

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE LAHORE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
HELD ON 3.4.2024 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.	Mr Haris Ateeq	EC Member	Bridle Zone
5.	Mian Attiq-ur-Rehman	EC Member	Al-Jahan International
6.	Mr Rizwan Haider	EC Member	Excellent Packers (Pvt.) Ltd
7.	Muhammad Riaz-ul-Hassan	EC Member	Ajmair Food (Pvt.) Ltd
8.	Ch Wajid Ali	EC Member	United Plastic Company
9.	Mr Muhammad Yousaf Shah	EC Member	Al-Yousaf Enterprises
10.	Mr Muhammad Waseem Yousaf	EC Member	Quality Vision
11.	Mr. Muhammad Ejaz	EC Member	Fair Marketing Pakistan

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;

- Mother of Ms. Fareeha Younas, Executive Committee Member LCCI.
- Mian Shahzad Aslam, Former Executive Committee Member LCCI.
- Wife of Mr. Khalid Javed Chaudhry, Former President LCCI.
- Uncle of Mr. Amjad Ali Jawa, Former Senior Vice President LCCI.
- Father-in-law of Mr. Fiaz Haider, Former Executive Committee Member LCCI.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE EC MEETING

Leave of absence was granted to the following members:-

1.	Mian Nauman Kabir	EC Member	NSM Marketing
2.	Mian Rehman Aziz Chan	EC Member	M-R Law Chambers (Pvt.) Ltd
3.	Mr Khalid Mehmood	EC Member	The Fuelers (Pvt.) Ltd
4.	Malik Muhammad Nadeem	EC Member	Hafiz Brothers
5.	Mian Jabbar Khalid	EC Member	Feroz Flour & General Mills
6.	Mr. Ahmad Ellahi	EC Member	AA Leather (Pvt.) Ltd
7.	Ms Shamim Akhtar	EC Member	In-Out Trading (Pvt.) Ltd
8.	Sh. Muhammad Ibrahim	EC Member	Cannon Foam Industries (Pvt.) Ltd
9.	Mr Mujahid Maqsood Butt	EC Member	Mujahid Maqsood Butt

Khalid

10. Muhammad Usman Sheikh	EC Member	Marhaba Laboratories (Pvt.) Ltd
11. Mr Khadim Hussain	EC Member	Hussain Trading Co
12. Muhammad Tauqeer Malik	EC Member	Bin Qutab International (Pvt.) Ltd
13. Raja Hassan Akhtar	EC Member	Waris & Company
14. Ms Fareeha Younas	EC Member	FSN Travels & Tours
15. Mr Khamis Saeed Butt	EC Member	Khamis Papers
16. Mr Arjumand Maqsood	EC Member	Mahmood Pharmacy
17. Rana Tariq Mehboob	EC Member	Rana Trading Co
18. Mr Khamis Saeed Butt	EC Member	Khamis Papers
19. Mr Muhammad Usman Malik	EC Member	Usman Tractor House
20. Mr Momin Ali Malik	EC Member	Euro Guard (Pvt.) Ltd
21. Mr. Asim Pervaiz Siddiqi	EC Member	Siddiqi & Associates

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE EC MEETING

- 3.1 The Secretary-General sought approval of the previous minutes of EC, which were circulated along with the notice of the meeting. The House approved the minutes without any amendment.

4. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS OF THE EC

- 4.1 This agenda was also approved by the House without any discussion.

5. LIST OF ACTIVITIES

- 5.1 This agenda was also approved by the House without any change.

6. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

- 6.1 This agenda was approved by the House with some discussion noted below.
- 6.2 Dr. Shahid Raza sought a reason for the increase in communication expenses on a year-on-year basis. The Accounts Manager clarified that this increase was due to the renewal of membership bills and the dispatch of cards through TCS. Dr. Shahid Raza suggested the digitization of some membership processes to save the LCCI huge expenses.
- 6.3 Mr. Haris Ateeq appreciated the statement of accounts of the LCCI, noting that they are transparent and regularly audited by a reputed CA firm. He stated that LCCI office-bearers always ensure savings while spending its resources. He mentioned that during the last AGM, two million rupees were saved after obtaining special permission from the DGTO to send the meeting agenda via email. He supported the SVP's opinion that funds



for dispatch are part of renewal fees, and noted that it is a fact that many Corporate and Associate class members only renew their memberships once they receive a printed official bill through mail.

- 6.4 The Chair appreciated that renewal bills were dispatched to all LCCI members as a reminder to renew their memberships. He commented that there is likely a legal binding and requirement to dispatch hard copies. The Secretary-General said that we can only share soft copies after taking permission from the DGTO. The Senior Vice President disclosed that a record number of renewals were done this year at the LCCI, which should be appreciated by the EC members.

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

The Minutes of the following Standing Committees were approved in the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 3.4.2024

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.	Electromedical & Scientific Equipment	10.1.2024 & 19.1.2024
B.	Cold Storages	17.1.2024
C.	Agri Commodity Export	20.1.2024
D.	Auto Air Conditioning	22.1.2024
E.	Enhancing Facilitation for SME Sector	23.1.2024
F.	Pakistan-Australia Business Promotion	30.1.2024
G.	Fresh Fruits, Vegetables Production & Marketing	31.1.2024
H.	Auto Parts Manufacturing and Exports	3.2.2024
I.	Kalabagh Dam	6.2.2024
J.	TEVTA & TVET Skills	7.2.2024 & 14.3.2024
K.	Small Gems & Jewellery and Tools	12.2.2024
L.	OEMs Auto Parts Manufacturers	13.2.2024
M.	Pak-China Knowledge Corridor	15.2.2024
N.	Pakistan-Italy Trade Promotion	16.2.2024

O.	Pakistan-CIS Trade Relations	22.2.2024
P.	Port & Shipping	22.2.2024
Q.	Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)	24.2.2024
R.	Industry-Academia Linkage & Bio Technology	24.2.2024
S.	Industrial Solutions	28.2.2024
T.	Hajj & Ummrah	4.3.2024
U.	Pakistan-UK Trade	4.3.2024
V.	Promotion of Traditional Food	4.3.2024
W.	Issues of Steel & Electrical Engineering	9.3.2024
X.	Membership	27.1.2024, 3.2.2024, 17.2.2024, 24.2.2024, 2.3.2024, 2.3.2024, 9.3.2024 & 16.3.2024
Y.	IT Awards	2.3.2024

8. ISSUES OF TRADE & INDUSTRY & ANYOTHER ITEM

- 8.1 The Chair invited suggestions and proposals for solving the issues faced by Trade & Industry and requested that they also be shared in writing, enabling us to forward them to the concerned quarters.
- 8.2 Dr. Shahid Raza proposed that the President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry should be on the board of Ravi Urban Development Authority (RUDA) and the Central Business District (CBD), as the LCCI is a stakeholder in Lahore's infrastructure. He suggested that the LCCI organize roadshows to spread awareness among the business community about the potential of these projects.
- 8.3 Mr. Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry, the Senior Vice President of LCCI, informed the House that he had taken a delegation to RUDA and had a one-hour meeting. He invited them to LCCI to brief the business community about this important project.
- 8.4 Mr. Kashif Anwar, the President of LCCI, commented that officials from RUDA and CBD had visited LCCI and given brief presentations, which Dr. Shahid Raza had missed. He expressed concern and asked Executive Committee Members to ensure their participation in such important meetings. The Chair appreciated the Senior Vice President and Vice President for attending a pre-budget meeting at the Ministry of Commerce in



Islamabad on his request. The SVP endorsed the Chair, saying that as Senior Vice President, he always ensures compliance once the President asks him to attend any meeting.

