



Comité consultatif public mixte (CCPM)

Comité Consultivo Público Conjunto (CCPC)

Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC)

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ORIGINAL: FRENCH

**JPAC SESSION 96-1
March 7-8, 1996**

Summary Record

The members of the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) held a regular session on March 7 and 8, 1996 in Montreal, Canada. The list of participants, the agenda and the list of 1996 JPAC sessions are found in Annexes A, B and C respectively.

REPORT BY THE JPAC CHAIR

In his report, the Chair told JPAC members of his participation in teleconferences held by the Alternate Representatives during January and February. At that time, he informed the Alternate Representatives about activities on the JPAC agenda, drawing particular attention to items being discussed March 7 and 8.

The Chair also touched on the informal March 6 meeting, when JPAC members and Alternate Representatives attended a presentation about the CEC Internet site and the JPAC hypertext link. He pointed out that this new electronic technology offers an excellent means of communicating with the public.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF SESSION 96-1 (March 7-8 1996)

The agenda was adopted as presented.

ADOPTION OF THE RECORD OF SESSION 95-5 (December 7-8, 1995)

The record was adopted as presented.

Action: Secretary

PUBLIC SESSION OF COUNCIL

JPAC members received a mandate from Council to plan and organize a preparatory session to precede the annual session of the CEC which will take place this autumn in Canada. They discussed various measures and agreed to send the following two recommendations to the Alternate Representatives on the same day:

- a) That the Council adopt permanent procedures promoting public consultation and participation. The goal is to:
- facilitate public involvement in the development of the CEC program;
 - reach out to a wide range of people and groups;
 - stimulate exchange between groups;
 - promote the CEC projects; provide the public with a forum for expressing their views in person when it is difficult to do so in writing, and for clarifying misunderstandings; and
 - heighten the CEC's media profile.
- b) During the preparatory sessions, the JPAC members propose to discuss four issues.

Under the main theme, "Building a North-American Community", four sub-themes will be discussed:

- Reducing Human Health Risks from Environmental Contaminants in North America
- Conserving North America Biodiversity
- Strengthening Environment and Economic Linkages in North America
- Defining Public Participation in the Activities of the CEC

As far as the fourth sub-theme is concerned, JPAC members have clearly indicated their belief that public consultation must involve direct participation by the public.

In order to promote public participation in the preparatory session for the annual session of Council, the JPAC recommends combining two options:

- a) Seeking public input in the form of submissions to be received by regular mail, electronic mail or fax.
- b) Holding two regional public meetings. The first will be held in Montreal on June 21, and the second near the US-Mexico border on July 19.

A public notice will be sent out inviting interested persons to contribute comments on the suggested sub-themes and to participate in the public meetings. Discussion papers will be prepared and distributed to participants in advance.

JPAC members will participate in these workshops during the public meetings, including the preparatory session preceding the annual session of Council.

Following the public meetings, the JPAC will submit to Council one report on the sub-themes and another report evaluating the process of public consultation and participation.

See Annex C for the JPAC regular sessions and the public meetings calendar.

Action: JPAC

FOLLOW-UP OF COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS

This agenda item gave JPAC members an opportunity to follow up on recommendations they sent to Council. They discussed the following issues:

- a) Silva Reservoir Report: After reading the resolution proposed by the Parties, Council suggested that the contribution of the JPAC be added to the preamble.

Action: Parties

- b) North American Environmental Fund (NAEF): The Chair described recent actions by the Parties in response to public input. He also informed JPAC members that they have been given a mandate by Council to evaluate NAEF's performance within two years.

Action: Parties / Secretariat

- c) JPAC 1996 budget: The Chair reminded JPAC members that the Committee's 1996 budget is \$120,000 US. He also pointed out that any expenses incurred by the JPAC while carrying out specific mandates given to it by Council are not included in the present budget.

MEETING WITH THE ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVES

This agenda item essentially focused on an exchange of views based on a proposal by members of JPAC on Public Participation as it relates to the process of the development of the CEC program and the annual regular session of Council (See the proposal in Public Session of Council above). JPAC members highlighted the benefits of a structured and ongoing process including in region meetings to allow ideas to emerge, assure contact with local people and provide timely input in the CEC program development. More specifically JPAC proposed to hold two public preparatory sessions centered on the main themes and sub themes for the regular session of Council. One meeting would be held in Montreal and the other at a location to be determined on the US-Mexico border. A final meeting would be held at the time and location of the regular session of Council.

