



September 4, 2007

Ms. Irene Henriques  
JPAC Chair for 2007  
Commission for Environmental Cooperation  
393, rue St-Jacques ouest, bureau 200  
Montréal (Québec) H2Y 1N9

**Re: "Roundtable on Conservation and Trade"**

Dear Ms. Henriques:

On behalf of the Council, the Alternate Representatives thank the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) for its Advice to Council 07-01 on Conservation and Trade. Your recommendations stemming from the November 2006 Roundtable on Conservation and Trade in Cancun, Quintana Roo will be very helpful to the Council and the Alternate Representatives as we consider related program elements for the 2008 CEC Operational Plan.

We note that many of the recommendations that you made in Advice to Council 07-01 were raised during the recent Senior Trade and Environment Officials Meeting with JPAC in Morelia, Mexico on June 26, 2007. At that meeting there was broad agreement among the Parties that the work of the CEC aimed at addressing trade and environment related issues must be focused to ensure on-the-ground, measurable, compelling results and should be complementary to other CEC initiatives.

Moving forward, the Parties are discussing how the CEC may develop projects under the umbrella of competitiveness and environmental sustainability in North America. We will begin with a review of previous work on this issue and then identify potential new areas of work for the CEC. Your recommendations provide us with some possible areas of focus.

The CEC's current Strategic Plan for North American Cooperation in the Conservation of Biodiversity was adopted by Council in 2003 with the understanding that it be updated every five years. Given that this five year period is approaching, we appreciate your specific conservation related advice and will take it into consideration as this work evolves. We will also be considering meaningful ways for the JPAC and general public to help shape this updated Plan, and would welcome your suggestions on effective mechanisms for conducting these types of public consultations.



Once again, we thank you for your recommendations and look forward to continuing our dialogue and collaboration on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. McGovern', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David McGovern  
Alternate Representative for Canada

cc: Enrique Lendo, Alternate Representative for Mexico  
Jerry Clifford, Alternate Representative for the United States of America  
JPAC Members  
Adrián Vázquez, CEC Executive Director