

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE LAHORE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
HELD ON 31.1.2024 AT 11:30 HOURS
IN AMIN HALL, LCCI BUILDING**

<u>S. No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Member Organization</u>
1.	Mr Kashif Anwar	President (In Chair)	A.M.K Engineering (Pvt) Ltd
2.	Mr Zafar Mehmood Ch	Senior Vice President	Naeem Zafar Industries
3.	Mr Adnan Khalid Butt	Vice President	New Kings Packages (Pvt) Ltd
4.	Mian Rehman Aziz Chan	EC Member	M-R Law Chambers (Pvt) Ltd
5.	Mr. Haris Ateeq	EC Member	Bridle Zone
6.	Mr Khalid Mehmood	EC Member	The Fuelers (Pvt.) Ltd
7.	Malik Muhammad Nadeem	EC Member	Hafiz Brothers
8.	Mian Jabbar Khalid	EC Member	Feroz Flour & General Mills
9.	Mian Attiq-ur-Rehman	EC Member	Al-Jahan International
10.	Mr Rizwan Haider	EC Member	Excellent Packers (Pvt.) Ltd
11.	Muhammad Riaz-ul-Hassan	EC Member	Ajmair Food (Pvt.) Ltd
12.	Ch Wajid Ali	EC Member	United Plastic Company
13.	Mr. Muhammad Usman Malik	EC Member	Usman Tractor House
14.	Mr. Ahmad Ellahi	EC Member	AA Leather (Pvt.) Ltd
15.	Mr. Muhammad Yousaf Shah	EC Member	Al-Yousaf Enterprises
16.	Ms Shamim Akhtar	EC Member	In-Out Trading (Pvt.) Ltd
17.	Sh. Muhammad Ibrahim	EC Member	Cannon Foam Industries (Pvt.) Ltd
18.	Mr Muhammad Waseem Yousaf	EC Member	Quality Vision
19.	Mr. Khamis Saeed Butt	EC Member	Khamis Papers
20.	Mr Mujahid Maqsood Butt	EC Member	Mujahid Maqsood Butt
21.	Muhammad Usman Sheikh	EC Member	Marhaba Laboratories (Pvt.) Ltd
22.	Mr. Muhammad Ejaz	EC Member	Fair Marketing Pakistan
23.	Mr Khadim Hussain	EC Member	Hussain Trading Co
24.	Muhammad Tauqeer Malik	EC Member	Bin Qutab International (Pvt.) Ltd
25.	Raja Hassan Akhtar	EC Member	Waris & Company
26.	Ms Fareeha Younas	EC Member	FSN Travels & Tours

Mr Shahid Khalil

Secretary-General LCCI

1. Recitation from the Holy Quran

The Meeting started with the recitation from the Holy Quran and following the tradition, the House offered *Fateha* for the *Eesal-e-Sawab* of;

- Mian Muzaffar Ali, Former President LCCI.
- Father of Mr. Almas Hyder, Former President LCCI.
- Mother of Mr. Munir Ahmed Khan, Former Vice President LCCI.
- Uncle of Mr. Amjad Ali Jawa, Former Senior Vice President LCCI.
- Son of Mr. Sohail Shamsheer, Former EC Member LCCI.
- Father of Mr. Shehzad Butt, Former EC Member LCCI.
- Brother of Mr. Mubarak, LCCI Staff Member.
- Mother of M. Usman, LCCI Staff Member.

2. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Leave of absence was granted to the following members:-

1	Mian Nauman Kabir	EC Member	NSM Marketing
2	Rana Tariq Mehboob	EC Member	Rana Trading Co
3	Dr Shahid Raza	EC Member	S.R. Labs And Feeds
4	Mr Momin Ali Malik	EC Member	Euro Guard (Pvt.) Ltd
5	Mr. Arjumand Maqsood	EC Member	Mahmood Pharmacy
6	Mr. Asim Pervaiz Siddiqi	EC Member	Siddiqi & Associates

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE EC MEETING

The Secretary-General sought approval of previous minutes of EC, which were circulated along with the notice of the meeting. The House approved the minutes.

4. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION OF THE EC

The Secretary-General sought approval of the Implementation Report on the decisions of the EC, which was circulated along with the notice of the meeting. This agenda was approved by the House.

5. LIST OF ACTIVITIES

The Secretary-General sought approval of the List of Activities, which was circulated along with the notice of the meeting. The House approved the List of Activities presented before the House. The agenda was approved.

6. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Secretary-General sought approval of the Statement of Accounts for November and December 2023. The House granted approval after a brief discussion based on some clarifications and explanations.

7. **MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

The Minutes of the following Standing Committees were approved in the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 31.1.2024

It was decided that anything approved in the minutes, which is contrary to the Chamber Policy or LCCI Articles or having financial implications, will be considered "not approved". Moreover, all functions of Standing Committees will be organized on self-financed basis.

All Delegations would be as per LCCI SOPs through Delegation Department.

SR. #	NAME OF STANDING COMMITTEE	DATE OF MEETING
A.	CPEC	16.11.2023
B.	Auto Parts Manufacturing and Exports	17.11.2023
C.	Joint Meeting of S/Cs on Small Business Harmonization and Textile Machinery Parts & Traders	18.11.2023
D.	Paper Board Import	20.11.2023
E.	Banking Affairs	22.11.2023
F.	Promotion of Sewing Machinery Trade	22.11.2023
G.	Rachna Industrial Park	23.11.2023
H.	Culture & Heritage	24.11.2023
I.	Training and Counseling	24.11.2023
J.	Customs Intelligence	25.11.2023
K.	Mental Health Awareness	25.11.2023
L.	Issues of Importers & Exporters (General Items)	27.11.2023

M.	Kalabagh Dam	27.11.2023
N.	EDOB for Women	28.11.2023
O.	Art & Culture	29.11.2023
P.	Audio Visual & Digital Signage	29.11.2023
Q.	Commercial Importers	29.11.2023
R.	Women Business Development	29.11.2023
S.	LCCI Liaison with Developers, Builders and Housing Schemes (Gulberg)	30.11.2023
T.	Technical Training Programs	30.11.2023
U.	Joint Meeting of S/Cs on Customs Valuation and Enhancing Liaison of Trade with Government Departments	2.12.2023
V.	Integrated Marketing Communication	2.12.2023
W.	Law & Order (Rehman Gallian Market, Brandreth Road)	2.12.2023
X.	Automobile Vehicles Sale (Used)	4.12.2023
Y.	Joint Meeting of SCs on Fresh Fruits & Vegetables, Fresh Fruits & Vegetables Export and Fresh Fruits & Vegetables Import	5.12.2023
Z.	Fashion & Clothing Exports	5.12.2023
AA.	Gwadar Coastal Tourism	7.12.2023
AB.	Veterinary Pharmaceutical	7.12.2023

AC.	Agri Commodity Export	9.12.2023
AD.	Industry-Academia Linkage & Bio Technology	9.12.2023
AE.	Law & Order (Dharampura)	9.12.2023
AF.	Enhancing Facilitation for SME Sector	12.12.2023
AG.	Pakistan Uzbekistan & Afghanistan Trade Promotion	20.12.2023
AH.	Motorcycle Auto Parts Trade	21.12.2023
AI.	Revival of Sick Industry	21.12.2023
AJ.	Shalamar Hospital	21.12.2023
AK.	Issues of Steel & Electrical Engineering	22.12.2023
AL.	Crockery Import	23.12.2023
AM.	Issues of Carpet Industry	23.12.2023
AN.	Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)	26.12.2023
AO.	Global Standards for Industries	26.12.2023
AP.	Heritage & Religious Tourism in Pakistan	28.12.2023
AQ.	Development of Packaging Sector	6.1.2024
AR.	Legal Education	12.1.2024
AS.	Membership	25.11.2023,2.12.2023, 9.12.2023,16.12.2023, 23.12.2023,30.12.2023, 6.1.2024,13.1.2024 & 20.1.2024

AT.	International Fairs, Exhibition and Delegations	27.12.2023
AU.	IT Infrastructure Development & Trainings	2.1.2024

