



## COMMISSION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION

### Session No. 97-02 of the Joint Public Advisory Committee

16 May 1997

### Summary Record

The Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) held its second regular session on 16 May 1997, in the city of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

#### In Camera Session

#### **Item 1. 1997 Budget Management.**

Marc Paquin, in representation of the CEC Secretariat, submitted an analysis of the budget so far executed by the JPAC during 1997, including both the operating expenses of the JPAC and the expenditures arising from the organization of public consultations in Mexico City and Vancouver, as well as some of the costs already incurred in view of the upcoming Public Consultation to take place in Pittsburgh on 11, 12 and 13 June of this year.

The JPAC was of the opinion that the budget allocated by Council must be adhered to, and therefore the expenses will be circumscribed within the framework of budgeted costs: US\$100,000 (one hundred thousand US dollars) for the JPAC operating expenses and US\$200,000 (two hundred thousand US dollars) for the organization of the three public consultations to be held during the course of 1997.

In regard to budgetary constraints arising from the cost of simultaneous translation, which incidentally prevented the undertaking of the fourth workshop on "Other environmental issues, including NAAEC Evaluation", it was decided that the fourth workshop on other environmental issues, including NAAEC evaluation, be held in the same room reserved for the workshop on "Environmental Information Networks among the North American Communities", the later being held in the morning and the former in the afternoon.

It was agreed that, after the Pittsburgh meeting, the Secretariat would submit to the JPAC a report on the budgetary execution pertaining to both the organization of public consultations and the operating expenses of JPAC, with the aim of determining how many JPAC Regular Meetings can be held during the second semester of 1997.

A consensus was reached regarding the accepted principle that each one of the CEC bodies is responsible for covering the costs associated with the activities undertaken, in order to facilitate their evaluation and cost benefit analysis, according to the responsibilities and tasks that each body is entrusted with.

**Item 2. Report from the Budget Working Group (JPAC)**

Jonathan Plaut read the budget working paper, drafted by the appointed working group. The JPAC members expressed that they were in agreement with its contents and therefore it would be incorporated in the evaluation document to be submitted by the JPAC in connection with section 10(1)(b) of the Agreement; the JPAC will also ponder whether or not the working paper should be included in its rules of procedure.

**Item 3. Ottawa Documents**

Several members of the JPAC voiced their disagreement with the vision statement of the CEC included in the last paragraph of the Report from the 24 January 1997 CEC Strategic Planning Session. It was agreed that the JPAC members would be making proposals for a better definition and that such proposals would be included in the document regarding the NAAEC Evaluation.

**Item 4. Term of Appointment of JPAC Members**

The wish expressed by JPAC members, that the JPAC rules of procedure of this body be modified in order to clarify the term to be served by the JPAC members in this advisory body, was endorsed.

**Public Session****Item 1. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved as proposed. Likewise, a motion was made to approve the proceedings of the 97-01 session which had been previously distributed to the JPAC members, as well as the notes and other documents arising from the work session held on 21 March 1997 in Mexico City, Federal District, Mexico.

**Item 2. Remarks by the Chair of JPAC**

María Cristina Castro reported on the work performed by the Chair from March until the day of this meeting. She also reported on the contents of a teleconference held with the alternate representatives and the Secretariat on 13 May 1997. As well, the preliminary agenda for the Ministers' fourth regular session was disclosed.

**Item 3. Remarks by the Executive Director of the CEC**

The Executive Director of the CEC, Victor Lichtinger, submitted a report regarding the recent activities undertaken by the Secretariat. He also provided the JPAC with detailed information pertaining to the programs being implemented by the Secretariat and made comments on several issues, outlining the following:

- Current stage of the report (Article 13) on long distance transport of contaminants.

