



COMMISSION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION

Joint Public Advisory Committee Session 97-01

21 March 1997

Summary Record

Members of the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) held a regular session on 21 March 1997 in Mexico City, Mexico.

This Summary Record summarizes the content of the discussions and reports and the unanimous decisions made by the Committee members. The Records of Discussion, JPAC's Advices to Council, and other documents relating to the Committee are available from the JPAC Coordinator or by consulting JPAC's entry on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.cec.org>.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented (See Annex A for the agenda and Annex B for the list of participants). Because no representatives of the national advisory committees were able to attend the meeting, item 8 of the agenda was omitted.

REMARKS BY THE JPAC CHAIR

The Chair reported on recent and future activities:

- On 19-20 March a public consultation was convened in Mexico City. A final report on the public consultation will be submitted to the Council after its June meeting.
- On 24 January the Chair participated (as JPAC Chair) in a meeting held in Ottawa with the Alternate Representatives and members of the Secretariat to exchange points of view on several issues.
- In addition, the Chair attended two other meetings of the Alternate Representatives. The first meeting was held in December 1996, and the second meeting took the form of a conference call on 21 February. Both meetings addressed, among other things, the 1997 CEC program and budget.
- The next meeting with the Alternate Representatives will be held 16-17 April in Montreal.
- The two remaining public consultations will be held in Vancouver 14-15 May and in a U.S. location to be specified 11-12 June. The latter meeting will immediately precede the Council's annual session.

Finally, the Chair reported that three JPAC members--María Cristina Castro, Jacques Gérin, and Jon Plaut--had been appointed to a subcommittee that was given the mandate to review the planned evaluation of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC) in preparation for a meeting to be conducted by the CEC Secretariat on 18-19 April in Montreal.

Action: JPAC / Secretariat

REMARKS BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE CEC SECRETARIAT

The Director of the Secretariat reported on the recent activities of the Commission. He also provided the JPAC with an update on the proposed *Annual Program and Budget for 1997*. The Parties made the following modifications in the program:

- Two projects have been deleted: Economic Incentives for Sustainable Development and Promoting the Sustainable Exploitation of Non-timber Forest Products.
- The projects Principles of Sound Regulation and NAFTA Environmental Effects are under consideration.
- The format of the *Annual Program and Budget for 1997* has been improved in response to the recommendation of the Parties.

The approved version of the *Annual Program and Budget for 1997* will be distributed to the JPAC and the public as soon as possible.

Four publications currently in the draft stage will be made available in the near future. Three of the publications address, respectively, The NAFTA Institutions and, North American Pollutant Releases and Transfers and, the Voluntary Compliance in North America. The fourth publication is a general one describing the CEC, its structure, objectives and vision. The Secretariat representative also noted that the CEC activities calendar will be available through the Commission's Web site in April 1997.

After the presentation, JPAC members made a number of observations:

- Given the importance of the NAFTA Environmental Effects project, which was expressed in a JPAC Advice to the Council, the current pending status of the project is a matter for concern. Moreover, members observed that the NAFTA Environmental Effects project is the only one remaining within the Environment, Trade, and Economy program area.
- In response to a question regarding the future status of the Migratory Bird Project (CEC involvement to terminate at end of 1997), the Secretariat representative explained that this project consists of two phases. The first phase identified three designated "Important Bird Areas." This phase was completed in August 1996 by the Council at its Toronto meeting. The second phase will devise a plan of action to develop a strategy for the protection of migratory songbirds in North America.

In response to a query about the shading used to indicate Council-identified priorities in the 1997 CEC program, the Secretariat representative explained that the priorities had been identified in October 1995 by the Council at its meeting in Oaxaca, Mexico, and that they had been retained.

In concluding, the Secretariat representative assured JPAC members that the Secretariat will convey members' comments to the Parties.

Action: Secretariat / Parties

OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS AND THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

It was agreed that the consultants would prepare an executive presentation of each topic in time so it could be presented during the fourth Regular Council Meeting and that they would have two more months to finish the detailed report of these consultations.

Action: Secretariat

APPROVED 1997 CEC PROGRAM AND PRIORITIES FOR 1998 PROGRAM

The issue of the 1997 CEC program was addressed during the remarks of the Secretariat representative, who pointed out that in reducing the number of projects undertaken over the years 1995 to 1996 the Council had successfully sharpened the program focus.