- 8.5 Dr. Shahid Raza apologized for missing the meeting and insisted that LCCI representation in the boards of RUDA and CBD be ensured. He suggested having meetings with the Chief Minister of Punjab and the Prime Minister of Pakistan, as it is a tradition of LCCI. He mentioned that the R&D Department should analyze the Tajir Dost Scheme announced by the government.
- 8.6 Mr. Kashif Anwar told the House that the Chief Minister of Punjab was busy and would probably give time in the next few days after the Senate elections. While replying to Dr. Shahid Raza's suggestion, he remarked that he had expressed the reservations of the business community on this particular scheme, and a letter to the relevant minister had also been sent. He termed it unfriendly and explained the ambiguities in the scheme.
- 8.7 Mr. Ijaz Tanveer commented on the Tajir Dost Scheme and requested the President to share these suggestions and reservations in Urdu so that he could also endorse them from other platforms of the business community. The Chair of LCCI directed the Secretary-General to share all letters, including those about SROs 1842, 350, and 457, with EC members.
- 8.8 Mr. Ijaz Tanveer suggested organizing seminars to educate members about the benefits of getting registered in the tax net. He said that he had prepared proposals regarding merging 15 departments, including PSQC and the Food Authority, as their powers are overlapping, and duplication of work is creating problems for the business community. He highlighted the issue of smuggling in FMCG and proposed measures to minimize it, as locally produced products are costlier than smuggled items. He stated that the main road from Sundar Industrial Estate towards Multan Road is a single road that is heavily crowded with trucks and needs expansion. He highlighted the issue of poor sanitation infrastructure in markets. The President of LCCI asked him to share the written proposals so that immediate actions could be taken.

- 8.9 Chaudhry Wajid Ali sought the status of the plot bought in Sundar Industrial Estate by LCCI. The Secretary-General replied that it was just a proposal that was not approved in the EC, and that chapter is closed now. The President asked the House to share the best investment opportunities for LCCI. He highlighted the issues of traffic jams in the markets of Lahore.
- 8.10 Chaudhry Wajid Ali also stressed the need for a uniform import duty structure on raw materials imported by industrial or commercial importers, as there is a 7% difference in customs duty for commercial importers. The SVP and VP highlighted the complications in this proposal, as industrial importers have huge capital investments compared to shops and commercial importers. The Chair asked Chaudhry Wajid Ali to send his proposal in written form.
- 8.11 Mr. Rizwan Haider commended the Office Bearers for engaging members in the membership renewal process, which ended smoothly. He congratulated the Secretary-General and his team for their efforts. He requested that the House be informed before any meeting with CBD. He mentioned that PML (N) top leadership, including Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Mian Shehbaz Sharif, and Mrs. Maryam Nawaz Sharif, had visited LCCI and shared their vision and zeal to work for the business community. He emphasized that it was high time to remind them of their promises to the business community. He also requested ensuring follow-up of the letters and reservations sent to the government.
- 8.12 Mr. Rizwan Haider appreciated the Chair for raising a voice against the unimplementable features of the Tajir Dost Scheme and suggested arranging an in-house briefing session about the scheme and their reservations, so that EC members can have a better understanding. The President directed the Secretary-General to organize a seminar in this regard and invite Mr. Hassan Ali Qardri or Mr. Umer Zaki Meer for a detailed briefing on the Tajir Dost Scheme.
- 8.13 Mr. Muhammad Yousaf Shah highlighted the issues plaguing markets in Lahore, including traffic congestion, encroachment, and begging, and severely criticized the



performance of the relevant government departments, describing it as "zero" and utterly inadequate. He emphasized the need for prompt action to address these long-standing problems, which are hindering the smooth operation of businesses and causing inconvenience to citizens.