- Experts meeting on the “Report of the State of the Environment in North America” to be held in Montreal on 5 and 6 June 1997. Michael Cloghesy will be in attendance on behalf of the JPAC, while the Colegio de la Frontera Norte, under the chairmanship of Jorge Bustamante, will send one of its members to the said meeting.
- Water management aimed at achieving sustainable use of this resource in border areas.
- Geographical Information System for North America.
- 1998 Annual Program and Budget, focusing on the agenda for trade and the environment and the problematical issue involving water resources. A long term approach was suggested in order to facilitate the approval of bi-annual programs.
- Continuing budgetary reductions for the CEC programs. In 1996 and 1997 the budgetary constraints result from the 2 million Canadian dollars allocated to the North American Fund for Environmental Cooperation (NAFEC), and as of 1998 they will arise from the need to pay for the lease of the CEC headquarters premises in Montreal. This exerts a great deal of financial pressure on the budget.
- Process of evaluation of the NAAEC and letter addressed to the Ministers by the independent evaluation task force under the chairmanship of Maurice Strong.

The members of the JPAC made various comments regarding the encompassing presentation of the Secretariat Executive Director and congratulated him on the quality of his report.

#### **Item 4. Commentaries Regarding the Annual Meeting of the CEC Council**

The members of the JPAC received information in connection with the Council Agenda for the 12-13 June Regular Meeting. It was agreed that the JPAC members in charge of coordinating the four workshops (Peter Berle, Michael Cloghesy, Iván Restrepo and Jean Richardson) submit their findings during the Council’s public session.

In connection with the JPAC session with the Ministers, to be held in the morning of 13 June, it was decided that some JPAC members would make presentations on the following issues:

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|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Long Range Vision                    | John Wirth            |
| 2. Institutional Vision                 | Jacques Gérin         |
| 3. Priorities and NAAEC Evaluation      | Jean Richardson       |
| 4. Trade and Environment                | Jonathan Plaut        |
| 5. Submissions under Articles 14 and 15 | Peter Berle           |
| 6. JPAC Budget                          | María Cristina Castro |
| 7. National Advisory Committees         | Jorge Bustamante      |

The speakers will send to the JPAC Chair a one-page summary outlining the key elements of their presentations. Each presentation will last approximately five minutes, following what the

remaining JPAC members: Guillermo Barroso, Mary Simon, Mike Apsey, Louise Comeau and Dan Morales will have the opportunity to make comments if they so deem appropriate.

### **Item 5. Comments on the Meeting of the NAAEC Evaluation and Report by the Evaluation Working Group (JPAC)**

The JPAC has received from the Secretariat all the information pertaining to the evaluation process. The last agreement reached by the Alternate Representatives indicated that Maurice Strong and the Steering Committee of the Independent Evaluation Task Force will summarize the viewpoints voiced by the public and those sent by the JPAC in order to produce the final evaluation document.

On the other hand, and in connection with the evaluation report, the JPAC decided to submit to the Council a proposal for the amendment of the JPAC's rules of procedure.

### **Item 6. Report by the JPAC Working Groups**

#### *6.1 Articles 14 and 15 of the NAAEC*

The working group is awaiting the end result of the Cozumel submission and, on the other hand, it is examining the documentation sent by the Secretariat regarding new submissions.

#### *6.2. North American Fund for Environmental Cooperation (NAFEC)*

José Luis Samaniego, the Mexican alternate representative, will be consulted in regard to the inclusion of his suggestions in the NAFEC Administration and Financing Guidelines.

#### *6.3. Access to Information*

In connection with the pertinence of submitting recommendations to Council regarding the permanent public disclosure of the CEC consultants roster via the Internet, the JPAC decided that it was not appropriate to submit any recommendation to the Council in regard to this matter.

The Secretariat must always be ready to provide, at any time, upon request from governments, any information required in connection with the services provided by the consultants hired by the CEC; however, it is of the opinion that it is unnecessary to make this information available to the general public on a regular basis or to anyone that accesses the CEC home page on the Internet.

The Secretariat expressed its agreement with these criteria, for it considers it important to protect the consultants from potential political pressures in regard to the technical and scientific work they must perform.