The item on the 1998 CEC program was included in the agenda to enable JPAC to take early steps to identify priorities for the next annual program. A series of suggestions were made about the 1998 program priorities:

- Place a greater emphasis on tying projects more closely to the NAFTA agreement.
- Review the priorities of the CEC program.
- Develop a continental approach to the environment and view the NAFTA treaty within the context of sustainable development.
- Extend the continental pollution pathways initiatives to include NAFTA trade corridors, a second-generation NAFTA issue.
- Continue the emphasis on trade and environment, a distinguishing feature of the work of the CEC.
- Implement systematic communications with other organizations working bilaterally or trilaterally such as Border Environment Cooperation Commission.

In conclusion, the Chair pointed out that the JPAC will have to prepare a recommendation for the Council on a strategic plan for establishing the linkages between environment and trade.

Action: Parties / JPAC

NORTH AMERICAN FUND FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION (NAFEC)

The JPAC Chair recalled that at its last meeting in November 1996 JPAC advised the Council to make a number of changes in the *Administration and Funding Guidelines for the North American Fund for Environmental Cooperation (NAFEC)*. The Parties reviewed JPAC Advice to Council No. 96-05. Furthermore, the Parties asked the JPAC to work with the Council and the Secretariat to develop a strategy for approaching foundations and other outside sources to provide funding to make up or increase the CAN \$2,000,000 in NAFEC. In addition, according to the *NAFEC Administration and Funding Guidelines*, the JPAC is responsible for evaluating the performance of the NAFEC within the first two years of operation (end of 1997).

At this point, JPAC members made some general comments about the administration of the fund:

- CEC should not serve as auditors of NAFEC-funded projects; it does not have the time or the expertise.
- NAFEC should emphasize the dissemination of projects results--lessons learned, successes achieved--and information on project holders through CEC's existing channels of communications.
- NAFEC staff should advise and assist applicants in seeking other sources of funding.

The NAFEC Coordinator described the current monitoring and evaluation process. When the contribution agreement is negotiated, an evaluation plan and a payment and reporting schedule are established. Payments normally are made in installments based on a satisfactory evaluation of the previous report. Secretariat staff remains in fairly close contact with project holders. Efforts are made to ensure that NAFEC requirements are adapted to the needs of each project to maximize project holders' opportunities to learn from their projects. The NAFEC Coordinator explained that NAFEC staff currently makes available information on projects and how to contact project holders. In the longer term an effort will be made to compile lessons learned and success stories, particularly examining mistakes made in order to share that information with other nongovernmental organizations.

In response to the mandate to explore the possibilities for leveraging funds from other sources, the JPAC made the following observation: corporations are not generally appropriate sources of funding for environmental projects. The possibility of collaboration with some of the larger foundations should be explored, however.

Regarding evaluation of the NAFEC, the JPAC generally supported the suggestions in the Coordinator's document, which called for a two-part evaluation that would include both process- and results-based approaches. The JPAC noted, however, that sustainable development indicators also should be part of the evaluation process. Three JPAC members--Jorge Bustamante, Jon Plaut, and Mary Simon--were appointed to a subcommittee and given the mandate to work with the NAFEC Coordinator to develop a detailed evaluation plan.

Action: Secretariat / JPAC / Parties

PRESENTATION BY THE NORTH AMERICAN CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION (CICEANA)

The representative of CICEANA presented a video made by this organization on the activities of this center. After the presentation, she enjoined the JPAC to ensure the dissemination of information on the environment and the priority given to communications and networks by CEC in its 1997 program.

SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS

It was agreed that future meetings would be scheduled as follows:

- Public consultation, 14-15 May, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
- Regular JPAC meeting, 16 May, Vancouver

- Public consultation, 11-12 June (U.S. location to be announced)
- Regular JPAC meeting, 13 June (U.S. location to be announced)

Following a suggestion from the Chair, JPAC members provisionally agreed to hold two additional JPAC regular meetings in October and December 1997. This issue will be resolved after the June meeting based on budgetary considerations.