Council representatives thanked the members of JPAC and gave full support to their proposal. They requested that representatives of the Parties, the Secretariat and of the JPAC explore opportunities to achieve further economies without prejudicing the proposal. They agreed that the proposal be implemented while such economies are sought, reported back to JPAC and reflected in a revised budget. They also concluded on the need for the 1997 budget to include a discrete item for public participation.

Action: Parties / Secretariat /

JPAC

PRESENTATION ON THE MULTILATERAL FUND FOR THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL

Dr. Omar E. El-Arini, Director of the Secretariat in charge of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, presented the mandate and objectives of his organization to JPAC members. It is an international body responsible for planet-wide protection of the ozone layer.

A question period followed, during which JPAC members expressed their interest in this issue.

PLAN FOR A MEETING WITH THE BORDER ENVIRONMENT COOPERATION COMMISSION (BECC)

Members of the JPAC recommended that steps be taken to join with the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) to an informal meeting with their Executive and Advisory Councils.

The BECC intends to hold a public meeting on July 18, 1996 on the US-Mexico border. The JPAC will be holding a public meeting in the same region in preparation for the annual session of Council. It was therefore proposed that the BECC be asked to hold the informal meeting on July 19 and place as its meeting.

The primary goal of the informal meeting is to give the two organizations an opportunity to share their views on environmental issues in general, and transboundary problems in particular.

Action:

JPAC

REMARKS BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In his remarks, the Executive Director of the CEC Secretariat reported on the development of several projects and initiatives, including:

- the review of the North American Environment Fund guidelines following public input;
- recent actions by the Parties in response to the Silva Reservoir Report;
- the drafting of a production schedule to help in planning the 1997 Program (a copy of this document will be sent to JPAC members);
- the appointment of a Chief Accounting Officer and a Spanish Technical Editor to join the organization in April;
- follow-up on the petition concerning the Cozumel case under Article 14 of the NAAEC; and
- a workshop on the Environmental Effects of NAFTA to be held in April in San Diego.

The subsequent discussion focused on the Council's draft resolution on the Silva Reservoir Report.

FOLLOW-UP OF THE 1995 AND 1996 PROGRAMS

The Secretariat presented a summary of projects completed in 1995 and others continuing in 1996.

The 1996 program focuses on projects dealing with biodiversity, human health and climate change.

Members were informed that the petition concerning allegations of irregularities in the enforcement of environmental laws during the approval process of a pier and port facilities in Cozumel, Mexico is now awaiting a response from the Mexican government.

On this point, JPAC members emphasized the crucial importance of informing the media whenever a petition is submitted to the Secretariat, and that a follow-up with journalists is done in order to prevent possible distortions.

The Secretariat then provided further details about three items: PCBs, Capacity Building and the Environmental Effects of NAFTA.

- a) PCBs: A report will soon be published.
- b) Capacity Building: JPAC members listened to an outline of the actions taken on this initiative and discussed possible ways of helping to see current projects through to a successful completion. They agreed to add this topic to the next JPAC regular meeting with a view to following its development closely.
- c) NAFTA Environmental Effects: This project will gain momentum during the current year. JPAC members received the agenda of the workshop on NAFTA effects scheduled for April in San Diego, as well as for comment a discussion paper to be used during the workshop.

Finally, JPAC members suggested to the Secretariat that non-governmental organizations, universities and local authorities be more directly involved in developing CEC programs such as NAFTA Environmental Effects.

A form was circulated to JPAC members so that they could indicate projects of particular interest to them. With this added input, they will be able to follow the CEC program more closely and participate in its implementation.

INTERVENTIONS BY OBSERVERS

Observers at the session offered short commentaries on:

- the close link between the ISO 14000 project and Capacity Building;
- the potential support of Mr. Dan Morales, a JPAC member, for the public meeting near the US-Mexico border in July;
- Environment Canada's preparation of a list of experts for the Secretariat; and
- the need for greater academician involvement in the CEC.