8. ISSUES OF TRADE & INDUSTRY AND ANY OTHER ITEM

- 8.01 Ms. Shamim Akhtar urged the Chair to take up the bank related issues of business community with the State Bank of Pakistan as some of the banks are creating undue troubles.
- 8.02 Haji Riaz-ul-Hassan stressed the need to invite Chairman FBR and Chief LESCO to the LCCI as the issues of third party return filing and electricity overbilling are creating serious problems for the business community. The Chair directed the Secretary General to extend invitation to both the officials.
- 8.03 Muhammad Usman Sheikh sought the details and status of the LCCI's scheduled trade delegation. The Senior Vice President while giving a detailed briefing to the House said that a LCCI trade delegation to Saudi Arabia and Iraq is scheduled in the very next week after General Elections. Similarly, the delegation to Morocco and Egypt is planned in the next month, whereas, other two LCCI delegations, one to South Africa and Mozambique and second to USA, are planned after the Eid-ul-Fitr. The SVP also apprised the House that MoUs and B2B meetings are also scheduled with the Chambers of Commerce in Saudi Arabia and Iraq.
- 8.04 The Chair told the House that the Iranian Embassy has also invited the representatives of business community to participate in an exhibition in the month of April or May in Iran. He encouraged the House to participate in this exhibition. Chaudhry Wajid Ali suggested that the President should lead a delegation to Iran.
- 8.05 Mr. Tauqeer Malik appreciated the 1st LCCI Women Entrepreneurs Recognition Ceremony and 1st LCCI IT Freelancing Awards and suggested that the EC should be engaged in planning of such important events so that their input can be included. He also requested to share regular updates on trade delegations through emails and letters. The Chair asked to share the details of all the delegations that are in the pipeline with the Executive Committee.

- 8.06 Raja Hassan Akhtar appreciated the efforts of the entire team, including President, Ms. Fareeha Younis, Chaudhry Wahab and Secretary-General, regarding the recent events of Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry held in Islamabad and Lahore.
- 8.07 The Chair acknowledged the efforts of the LCCI team as well as conveners of the relevant committees for doing their best in organizing the events successfully.
- 8.08 Mr. Ateeq-ur-Rehman drew the attention of the House towards the issue of Delayed Payments by the exporter and requested the Chair to write a letter to the State Bank of Pakistan regarding the release of the funds withheld in term of lien. The Chair also directed to write a letter to the concerned ministry after taking details from Mr. Ateeq-ur-Rehman.
- 8.09 Mr. Usman Malik sought the performance of Lahore Chamber Building Committee and LCN. He seconded Mr. Tauqeer Malik's proposal to share event information with EC in advance and proposed to make it an EC meeting agenda. Mr. Usman Malik also questioned the performance of the conveners of the standing committees. He complained that the issues of business community of Associate Class have been ignored while the attention has been given only to the issues of exporters and Corporate Class businessmen. He requested the Chair to engage the EC members of associate class in major assignments regarding the issues of Associate Class by forming their groups. While commenting on this, the Senior Vice President said that this is the responsibility of EC members to bring the problems of traders and markets in the Lahore Chamber, while the responsibility of Office Bearers is to make every possible effort to solve them. If the problems which are brought here in Lahore Chamber are not solved, objection should be raised, going to the markets and finding problems is the duty of EC and not of Office Bearers. The Chair supported the Senior Vice President and commented that one should complain if the issues, he raised, are not being taken up. With permission of Chair, Mr. Khadim Hussain also endorsed the stance of President and Senior Vice President. While referring to a recent event of Real Estate sector at LCCI, the Senior Vice President assured the House that the problems of the entire business community, including the associate class, are taken up with the authorities and the letters are also being written to the concerned for the early resolution of the issues. The President appointed Mr. Usman Malik to bring all the problems of associate class businessmen to Lahore Chamber and assured that every possible effort will be made to resolve them.
- 8.10 Mr. Yousaf Shah highlighted an issue being faced by the importers during clearing their shipments and stated that the clearing agents during the process change the valuation