- 8.14 Mr. Haris Ateeq emphatically stated that there is no justification for encroachments and urged the Lahore Chamber to take a strong and clear stance against this issue. He warned that if encroachments are allowed to persist, they will only expand and exacerbate the problem, leading to further chaos and disruption in the markets. He emphasized the need for decisive action to prevent this scenario and protect the interests of businesses and citizens alike.
- 8.15 The President of LCCI declared, "We are unequivocally against encroachment and are vigorously pursuing this issue at every available forum, advocating for the rights of our members and the wider business community. We will continue to push for effective solutions to address this persistent problem and ensure a conducive business environment.
- 8.16 Mr. Yousaf Shah argued that the government should focus on curbing electricity theft instead of constantly increasing the electricity tariff. He also pointed out that imposing fuel adjustment charges is an additional burden on consumers, which further exacerbates the issue. He requested that the relevant minister be invited to LCCI to address these concerns and provide relief to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). Additionally, he raised a question regarding Dr. Shahid Raza's appointment as a board member of the Pakistan Industrial Estates (PIE), given that he does not have any industry or business interests in these estates.
- 8.17 Mr. Attique-ur-Rehman commended the Chair and the entire team for their efforts in making the membership renewal process seamless and efficient. He also drew attention to the persistent issue of encroachment on LCCI's road, which causes frequent traffic congestion, and urged the need for a solution. Furthermore, he inquired about the long-



term objectives and strategic plans of LCCI, seeking a clearer understanding of the chamber's vision and goals for the future.

- 8.18 The Chair acknowledged that the successful membership renewal process was a collective effort of the LCCI team, comprising Office Bearers, the Secretary-General, the Membership Department, and the Executive Committee. He also informed the House that the Iranian Embassy has extended an invitation for an LCCI delegation to visit Iran, but unfortunately, no one has expressed interest in participating. The Senior Vice President (SVP) added that he had previously notified the Executive Committee about delegations funded by the Export Development Fund (EDF) and approved by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), but regrettably, there has been no response and no willingness to engage and work on this opportunity.
- 8.19 Mr. Waseem Yousuf drew attention to the issue of overbilling by the Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) and pointed out that when a complaint is filed with the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA), consumers are forced to pay the entire bill upfront. The Vice President responded by inviting Mr. Waseem Yousuf to share his case and offered to arrange a meeting with the LESCO Chief to resolve the issue.
- 8.20 Mr. Waseem Yousuf highlighted two separate concerns: firstly, the alarming law and order situation on the route from Thokar to the Motorway, which poses a significant risk of accidents; and secondly, the exorbitant cost of steel due to the monopoly of Pakistan Steel Mill and People Steel Mill. He explained that Pakistan Steel Mill is not operating at full capacity, while People Steel Mill's products are prohibitively expensive, resulting in inflated production costs for exporters. Mr. Waseem Yousuf also shared the achievements of his standing committee on auto-parts, which has successfully developed products like Alloy Steel 8620H and 8640H. These products will undergo cross-checking by another body, and the President commended the committee's efforts while emphasizing the importance of quality testing by relevant institutions.

- 8.21 Haji Riaz-ul-Hassan lamented that not a single task in the country is being executed through the proper channels, citing the rampant issues of overbilling and encroachment. He vehemently condemned these practices as criminal and tantamount to theft by government departments. He urged all chambers of commerce, including the Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry, to adopt a unified stance against these issues.
- 8.22 He held all previous governments accountable for signing agreements that perpetuate exorbitant electricity tariffs, which he believes should be widely condemned. Additionally, he expressed frustration that his letters to LCCI have gone unanswered and requested that the chamber ensure a follow-up on letters sent to government departments to address this issue.
- 8.23 Mr. Haris Ateeq appreciated the Chair's stance on the Tajir Dost Scheme, as there are ambiguities in the scheme that will definitely not help increase the tax base but will only burden existing non taxpayers community. He commented that this scheme should have been designed particularly for taxpayers. He stated that it is obvious that people will not stand against this scheme. He seconded the suggestion of organizing an emergent session on it to brief the EC before the scheme gets implemented. He highlighted the severe law and order issues in markets and industrial areas and suggested taking up the matter immediately with security agencies. He requested approaching the CCPO, who also has charge of Additional IG these days, and requested proper action and deployment of a quick response force in markets, particularly in the walled city.
- 8.24 Mr. Haris Ateeq drew the attention of the House towards inconsistency of policies while referring to the policy on renewable energy through which green meters had to be issued. He stated that the demand notices for these meters increased from 26 thousand to 38 thousand rupees. People who paid 26 thousand rupees are now being charged an additional 12 thousand rupees for the meters, which are not even available. He mentioned that the government is buying units from traders at rates with minimal difference and should buy units against units. He asked that the government give advantages to the people who are making capital investments in renewable energy (which has a return on investment of at least three years). He suggested that the government should distribute free solar panels to small traders to encourage the use of renewable energy.

