

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE LAHORE  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
HELD ON 14.11.2024 AT 11:30 HOURS  
IN AMIN HALL, LCCI BUILDING**

<u>S.No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Name of Member Organization</u>
1.	Mian Abuzar Shad (In Chair)	President	Victoria Fabrics (Pvt) Ltd.
2.	Mr. Khalid Usman	Sr. Vice President	Water Regime (Pvt) Ltd.
3.	Mr. Shahid Nazir	Vice President	Filter House (Pvt) Ltd.
4.	Mr. Tanveer Ahmad	E.C. Member	Eiffel Industries Ltd.
5.	Mr. Asif Malik	E.C. Member	Trafco Tracking (Pvt) Ltd.
6.	Mr. Asif Khan	E.C. Member	ZXMCO Pakistan (Pvt.) Ltd.
7.	Mr. Waqas Aslam	E.C. Member	Super Foods (Pvt.) Ltd.
8.	Mr. Irfan Ahmad Qureshi	E.C. Member	Matchless Engineering (Pvt) Ltd.
9.	Mr. Abdul Majeed	E.C. Member	Dot Print (Pvt) Ltd.
10.	Mr. Amer Saeed Mian	E.C. Member	Mian Travel & Trade (Pvt) Ltd.
11.	Mr. Manzoor Hussain Jaffery	E.C. Member	Karawan-E-Hussani International (Pvt) Ltd.
12.	Mr. Shouban Akhtar	E.C. Member	N Stars Corporation.
13.	Mr. Syed Salman Ali	E.C. Member	Abid & Company (Pvt) Ltd.
14.	Malik Ahad Amin	E.C. Member	Malik Ahad Amin.
15.	Mr. Mohammad Sajjad	E.C. Member	Hafiz Sajjad Motors (Pvt.) Ltd.
16.	Rana Muhammad Nisar	E.C. Member	Ghufraan Enterprises.
17.	Mr. Muhammad Ahsan Shahid	E.C. Member	Ahsan Traders.
18.	Mr. Omar Sarfraz	E.C. Member	Omer Steel Traders.
19.	Mr. Muhammad Imran Saleemi	E.C. Member	Rainbow Stores.
20.	Mr. Khurram Lodhi	E.C. Member	Lodhi Traders.
21.	Mr. Karamat Ali Awan	E.C. Member	Awan Services International (Pvt) Ltd.
22.	Mr. Riaz Shahid	E.C. Member	Khan Mushtarka Goods Transport Co.
23.	Mr. Ali Imran	E.C. Member	Ali Enterprises.
24.	Mr. Amir Ali	E.C. Member	China Favor Star.
25.	Ms. Aamna Randhawa	E.C. Member	Victoria Textile Mills.
26.	Mrs. Firdous Nisar	E.C. Member	Tarz Fashion Cottage.
	Mr. Shahid Khalil	Secretary General LCCI	

**1. RECITATION FROM THE HOLY QURAN**

The meeting began with the recitation of the Holy Quran.

## **2. LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Leave of absence was granted to the following members:-

1. Mr. Faheem-Ur-Rehman Saigol	E.C. Member	Nasir & Sons.
2. Mr. Ehtisham-Ul-Haq	E.C. Member	Alpha Chemicals (Pvt) Ltd.
3. Mr. Iftikhar Ahmad	E.C. Member	Risan Engineering Industries (Pvt) Ltd.
4. Mr. Muhammad Muneeb Monnoo	E.C. Member	Olympia Oils (Pvt) Ltd.
5. Syed Hasan Raza	E.C. Member	Dairy Solution (Pvt) Ltd.
6. Sh. Muhammad Fayyaz Ahmad	E.C. Member	Atlantic The Network Company.

## **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE EC MEETING**

3.1 The Secretary-General sought approval of the previous minutes. The House approved the minutes without any amendment.

## **4. LIST OF ACTIVITIES**

4.1 The Secretary General sought approval of the list of activities. The House approved.

4.2 The Secretary-General drew the attention of the House towards the LCCI activities and commended the new Executive Committee's praiseworthy performance during its first month.