amount which causes an objection from banks. The Senior Vice President and Ibrahim Sheikh shared their experience in this regard and said that these issues are resolved only through negotiations. Mr. Yousaf Shah requested to invite Commissioner Lahore to LCCI for immediate resolution of various encroachment-related problems in markets. On a complaint of Mr. Yousaf Shah regarding the movement of EC members in LCCI, the President and Secretary General assured him that EC members has no restrictions. Mr. Yousaf Shah informed the House that an increase of 40% is expected in electricity tariff and requested that a letter should be written to control the theft instead of increasing the rate, on which the Senior Vice President said that not only a letter should be issued but also a Press statement is required. Mr. Yousaf Shah also drew attention of the House that the neighboring countries are shifting to hybrid technology and suggested that the Lahore Chamber should also emphasize on the government in this regard.

- 8.11 Chaudhry Wajid Ali requested the Chair to raise voice to eliminate the difference in duty on import of both commercial and industrial importers/Raw Material. Chaudhry Wajid also raised the issue of unjustified detention of goods by Customs officials at Bonded warehouses in Karachi and requested the President to sort this issue out. On which the Chair asked him to give a detailed guide on this issue so that some action can be taken. The Senior Vice President also expressed his opinion on this and Mr. Ibrahim Sheikh spoke about the complications in this issue and warned to not to write any letter without research.
- 8.12 The Senior Vice President told the House that the President had nominated him for a nomination of Customs for which a formal notification has also issued from the Customs, therefore if any EC member has any problem regarding Customs should contact him.
- 8.13 Mr. Ahmad Elahi sought details regarding delegations to Saudi Arabia and Iraq, on which the SVP told him that coordination with the Chambers of Commerce in both the countries is going on and the area of interest of all the delegation members has been conveyed to them. B2B meetings will also be arranged with counterparts. Mr. Ahmed Elahi pointed out the misuse of the theft act of 2016 by the staff of SNGPL and said that based on this act, average gas bills of millions of rupees have been charged on the old gas meters of the factories closed in 2006-7. The Chair directed him to give the details for writing a letter to the concerned department and assured that the matter will be taken up. Mr. Ahmed Elahi also highlighted the problem of beggars in the presence of traffic police on the roads and requested to write a letter to the concerned department on this issue. The Chair assured him that a letter will be written on it.

- 8.14 Mr. Jabbar Khalid emphasized the need to work on the issue of parking in Lahore Chamber and sought if any progress has made in this regard. On the request of the President and the Senior Vice President, the Secretary General told the House that the Building Committee has approved paint of the LCCI building and renovation of washrooms. About overhead parking, he told the House that according to a survey of Izhar Group, it is not feasible here. The Secretary General told the House that the existing space has also been slightly changed and made spacious. The Senior Vice President proposed to construct a building on the front side of the Lahore Chamber with two floors of underground parking.
- 8.15 Mr. Khalid Mahmood suggested that EC members should be informed via letters before planning any delegation and they should be given timeframe about the respective delegation. He indicated that he has not received any E-mail regarding delegations. The President directed the Secretary General to share the details of all delegations with the EC members. Later, the Secretary General told Mr. Khalid Mahmood that the details of both the delegations were sent to him in the EC what's app group on 28 September 2023. He also assured him to inform through e-mails as well in the future. Mr. Khalid Mahmood also shared his experience of visiting the headquarters of SIFC and said that despite the fact that it is time taking process, there is immense business potential in SIFC which all EC members should take advantage of. The President directed to prepare a detailed briefing in this regard in the R&D Department under the guidance of Mr. Khalid Mahmood.
- 8.16 Mr. Muhammad Ejaz expressed grave concern over an issue regarding participation in Gulf Food and said that TDAP has allotted stalls only to the big exporters in the said exhibition while completely ignoring the small traders, this year. The President directed Mr. Muhammad Ejaz to give a written proposal in this regard so that this issue can be taken up in a better way. Mr. Muhammad Ejaz also appreciated the two recent above-mentioned LCCI events,
- 8.17 The Chair requested the house to submit their sector-related issues and recommendations for upcoming budget 2024-25 at the earliest.
- 8.18 Mr. Ibrahim Sheikh pointed out an issue regarding advance income tax and said that now people are receiving notices of two and a half billion rupees. On which the President told the house that if a manufacturer withheld an advance tax under section 236 of a retailer of more than one lakh rupees. That retailer will also have to be integrated with POS. The