- 8.25 He congratulated Dr. Shahid Raza for becoming a board member of Punjab Industrial Estates (PIE) after other former office bearers of LCCI, including Mian Nauman Kabir, Mr. Ali Hussam Asghar, Mr. Sohail Azhar, and senior member Mr. Shehzad Azam Khan, and considered it an honor for LCCI. He requested inviting the CEO of PIE to LCCI and suggested allocating a specific area for SMEs in existing industrial estates. He mentioned that an SME policy was not implemented properly across all sectors, which needs to be stressed upon in front of the current government, as an SME policy is vital for the smooth functioning of businesses in the current economic situation. He concluded by stating that the tax base must be broadened, but tax collection by burdening existing taxpayers every time and regressive tax collection should be discouraged.
- 8.26 He thanked the Chair for smoothly resolving the membership renewal issue, as it was not possible for those big names to come for renewal of their membership. He thanked the Secretary-General for ensuring a peaceful process of membership renewals this year. He questioned whether any membership was renewed without proper documentation or against the rules of DGTO. The Secretary-General assured the House that there was no such case, but if there was, the membership would be removed immediately once identified. Mr. Haris Ateeq appreciated that the environment on the last days of membership renewal was very welcoming and hoped that no such membership would be entertained, which is against the law.
- 8.27 Mr. Haris Ateeq said that people are reluctant and afraid to express their concerns regarding the Tajir Dost Scheme, particularly after the consequences observed after the May 9th, 2023 incident. He appreciated the grand Iftari at LCCI but requested improvement in managing such events for the next time.
- 8.28 The Senior Vice President expressed his concerns regarding EC members who do not attend EC meetings and other routine meetings. He said that there is no substantial work being done, only point-scoring by EC members. With only five months left, he urged them to work at the grassroots level, focus on an issue, develop a policy, plan, and involve R&D for research, and issue a white paper to highlight the government's mistakes. He informed the House that the R&D department is already conducting eight



studies on major economic issues and invited EC members to participate, as it is their responsibility to contribute to the economy while holding a seat on the LCCI Board.

- 8.29 He emphasized that merely writing letters will not solve problems; the government needs to be convinced through collective effort and proper homework. The entire business community is united, and everyone has a stake in this critical time. He stressed the need to raise a collective voice from the chamber's platform after thorough research and preparation. This is the only way to convince the government to address the issues faced by businessmen. Once proper homework and research are done, protests or press conferences can also be effective. He warned that the upcoming budget is expected to increase problems for markets and the business community by 100%. To address this, a white paper should be issued, and a stand should be taken for the business community's cause.
- 8.30 Mr. Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry said that every possible effort was made to ensure transparency in the process, and the issue of timings was addressed this time, with the renewal process stopping at 10 o'clock. He stated that he has worked passionately and ensured his full support to his colleagues throughout his tenure. He requested all EC members to work together on business community issues and participate in the 10 studies being conducted by the Research and Development Department of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- 8.31 The Senior Vice President concluded the meeting with a vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the Executive Committee members for their active participation and valuable contributions to the discussions. He appreciated their dedication and commitment to addressing the issues faced by the business community and promoting the growth and development of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry. With this, the meeting was adjourned.


KASHIF ANWAR
President


SHAHID KHALIL
Secretary-General