4.3 The President asked the Secretary-General to brief the House one month LCCI performance. The Secretary-General reported that during the first month, 150 activities were recorded. With the permission of the Chair, the Secretary-General played a documentary about these activities, the House appreciated.

4.4 Mr. Khalid Usman, the Senior Vice President, congratulated the President on the unprecedented mobilization of members. He further said that the LCCI halls were overflowing and called for expansion of seating capacity of LCCI halls. He stated that people came not only to congratulate the new management but also to discuss trade and industry issues. He said that issues from every sector of the economy were discussed, including FBR, SBP, different Federal and Provincial departments etc. Therefore, these are not merely congratulatory meetings but platforms for direct interaction with traders. The President gave the members honor and respect, which established a unique and positive image of LCCI. He said that this image and the response from members would encourage diligent work over the next 11 months.

4.5 Mr. Shahid Nazir, the Vice President, said that traders from various markets visited the LCCI to congratulate the new Officer-Bearers and expressed their satisfaction and hoped for a better representation at high-level forums under the new administration. He commented that this interaction with traders has provided an opportunity to obtain firsthand information regarding their issues. He stated that the issues of raids by the FBR and SMOG are being strongly taken up with the relevant departments.

4.6 Mian Abuzar Shad, the President, stated that he arrives at the LCCI at 10:30am and remains there till late in the night. He emphasized that his group is for the betterment of trade and industry. He mentioned that during his recent visit to Islamabad, he highlighted the issues of IPPs and the demand-and-supply of electricity. He pointed out that under the current military leadership, a special wing has been established to monitor financial matters in the country. He further stated that feedback from the LCCI is being given due consideration at all forums. He condemned the filing of FIRs related to dengue and also addressed various issues, including those concerning the FBR, school closures, LESCO, SMOG and women-related concerns, all of which were brought to the government's attention.

5 **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

5.1 The Secretary-General sought approval of the statement of accounts. The House granted approval after discussion.

5.2 Mr. Tanveer Ahmed, sought details regarding Advances, Pre-payments, and other Receivables, as well as Creditors and other Liabilities. He was informed that all these points are explained in Note # 3 and was assured that he could ask for clarification or further details at any time.

6 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the following Standing Committee was approved in the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 14.11.2024, with some observations recorded below:

- ***It was decided that anything approved in the minutes, contrary to Chamber policy or LCCI Articles or having financial implications, will be considered "not approved." Moreover, all functions of the standing committees will be organized on a self-financed basis.***
- **All Delegations would be as per LCCI SOPs through Delegation Department.**

SR. #	NAME OF STANDING COMMITTEE	DATE OF MEETING
A.	Membership	17.10.2024,24.10.2024,26.10.2024 & 2.9.2024

6.1 The Chair sought the details of revenue generated from membership and the number of new members. The Secretary-General stated that approximately 1300 new members have registered, as the new administration have attracted so far.

6.2 Mr. Khalid Usman, the Senior Vice President, commented that LCCI membership has been increased by 3% in just a month of this new regime which is unprecedented.