President said that earlier the limit for sales tax was 10 Crore, which has now been reduced to 2 Crore and for retailers who are not registered in sales tax, this limit has reduced to 1 Crore. The President also apprised the House that a statement was issued against the issue, but there is a need to raise a collective voice in this regard. Mr. Ibrahim Sheikh urged to write a letter to the concerned authorities on the misuse of tax exemption by FATA/PATA. He also stated that a 1.25% Turnover tax has been imposed in Special Economic Zones where the only benefit to the investor was the exemption of income tax, previously.

- 8.19 Mr. Waseem Yousuf seconded the point raised by Haji Riaz-ul-Hassan regarding unnecessary increase in tariff and over-billing in LESCO's electricity bills and said that the real problem is not line losses but deliberate theft of electricity somehow with the facilitation of the department's staff. Mr. Waseem Yousaf also proposed to invite the LESCO chief as well as the Chairman NEPRA to the LCCI, on which the President instructed to write to concerned authorities. Mr. Waseem Yousaf also told the Senior Vice President about an issue regarding Customs and said that when a container is ready for shipment after all the formalities and has boarded the vessel, sometimes, it is off-loaded and de-stuffed just 12 hours before departure for checking, to avoid wait again for the next vessel, Exporter has to negotiate with the relevant officers which take full advantage of this situation. He said that it should be the liability of the officers to send that shipment to the same vessel, after the checking process.
- 8.20 The Senior Vice President explained this in detail. Mr. Waseem Yousaf also requested to include some members of the auto parts sector in the delegation. He congratulated the LCCI Office Bearers, the relevant conveners and the Secretary-General for organizing two wonderful events within a short span of Eight days, on which the President commented that IT Freelancing Awards were delayed due to personal engagement of the Governor, Punjab at the 11th hour and rescheduled with the efforts of Vice President.
- 8.21 Commenting on Muhammad Usman' point, Muhammad Nadeem Malik said that the Lahore Chamber is not decision maker but it is at the supporting end. He appreciated the special efforts of the LCCI President regarding skilled labour for his sector and requested to do more work in this regard, on which the Secretary-General told him that a special training session on Skilled Labour is going to be held at LCCI in the next few days. Mr. Muhammad Nadeem Malik requested the President that when funds are available, he should take whatever steps needed to build parking lot or another building at LCCI. All EC members will support his decision, he added. Mr. Muhammad Nadeem Malik also highlighted the issue of bank LCs and suggested inviting the relevant authority to set a mechanism under which LC would be issued at least for the cases recommended by the

LCCI. He suggested forming groups of EC members to work on countries with potential to increase exports. He also suggested that nominations to government committees and boards should be made from among the EC members. He supported Usman Malik's point regarding associate class and said that there is always room for improvement and this suggestion must be considered.

- 8.22 Mr. Rizwan Haider also appreciated the efforts of Ms. Fariha Younis in organizing a successful event of 1st LCCI Women Entrepreneurs Awards. He also commented about the over-billing of LESCO and said that people have to face of the concerned staff when they go to complain about over-billing. He also requested to call LESCO officials to Lahore Chamber.
- 8.23 Mr. Khadim Hussain highlight an issue regarding the POS Integration and said that in case of any wrong entry, one has to go through a very long and complicated process to reverse that minor error. He stated that his problem in this regard has not been resolved yet since months, due to which he is not even able to file his sales tax return. The President directed him to give the details of the issue so that a letter could be written to the concerned authorities. Mr. Khadim Hussain emphasized the need to strengthen the ties of LCCI with TDAP regarding participation in exhibitions and also proposed to establish a TDAP help desk in the LCCI so that members can get direct information in this regard. Mr. Khadim Hussain also commented about the government's drive against encroachment on Ferozpur Road that court summons were issued to him and about 2,000 other traders in that area without any prior notice and on asking it was revealed that the authorities had issued notices through newspapers. He requested to invite the officials of LDA in LCCI and discuss the matter. Mr. Khadim Hussain also appreciated both the award ceremonies.
- 8.24 Mr. Haris Ateeq emphasized the need for all possible and immediate measures to sort out the concerns of traders regarding POS and stated that these problems are burdening the existing taxpayers instead of broadening the next net. He suggested that the next EC meeting should be held within one month instead of two so that after the general elections the next plan of action could be devised regarding the new government setup. Mr. Haris Ateeq also pointed out issues pertaining to Social Security Department faced by the business community and said that a set pattern needs to be developed for ensuring a strong liaison with the social security officials. He suggested writing letters to the relevant ministries regarding the issues of exporters including the issue of Delay of payments as mentioned by Mr. Ateeq-ur-Rehman earlier. While mentioning recent increase in exports, he also suggested writing letters of appreciation, with the relevant issues also mentioned in these letters, to all such ministers including Mr. Gohar Ijaz, who have performed well as this will be a good gesture of the Lahore Chamber. The President



