



Tel: 9201308

Fax: 9205241

Islamabad the 23rd April, 2019

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject:- MINUTES OF SECOND MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE RELATING TO PAK-IRAN BILATERAL TRADE THROUGH LAND ROUTE.

The second meeting of the committee under the chairmanship of the Minister of State for Revenue was held on 20th March 2019 in the Ministry of Commerce, Islamabad.

2. Minutes of the meetings are enclosed herewith for information and further necessary action, please.

Encl : As above

(Umar Minhas)

Section Officer (CARs & ECO)

1. Mr. Zahid Hafeez Ch. Director General (AIT) Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad
2. Mr. Muhammad Javaid, Chief (F & C), Federal Board of Revenue, Islamabad
3. Mr. Imran Ullah Khan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Islamabad
4. Mr. Arshad Memood Bhatti, Director (Exchange Policy), State Bank of Karachi
5. Mr. Adeem Khan, Secretary (Transit Trade) Federal Board of Revenue, Islamabad
6. Mr. Muhammad Shoaib Dogar, Director (R.T) M/o Communications, Islamabad
7. Mr. Zain ul Abidin, Director (Iran & Turkey), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad
8. Mr. Freedom Akram Sheikh, S.A. to Minister of State for Revenue, Islamabad
9. Brig. Kashif Abdullah, MO Dte, GHQ, Rawalpindi
10. Haji. Jamal Uddin Achakzai, S.V.P. FPCCI, Karachi.
- ✓ 11. Ms. Faiza, Secretary General, PAJCCI, Karachi
12. Mr. Ghulam Farooq, Ex-President, Quetta Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Quetta

Government of Pakistan
Ministry of Commerce and Textile
Commerce Division

**Minutes of the meeting of Committee relating to Pakistan-Iran
Bilateral Trade through the Land Route held on 20th March, 2019**

The 2nd meeting of the committee to discuss Pakistan-Iran and Pakistan-Afghanistan bilateral trade through land route was held on 20th March, 2019 in Ministry of Commerce, Islamabad. The meeting was chaired by the Minister of State for Revenue, Mr. Hammad Azhar. The list of the participants is enclosed.

2. The decisions made in the last meetings were discussed, and the chair sought the follow up on the decisions made.

3. **Pakistan-Iran Bilateral Trade**

a. Regarding the feasibility of opening the branch of the Iranian Banks which are not under US Sanctions, the representative of the State bank informed that the US Sanctions have hit the entire banking sector of Iran. Therefore, it is not possible to open the branch of an Iranian Bank in Pakistan. He further added that two Pakistani Banks have requested to wind up their representative offices in Iran and there is no presence of Pakistani Banks in Iran. Indian banks which are trading with Iran are enjoying a waiver.

b. The representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs intimated that the US Wavier from the sanctions can be sought provided that MoFA is given some technical advice regarding the precise scope of the wavier i.e either to seek wavier on Banking Channel or sanctioned products.

c. Secretary Commerce highlighted the case of the KASB bank whose funds were withheld for performing financial transactions with Iran. He also opined that in view of the US sanctions, banking transactions are not possible even for the non sanctioned products.

- d. The Chair stated that:
- i. Barter mechanism with Iran may be explored.
 - ii. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will consider requesting for a waiver from the US subject to the approval of the Foreign Minister.
 - iii. FPCCI may explore barter mechanism for non-sanctioned products with Iran taking into account US Sanctions.
 - iv. State Bank of Pakistan will explore possibility of opening of a dedicated bank for Iran, which does not have international exposure.

4. Pakistan-Afghanistan Bilateral & Transit Trade

- a. The representative from Afghanistan Pakistan Joint Chamber of Commerce highlighted the problem of empty containers.
- b. Representative from FBR stated that as per the APTTCA; Ministry of commerce may raise the issue of stranded trucks with the Afghan authorities. On the issue of the separate checking by the NLC which was discussed in the first meeting, the representative from FBR informed that NLC is charging Rs.2500/- per truck/container for checking.
- c. Additional Secretary Trade Diplomacy, Ministry of Commerce informed that MoC has already requested the Afghan authorities for holding the 7th Meeting of APTTCA, however, there is no response from the Afghan side. He further added that checking of the goods should be preferably carried out at one place.
- d. The chair decided that there is dire need to review the NLC Fee because it is increasing the cost of production. He therefore decided that a letter may be written to NLC for review of the fees by FBR. It was also decided that the issue of the empty containers will be raised at Pak Afghan Liaison Committee.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

S. No.	Name and Designation	Ministry / Department
1.	Mr. Hammad Azhar Revenue Minister of State <u>Chair</u>	Revenue Division
2.	Mr. Mohammad Younus Dagha, Secretary Commerce	Ministry of Commerce
3.	Mr. Javed Akbar Bhatti, Additional Secretary (T.D)	Ministry of Commerce
4.	Mr. Syed Tariq Huda Additional Secretary (II)	Ministry of Commerce
5.	Ch. Muhammad Javaid, Member (Customs),	Federal Board of Revenue (Chief Customs (F&C)
6.	Mr. Hussain Haider, Joint Secretary (FT-II)	Ministry of Commerce
7.	Dr. Imran Ullah Khan, Joint Secretary	Ministry of Finance
8.	Mr. Faredoon Sheikh, Special Assistant to MOS	Revenue Division
9.	Mr. Zain ul Abidin, Director (Iran)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
10.	Mr. Zahid Hafeez Choudhary, Director General (Afghan, Iran, Turkey)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
11.	Mr. Muhammad Shoab Dogar, Director (Road & Transport)	Ministry of Communications
12.	Mr. Adeem Khan, Secretary (TI)	Federal Board of Revenue
13.	Lt Col Muhammad Qasim Bajwa,	Frontier Corps, Balochistan (North)
14.	Col Sheryar Khan	F.C Baluchistan South Turbat on behalf of GHQ, Rawalpindi
15.	Mr. Arshad Mehmood Bhatti, Director (Exchange Policy)	State Bank of Pakistan
16.	Mr. Mehtab Hussain Shah (Joint Director)	State Bank of Pakistan

17.	Mr. Athar Gaffoor Additional Director	State Bank of Pakistan
18.	Mr. Umar Minhas, Section Officer (CARs & ECO)	Ministry of Commerce
19.	Mr. Jalal uddin, Sr. V. President	Pakistan - Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PAJCCI)
20.	Ms. Faiza, Secretary General	-do-
21.	Mr. Jai Kuimar,	Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), Islamabad
22.	Mr. Ghulam Farooq, Ex-President	Quetta Chamber of Commerce & Industry (QCCI) Quetta