## **7 ISSUES OF TRADE & INDUSTRY & ANYOTHER ITEM**

- 7.1 The Secretary-General requested the President to commence the agenda by allowing the respected EC members to raise the issues pertaining to trade & industry.
- 7.2 Malik Ahad Amin pointed out that the design of the display center is outdated and requires renovation. He also inquired about the booking criteria, and was told that the monthly rent is 10,000 rupees per cube, a rate that has not been revised since its establishment. He suggested revising the rent. The Chair asked the Secretary-General to look into the matter.
- 7.3 Mr. Shahid Nazir, the Vice President, requested that the Minister for Climate Change/Environment be invited to discuss the issue of smog. He said that this issue had been raised with the authorities during a recent meeting at the LCCI. He also stated that it would likely to take years to combat this situation in Pakistan. Mian Abuzar Shad, the President, stated that he has highlighted this issue in television appearances and public statements, suggesting the allocation of an emergency helpline, similar to 1122, for confidential reporting of smog-contributing activities. He indicated that numerous factories between Manawan and Sheikhpura, Manawan and Raiwind, and along Multan Road regularly burn tyres, significantly contributing to air pollution through micro particles. He said that these factories operate freely, even evading police intervention, stealing electricity, and illegally burning tyres with apparent departmental support. Engr. Khalid Usman, the Senior Vice President commented that this is a serious matter, citing dangerous level of Air Quality Index (AQI) of Lahore. He said that if the situation continues to prevail, the result could be drastic cut in foreign tourist and exports of fruits and vegetables. He explained that while the smallest viruses and bacteria are 0.45 microns, on the other hand these dust particles are only 0.01 microns and remain airborne for days until heavy rainfall. He stated that it is high time to make difficult decisions to address this issue, including promoting electric vehicles, fuel substitution (e.g., Euro 5 fuel with standardized pricing), congestion charges for vehicles and discouraging industries using illegal fuels and oils.
- 7.4 The President stated that wastewater flowing from India is untreated. Furthermore, the lack of filtration plants to treat this water is impacting agricultural productivity. He proposed installing fountains in Lahore canal from Jallo to Patoki at every 100 feet, with a water sprinkling height of 50 feet, to cleanse the air of dust particles. He commented that neglect of the Ravi River has resulted in a 600-fold reduction in Lahore's water level, a dangerously alarming situation. He also informed the house that Model Town, Society, is unique in its residential area allocation, with 55% dedicated to roads and parks and only 45% for residential and commercial use. In contrast, modern societies in Lahore consist of only 25% open space and 75% saleable area, he also emphasized that this ratio should be 50:50. He stressed the need for effective measures to address the issue of smog, which poses significant health risks, and advocated for promoting vertical expansion in the city to preserve agricultural land.

- 7.5 Mr. Amir Saeed Mian praised the vision of the new administration, citing it as the primary reason for their record victory, achieved with the support of young people. He stated that commitment is paramount, followed by vision, passion, and then results; these qualities can transform a crowd into a nation. He emphasized the importance of boldly conveying one's position. He urged a more aggressive approach to raising concerns about smog at every forum. He also lamented lack of planning towards seedless citrus cultivation between Multan and Sargodha. The President concurred with these views, referencing recent meetings with the Acting Chief Minister of Punjab and the Deputy Commissioner of Lahore where he aggressively raised these same issues.
- 7.6 The Senior Vice President assured the House that the Office-Bearers are representing the business community at all high forums and highlighting their issues aggressively and uncompromisingly. He also appreciated the President for leading the business community effectively. He suggested conducting a walk by all Chambers against smog under LCCI banner.
- 7.7 Mr. Khurram Lodhi stated that all Executive Committee members are experts in their respective sectors. He noted that the Lahore High Court order regarding limited market hours is inapplicable as markets traditionally open after 11am; therefore, closing at 8pm is too early. Simultaneous market closures cause significant traffic congestion, exacerbating smog. He suggested staggered closing times. He also criticized the police for their promptness in enforcing market closures at 7:45pm, while often being late to respond to law and order situation. He said that brick kilns are major contributors to smog, and suggested implementing block system, in construction.
- 7.8 Mr. Imran Saleemi stated that shops exempt from the time restrictions are also being subjected to forced closures by Police. He added that he has already filed a complaint with the Chief Minister regarding this issue. He commented that the lack of law enforcement is directly linked to corruption within relevant departments and is preventing the resolution of these issues. He suggested that reforms within these departments are necessary and proposed writing a letter to the CCPO regarding police harassment.
- 7.9 Mr. Ahsan Shahid seconded the suggestion, stating that the LCCI platform should be fully utilized to support the business community. He noted that globally, fixed market closing times are managed effectively, implying that the core issue is not smog itself, but rather effective management and law enforcement. He acknowledged a lack of compliance with laws among citizens, urging the Office-Bearers to encourage the business community to prioritize legal compliance. He also stated that organizing walks is not an appropriate solution, as the LCCI's role is guidance, not direct enforcement. He suggested that the 32 Executive Committee members, representing all Lahore markets, could encourage earlier closures, even before 8pm, to improve the situation. He concluded by emphasizing the need for public education through the LCCI. Mr. Khurram Lodhi commented that the closing timing of 8pm is not wrong but the closing process must be systematic and gradually market wise closing must be ensured.

