in 2015 in the People's Republic of China.