Action: JPAC

COMMENTS OF THE OBSERVERS

Observers attending the JPAC session made a number of general comments:

- The format of the public consultation was much improved over that used in 1996.
- It is hoped that all specific recommendations made in the public consultations will be conveyed to the Council.
- Reports of the workshops should be made available to the public.
- An effort should be made to involve law and business students in the work of the Commission.
- Greater dissemination of information at the regional level would benefit those working at the grass roots.
- CEC is encouraged to compile list of other sources of financial support available for environmental projects.
- The CEC information center has proven very useful. Building on that priority, the Commission should continue to emphasize communications and networks.
- Work related to sustainable development is valuable and, it is hoped, will continue.

A representative of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) informed JPAC that the U.S. national advisory committee held a meeting in September. Among other tasks, this committee is preparing a reference document about itself and will formulate suggestions for establishing permanent relations between the national advisory committees of the three countries and JPAC.

Action: JPAC

ADJOURNMENT

The session adjourned at 2:30 p.m., 21 March 1997

**Commission for Environmental Cooperation
Meeting of the Joint Public Advisory Committee 97-01**

**Crowne Plaza Hotel – Reforma 1 Avenue
Alameda IV-V Room
Mexico City, Mexico**

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Agenda

Friday, 21 March 1997

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 08:00-11:00 | JPAC Private Meeting |
| | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Guidelines under NAAEC Articles 14 and 152. Report on the January 1997 meeting in Ottawa3. Examination of the document sent by the Alternate Representatives of the Council concerning the evaluation of NAAEC |
| 11:00-11:15 | Coffee Break |
| 11:15-14:30 | JPAC Public Meeting |
| | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approval of agenda2. Remarks by the JPAC Chair3. Remarks by the Director of the CEC Secretariat4. Observations about the public consultation and the annual meeting of the Council5. Approved 1997 CEC Program and priorities for 1998 Program.6. Comments about the North American Fund for Environmental Cooperation (NAFEC)7. Screening of the video produced by the North American Center for Environmental Information and Communication, (4 minutes)8. Comments of the observers9. Dates of the following meetings10. Final observations and closing |

Joint Public Advisory Committee Session N° 97-01

21 March 1997 in Mexico City

List of Participants

JPAC Members:

Canada

Michael Cloghesy
Mary Simon

Mexico

Jorge Bustamante
María Cristina Castro (Chair)
Ivan Restrepo

United States

Peter Berle
Jon Plaut
John Wirth

CEC Secretariat Staff Members:

Greg Block
Janice Astbury
Manon Pepin
Verónica Álvarez
María de la Luz García

Observers:

Salvador Aguilar Benítez	<i>Movimiento Ciudadano en Defensa del Medio Ambiente de Morelos, A.C.</i>
Liliana Anchondo Espinoza	<i>Facultad de Química de la UNAM</i>
Lyndon Babcock	University of Chicago
Antonio Barragán	<i>Notimex</i>
Elena Gabriela Cabral	<i>Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey</i>
Rita Cerruti	<i>Environment Canada</i>
Ramesh Chaitoo	Carleton University
Pedro Coelho	New York University
Louise Côté	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (Canada)
Raúl Cruz Tornel	<i>Confederación de Cámaras Industriales de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos (CONCAMIN)</i>
Juan Pablo Estrello	Consultant
José Luis Funes	Consultant
Eduardo Garay	Latin American Working Group
Raúl Gutiérrez Castillo	<i>Secretaría de Energía</i>
Miguel Angel Gutiérrez Domínguez	<i>Ecología y Desarrollo de Tlaxcala y Puebla, A.C.</i>
Reyna Gil Hernández	<i>Directora de Ecología del Municipio de Cancún</i>
Sabra Ledent	Consultant
Rodrigo Morales	<i>Facultad de Química de la UNAM</i>
Patricia Nieder	University of Chicago
Alejandro Peláez	<i>Red para el Desarrollo Sustentable</i>
Norberto Pérez Zúñiga	<i>Excelsior</i>
Rocío Rueda Hurtado	<i>MOCEAMA</i>
Teresa Saavedra	<i>Secretaría del Medio Ambiente del Departamento del Distrito Federal</i>
Andrée Thibodeau	<i>CICEANA</i>
Tiahoga Ruge	<i>CICEANA</i>
Héctor Sepúlveda Valle	Individual
Dan Torrez	Office of the Attorney General, State of Texas