- 7.10 Mr. Riaz Shahid questioned how markets could close at 8pm when goods arrive after 11pm, necessitating loading and unloading. He requested that the provincial transport minister be invited to the LCCI to discuss transporters' concerns, as halting transportation would disrupt the entire supply chain and lead to price increases. He also highlighted that transport vehicles are already being prevented from entering Lahore and requested that the matter be raised with the Chief Minister.
- 7.11 Mr. Karamat Ali Awan highlighted the issue of funds held by Askari Bank that needs to be transferred abroad, noting that the LCCI had sent a letter to the bank requesting the release of these funds, but had yet to receive a response. He mentioned that a reminder letter had recently been sent. He commended the Secretary-General's cooperation and suggested establishing a dedicated desk to track the status of letters sent by the LCCI to ensure their consideration.
- 7.12 Mr. Amir Ali commented that the LCCI, as a collective platform, should leverage collaborative efforts to find solutions. He referenced a meeting with the CEO of LESCO held on October 11, 2024, and requested that the minutes be circulated. He described the poor condition of transformers, further deteriorated by repeated repairs, noting that he raised this issue in the meeting, urging LESCO to respond promptly to complaints and provide timely updates. He highlighted that bundles of wires crossing transformers often cause short circuits and should be separated from LESCO poles. He also addressed the unfairness of electricity loss or theft charges being passed on to those who pay their bills in full. He advocated for a systematic implementation of underground wiring through public-private partnership to control line losses and ensure accurate billing. Talking about FIA notices to businessmen, Mr Amir Ali informed the House that with the Chair's permission, he along with Mr. Khurram Lodhi and Mr. Karamat Ali Awan met Director FIA. The Director assured them that individuals with LCCI recommendation letters would receive fair treatment. Mr. Amir Ali stated his commitment to fighting for what is right and suggested establishing a foreign affairs desk at to help member attested their certificates. He requested the announcement of standing committees to clarify members' responsibilities. He seconded the SVP's suggestion for a symbolic walk against smog, citing its global prevalence as a means of addressing significant issues, and used Beijing's air purifier initiative as an example. He also raised concerns about Chinese visas, mentioning a meeting with the Chinese Consulate General where he received standard operating procedures (SOPs). He requested the President to explore easing some SOPs for LCCI-recommended members through negotiation, given the significant number of members involved in trade with China.
- 7.13 Mr. Abdul Majeed inquired about artificial rain as a potential solution for smog control. He urged the House to offer constructive suggestions, avoiding criticism, and proposed organizing sessions and seminars. He acknowledged that the government does not always act improperly, often intervening after violations occur, and emphasized the importance of citizen compliance with laws. He said that despite the challenging economic climate, both industry and residential development are expanding, advocating for clearly defined and separate zones for industrial and residential areas. He requested the Chair to get a clarification from the relevant Government departments about this long standing issue.

