

SESSION 05-07 OF ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVES
DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD

The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) Council, represented by its Alternate Representatives, met via conference call on 14 December 2005. Mr. Jerry Clifford (United States) chaired the meeting, Mr. José Manuel Bulás and Mr. David McGovern represented Mexico and Canada, respectively. Mr. William Kennedy, CEC executive director, represented the Secretariat, Mr. Carlos Sandoval represented JPAC, and Ms. Nathalie Daoust, Council secretary, acted as secretary for the session. Other officials of the Parties and the Secretariat were also in attendance.

Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

The chair opened the session and suggested to shorten the agenda given the limited time available for the conference call. The Alternate Representatives agreed to discuss items 5, 4 and 3 in that order.

Item 5 Submissions on Enforcement Matters under Articles 14 and 15

Item 5.1 Council decision on whether to make the final factual record publicly available for SEM-00-006 (Tarahumara)

The Alternate Representatives voted in favor of Council resolution 05-09 directing the Secretariat to make the final factual record for Tarahumara publicly available. The Director of the SEM Unit stressed that the Council resolution in all three languages needed to be signed by each Alternate Representative and faxed to the Secretariat as soon as possible in order for the resolution to become effective.

Item 5.2 Council decision on whether to instruct the Secretariat to prepare a factual record for SEM-04-007 (Quebec Automobiles)

The Canadian representative informed his counterparts that Canada was not prepared to vote on Council resolution 05-08 at this point.

Item 4 2006-2008 Operational Plan

The Chair stated his recollection that on several occasions a detailed budget breakdown for each project had been requested by Parties. He said that the Alternate Representatives had discussed this issue privately and were in agreement that the Secretariat should provide for each project the best budget estimate for the following categories: 1) salaries; 2) consultant costs; 3) travel costs; 4) meeting costs; 5) publications costs; and 6) communications costs and 7) other. The Mexican Alternate Representative reiterated his support and added that this level of detailed information was required by his government.

The Executive Director noted he recalled this issue had been addressed during the last meeting of the Alternate Representatives on 31 August 2005 but that the level of budget breakdown required from the Secretariat had remained unresolved. He added that ensuing discussions with the GSC had not been conclusive either. The Director of Programs indicated that, for several practical reasons, generating detailed budget information at this point would require that they be estimated. The Executive Director noted that budget flexibility would be needed as the projects were discussed with working groups and implemented.

The Secretariat agreed to provide estimated budget figures for each category and the Secretariat committed to providing these working estimates by 23 December 2005.

After the formal conclusion of the Alternate Representatives meeting due to the departure of the Mexican Alternate Representative, the chair informed the Executive Director that the Alternate Representatives had discussed privately a proposal from Mexico to close the Mexico office and re-allocate the corresponding savings of approximately \$233,000 to the cooperative work program of the CEC.

Item 3 CEC 2006 Budget

The chair indicated that the Alternate Representatives had discussed privately the draft Council resolution defining the level of CEC funding in 2006 at US\$9 million. He indicated however that Alternate Representatives had agreed that signing of the funding resolution would take place following receipt and review of the detailed CEC budget including the budget breakdowns discussed under item 4. The Secretariat noted that this is a significant departure from the Council's practice until this year of approving the budget resolution at or shortly after the June Council Session, with the approval of the detailed budget and operational plan taking place later in the year.

Item 6 Next meeting of the Alternate Representatives

The Alternate Representatives agreed to hold their next meeting in Montreal at the end of January 2006 (date to be confirmed). The main purpose of the meeting would be to approve the 2006-2008 Operational Plan.