appreciated his proposal. Mr Haris Ateeq commented regarding the Anti-Encroachment Drive and said that Lahore Chamber should establish a Consensus and a unanimous opinion with all the stakeholders that either the business community is in favour or against of encroachment. He personally supported the drive against encroachment and said that the markets of Lahore should be clean and free from encroachments. He also said that the markets of Walled City Lahore show the cultural heritage and the exterior markets of Lahore have a wonderful display of modernism, their beauty needs to be enhanced in the same way, for which the LCCI can take an initiative under public-private partnership, he suggested. Mr. Haris Ateeq appreciated the Women Entrepreneur Awards and IT Freelancing Awards celebrations and requested to share details about the nomination criteria of the award holders. Referring to the recent visit of the newly appointed Trade and Investment Officers to the Lahore Chamber, Mr. Haris Ateeq said that now the Trade Attaché has also been given a separate portfolio of investment so the business community can take full advantage of the opportunities of joint ventures. Mr. Haris Ateeq also drew the attention of the House that computers gifted by the Chinese Consulate for the LCCI library are not there in library. The President directed the Secretary-General to look into the matter and said that since they are gifts, they should be used for that purpose only. Mr. Haris Ateeq also suggested that there is a need to work on converting the library into e-library by getting some annual subscriptions as suggested by former Senior Vice President Mr. Rehman Aziz Chan. Later, Mr. Rehman told the House that annual subscriptions of Bloomberg, the Financial Times and the Wall Street Journal can be of great benefit to the Lahore Chamber's R&D department and the EC members. Mr. Haris Ateeq mentioned that last year after renewal process, it was suggested in the house that all EC members can participate in screening of memberships to exclude the memberships which are not at par with the criteria of DGTO. He also said that he volunteered himself for that purpose but no progress has been made for this purpose.

He requested to share the details of last year's membership screening with the House and also requested to ensure transparency during the membership renewal process and the Election Process of the Lahore Chamber this year while ensuring level playing field for everyone. The President and Secretary General assured the House that written instructions have been given to the Membership Department that no membership will be renewed without complete documents. The Senior Vice President said that the screening lists are available and will be shared with the house.

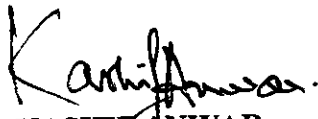
- 8.25 Mr. Rehman Aziz Chan told the House that annual subscription of Bloomberg, the *Financial Times* and the *Wall Street Journal* can be of great benefit to the Lahore Chamber's R&D department and the EC members. Mr. Haris Ateeq also requested to

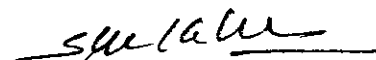


ensure transparency during the membership renewal process of the Lahore Chamber this year.

8.26 The President and Secretary General assured the House that written instructions have been given to the Membership Department that no membership will be renewed without complete documents.

8.27 The Senior Vice President concluded the meeting by presenting vote of thanks and invited for Lunch hosted by Mr. Waseem Yousaf & Mr. Muhammad Usman Sheikh.


KASHIF ANWAR
President


SHAHID KHALIL
Secretary-General

11