- 7.14 Mr. Shoban Akhtar commented that environmental issues, particularly smog, stem from shortcomings within relevant departments and a lack of communication among all stakeholders. He cited an EPA notice issued on November 12, 2024 mandating work from home, noting that this was not done in consultation with industry and is impractical for many sectors requiring on-site labor. He stated that the poorly defined and categorized nature of the notification leads to its misuse by authorities, targeting all industries regardless of their pollution contribution. He requested that the President to urge the relevant department to provide clarification and categorize the mandate based on sector-specific feasibility. The President instructed him to submit a written proposal to expedite action on this issue.
- 7.15 Mr. Asif Khan highlighted the challenges faced by the motorcycle sector, noting a 90% drop in sales. Referring to a recent meeting between the LCCI President and McLeod Road, Lahore delegation, he stated that a 120% increase in motorcycle prices over the past two years is a major contributing factor. This has led consumers to purchase used motorcycles and upgrade their parts, he explained. He further noted that the month-long process for vehicle transfer and biometric verification results in late payment fines of 10,000 to 30000 rupees per month by the Excise & Taxation Department, Punjab, regardless of vehicle type. This contrasts with late payment fees of 500 rupees per month in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2,000 rupees in Islamabad, and 3,000 rupees in Sindh. He requested that the LCCI intervene. The President assured him that a letter would be sent to the relevant authorities to address this issue.
- 7.16 Mr. Irfan Qureshi stated that we must adapt to societal and environmental needs. He noted that businessmen face diverse challenges requiring tailored solutions, and requested that the President to propose to the government that business problems be addressed sector-wise. He suggested creating a coordinated platform between the Industries and Environment Departments to improve both environmental conditions and industrial practices. Commenting on Mr. Shoban point, he stated that the 50% work-from-home order applies to offices, not industries, where it is impractical. He added that he raised this issue with the DG, who was surprised to learn about its application to industries.
- 7.17 Mohammad Sajjad requested to specify the exact duration of the Executive Committee meeting. Regarding the formation of LCCI standing committees, he commented that the slow progress with only one committee formed suggests that a few members hold disproportionate influence. He urged the Chair to promptly form the standing committees, enabling EC members to actively contribute to the business community's interests through committee assignments.
- 7.18 Mr. Tanveer Ahmad congratulated the President on his appointment as an advisor to the Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) and Mr. Faheem-ur-Rehman Saigol on his appointment as Chairman of Karachi Port Trust (KPT). He endorsed the Executive Committee members suggestions regarding smog, stating that the government's current restrictions will only increase bribery and should be condemned by the LCCI, along with the proposal of practical solutions. He noted that while transport sector is a major contributor to the smog,

the government is unwilling to address or reform this sector. Referring to the Punjab Chief Minister's e-bike scheme, he stated that the initial plan to distribute 18,000 electric bikes and 2,000 petrol bikes was altered to 2,000 electric bikes and 18,000 petrol bikes due to influence from a petrol bike company. He informed the House that a change in auto policy two years prior led to a surge in car imports by a single company, resulting in the closure of Letters of Credit (LCs) due to import surpluses. He warned of a similar situation arising from the government's upcoming electric vehicle policy, which will reduce sales tax on Completely Built-Up (CBU) electric cars, potentially benefiting a single company. He requested that the LCCI condemn this policy, investigate the matter through research and development (R&D), and issue a statement against it. He also criticized the frequent full-day electricity shutdowns under the guise of maintenance, which harm industry, and condemned the new electricity tariff, which charges less for increased consumption, deeming it irrational and unhelpful for businesses.