**Item 7. Contents of the JPAC Recommendation to the Council Regarding the “Environment and Trade” Agenda.**

This is one of the topics to be considered during the course of the Council Meeting and which will be included in the global report that will be submitted by the JPAC during the meeting of 13 June 1997 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

**Item 8. Comments by Observers**

The observers that attended the JPAC public session made various comments of a general nature, including the following:

- Situation of National Advisory Committee in the United States.
- The need to establish a National Advisory Committee in Mexico.
- The following topics are of a paramount importance: trade and the environment, sustainable and organic agriculture, environmental legislation, health and environment, access to information.
- It was suggested that feasibility studies should be conducted and that the budget allocated to the NAFEC should be increased with the support of the World Bank and other financing sources.

**Item 9. Date of the Next Meeting**

The next regular session of the JPAC will be held on Friday June the 13<sup>th</sup> in the city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, from 10:30 a.m. to 13:30 p.m.

**Item 10. End of Session**

The session was closed at 14:15 hours of May 16, 1997.

**Meeting of the Joint Public Advisory Committee 97-02**

16 May 1997

Landmark Hotel  
1400 Robson Street  
Room 424  
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Telephone: (604) 687-0511 • Fax: (604) 687-2801

**Agenda**

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**Friday, 16 May 1997**

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- 08:00 - 09:45 JPAC Private Work Session
1. Budget for 1997
  2. Working group remarks on the budget
- 09:45 - 10:00 Coffee Break
- 10:00 - 13:00 JPAC Public Meeting
1. Approval of agenda
  2. Remarks by the JPAC Chair
  3. Remarks by the Executive Director of the CEC Secretariat
  4. Observations about the CEC Council Annual Meeting
  5. Report on the NAAEC Evaluation Meeting and remarks on the JPAC Evaluation working group
  6. Reports from the working groups concerning:
    - a) Articles 14 and 15 of the NAAEC
    - b) North American Fund For Environmental Cooperation (NAFEC)
    - c) Information access
  7. Contents of the JPAC Advice to Council about the topic "Environment and Trade"
  8. Comments from the observers
  9. Dates for the following meeting
  10. Final observations and closing

**Joint Public Advisory Committee Session N° 97-02**

**16 May 1997 in Vancouver, BC**

**List of Participants**

**JPAC Members:**

**Canada**

Mike Apsey  
Michael Cloghesy  
Jacques Gérin

**Mexico**

Jorge Bustamante  
María Cristina Castro (Chair)  
Ivan Restrepo

**United States**

Peter Berle  
Jon Plaut  
Jean Richardson  
John Wirth

**CEC Secretariat Staff Members:**

Víctor Lichtinger  
Marc Paquin  
Manon Pepin  
María de la Luz García

**Observers:**

William J. Andrews	Barrister and Solicitor
David Armstrong	National Academy of Older Canadians
Mateo Castillo	<i>Consejo Consultivo para el Desarrollo Sustentable</i>
Thomas C. Burnett	Inco Limited
Rita Cerutti	Environment Canada
Louise Côté	<i>Ministère des Affaires étrangères et du Commerce international</i>
Alfredo Figueroa López	<i>Ecotonia</i>
José Luis Funes	Consultant
Luis Ernesto González	Embassy of Mexico in Ottawa
Miguel Ángel Gutiérrez Domínguez	<i>Ecología y Desarrollo de Tlaxcala y Puebla, A.C.</i>
Wanda Hoskin	Natural Resources Canada
Elaine Kennedy	St. Lawrence Renewal Action Plan
Sabra Ledent	Consultant
Cristina Martín Arrieta	<i>Acción y Desarrollo Ecológico</i>
Mel Moon	Quileute Indian Tribe and Natural Resources Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
José Jorge Núñez Alba	<i>Red Eco-Paz</i>
Glen Okrainetz	British Columbia Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks
Maggie Paquet	Canadian Environmental Network
Luis Ángel Rangel	<i>Gobierno del Estado de Durango</i>
Scott Robinson	<i>Red de Información Rural</i>
Benito Saldivar Sánchez	<i>Consejo Nacional para el Desarrollo Sustentable</i>
Howard Samoil	Environmental Law Centre
Manuel Servín Massieu	<i>Instituto Politécnico Nacional</i>
Garwood Tripp	International Joint Commission
Allard Van Veen	Pitch-In Canada