NEXT JPAC SESSIONS

Members agreed to the regular JPAC sessions and public meetings for 1996 at the dates and places indicated in Annex C.

ADJOURNMENT

The session adjourned at 12:30 p.m. on March 8, 1996.

Prepared by Manon Pepin
March 20, 1996



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Annex A

SESSION 96-1

Montreal, March 7-8, 1996

List of Participants

CANADA

Mike Apsey
Michael Cloghesy
Jacques Gérin

MEXICO

Jorge Bustamente
Ivan Restrepo
Maria Cristina Castro

UNITED STATES

Peter Berle
Jon Plaut
John Wirth

OBSERVERS

Rita Cerutti	(Environment Canada)
Melissa Diamond	(Student, Vermont University)
Adam Greene	(United States Council for International Business)
Dan Torrez	(Mr. Morales' Office)



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Annex B

JOINT PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE SESSION 96-1

Montreal, March 7 - 8, 1996

Inter-Continental Hotel (Sarah-Bernhardt Room)

Wednesday, March 6

7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Presentation: "CEC Home Page"
& Informal Gathering with the Alternate Representatives
CEC Secretariat (Council Room)

Thursday, March 7

8:30 a.m. Welcome and Overview by the Chair
Inter-Continental Hotel (Sarah-Bernhardt Room)

8:45 a.m. Approval of Agenda
Approval of Record of Discussion of Session 95-5

9:00 a.m. Council Public Session
• Public Participation
• Preparatory Public Session

11:00 a.m. JPAC Advices Follow-up
• North American Environment Fund
• 1996 JPAC Budget

12:00 a.m. Meeting with the Alternate Representatives
CEC Secretariat (Council Room)

13:00 p.m. Luncheon

2:30 p.m. The Multilateral Fund for the Montreal Protocol Presentation
Inter-Continental Hotel (Sarah-Bernhardt Room)

4:00 p.m. Planning: Meeting with the Border Environment Cooperation Commission
• Brainstorming Session

6:00 p.m. Closing



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JOINT PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE SESSION 96-1

Montreal, March 7 - 8, 1996
CEC Secretariat, Council Room

Friday, March 8

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|------------|---|
| 8:30 a.m. | Executive Director's Report |
| 8:45 a.m. | 1995 Program Follow-up <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Secretariat Presentation: Greg Block and Janine Ferretti |
| 9:15 a.m. | 1996 Program Follow-up <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Secretariat Presentation: Greg Block and Janine Ferretti• PCB Projects Presentation: Janine Ferretti• Capacity Building Projects Presentation: Hernando Guerrero• NAFTA Environmental Effects Projects Presentation: Sarah Richardson |
| 11:30 a.m. | Observer Interventions |
| 12:00 a.m. | Outstanding Items |
| 12:30 p.m. | Adjournment |
| 12:30 p.m. | Luncheon
<i>CEC Secretariat (JPAC Room)</i> |

1996 JPAC SESSIONS

<p>1) JUNE 20-21</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Day 1</u> JPAC Regular Session• <u>Day 2</u> Regional Public Meeting # 1	<p>Montreal</p>
<p>2) JULY 18-19-20</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Day 1</u> Morning : JPAC Regular Session Afternoon (To confirm): JPAC Members-Observers at the BECC Public Meeting• <u>Day 2</u> Morning (9:00 a.m to 3:00 p.m): Regional Public Meeting # 2 Afternoon (3:30 p.m to 6:00 p.m): (To confirm) Informal Meeting with the BECC Board & Advisory Committee• <u>Day 3 (Optional)</u><ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Maquiladoras / NGO's2. Industrial Visits3. Casas Grandes, Chihuahua	<p>(To confirm)</p>
<p>3) SEPTEMBER 9-11 (To confirm)</p>	<p>Council Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Day 1</u> JPAC Regular Meeting• <u>Day 2</u> Morning (9:00 a.m to 12:00 p.m) Preparatory Public Meeting Afternoon (14:00 p.m to 17:00 p.m) Council Public Meeting• <u>Day 3</u> Council Meeting (In-camera)	<p>Toronto or Montreal (To confirm)</p>