- 7.19 Mr. Waqas Aslam stated that he represents the Rice Association of Pakistan, comprising 1850 members, including 250 corporate members out of which 89 are LCCI members. He noted that the rice sector faces multiple challenges related to pesticides, the Department of Plant Protection (DPP), foreign affairs, and research and development (R&D), and requested the immediate formation of a standing committee to address these issues. He also suggested that final standard operating procedures (SOPs) regarding smog should be developed through negotiation with the government.
- 7.20 Mr. Ali Imran commented that the government continues to blame industry for smog while simultaneously using 70% of covered areas for Metro projects. He emphasized the need for proactive measures to mitigate the severe consequences of climate change, which affects everyone. He suggested that instead of solely relying on the government, the LCCI should develop an effective policy in collaboration with the government.
- 7.21 Mohammad Sajjad also requested the immediate formation and assignment of standing committees to EC members, citing the embarrassment caused by the delay. He further requested voting from the House on this matter. The Senior Vice President stated that voting is unnecessary, as the Chair possesses the authority to make the decision.
- 7.22 Rana Muhammad Nisar commented on market closing times, noting that the Air Quality Index (AQI) increases by 250 points daily between 8pm and 2am due to traffic congestion. He suggested a gradual market closures, proposing 7pm for wholesale markets and 10pm for retail markets, as per international best practices. He requested that the LESCO Chief be invited to the LCCI to address issues hindering business activity in Lahore. He also highlighted the ongoing Chinese visa issue, urging a prompt action on this very subject.
- 7.23 Syed Salman Ali drew the Chair attention to the challenges faced by exporters, noting that despite proper documentation, their containers are often stopped at Sindh border and released after greasing their palms. He also stated that the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) creates problems by opening containers for inspection but failing to reseal them, causing damage to export goods. He emphasized the need for resealing in the presence of agents. He further noted that sales tax refunds for exporters, excluding five sectors, have been

withheld for over two years, causing severe liquidity problems, and advocated for the release of refunds for all sectors. He mentioned that at the Lahore Dry Port, a Collector's order limiting inspectors to opening a maximum of two containers per day is causing significant delays, recommending an increase in either the number of inspectors or the number of containers each inspector can examine. Finally, he requested that the Chair address the delays in obtaining PCSIR reports for export products, which currently take 10 to 15 days.

- 7.24 Mr. Asif Malik endorsed the Office-Bearers statements and highlighted issues within the freight forwarding industry concerning shipping lines and airlines. He cited instances where forex companies add extra charges (e.g. for every 1 US\$ charging 281 rupees instead of 278 rupees). He stated that these forex companies do not adhere to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) declared dollar conversion rates, using their own rates for invoicing, making it difficult for freight forwarders to recover these charges from customers. He requested a letter be written to the SBP instructing shipping and air companies to follow the SBP's rates. He also mentioned social security issues, noting that notices requiring responses within three days are issued with rates three times higher than the previous year, which he considers unreasonable. He requested that a letter be written to address this, aiming to remove obstacles faced by the corporate sector.
- 7.25 Ms. Firdous Nisar commended the EC members for raising important issues. She also commented on market closing times, recommending that grocery stores be permitted to operate until 10:00 PM to accommodate individuals who shop after work.
- 7.26 Malik Ahad Amin suggested installing air purifiers in LCCI as well in order to minimize the effects of smog.
- 7.27 Mr. President instructed EC members to prepare suggestions for their assigned sectors with the help of R&D, and that Office Bearers would raise these issues at higher levels. He stated that any EC member could attend and chair any Standing Committee meeting. The President assured that all issues raised would be addressed with the relevant authorities, with EC member assistance. He commented on the issue of bribery, stating that he had raised it repeatedly and that such practices would not be tolerated.
- 7.28 To a point raised by Rana Nisar Ahmad about Amnesty to LCCI old members. The President granted approval saying that it would benefit the LCCI and old members alike. With the Chair permission, the Secretary-General explained the proposed amnesty: members with outstanding renewal fees since 2019 would pay only one additional fee plus current year fee. The Senior Vice President (SVP) suggested placing banners in Lahore markets to publicize the amnesty, a suggestion the President endorsed, specifying that the LCCI would bear the banner costs, not the markets. He also instructed that specific details be included on the banners.

- 7.29 The Vice President commended the President for addressing each point raised by EC members. He congratulated the President on receiving the House complete confidence, expressing hope that this would lead to the prompt formation of committees. With these remarks, he thanked the EC members for their efforts and attendance.
- 7.30 The President assured the House that the issued within 5 Standing Committees would be formed within five working days.

The meeting ended with Vote of Thanks by the Vice President.

  
**SHAHID KHALIL**  
Secretary-General