

## JPAC SESSION No. 95-3

August 23-24, 1995

### Record of Discussion

*n/d: 17129503, 038*

A Regular Session of the members of the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) was held in Montréal, Canada, on August 23 and 24, 1995. The *List of participants*, *Agenda*, *Advice No. 95-5 to Council*, and *Record of Public Comment on the Draft Procedures for Submissions on Enforcement Matters under Articles 14 and 15* appear in Appendices A, B, C and D, respectively.

### CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Among his comments, the Chair:

- reminded the members of the importance of this session, particularly with reference to questions relating to the public consultations on the guidelines on factual submissions and the session of the Council which will be held in Oaxaca, Mexico, in October;
- in view of the fact that Gilles Lamoureux is attending the CGI and Alternate Representatives sessions, Mrs. Manon Pepin will act as Secretary for this session.

### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA FOR SESSION NO. 95-3 (August 23-24, 1995)

The *Agenda* was adopted as presented with the following additions:

1. JPAC participation in the CEC Annual Report;
2. Discussion on the report from Louise Comeau regarding the workshop on "the economic instruments of technical cooperation".

### DISCUSSION REPORT FOR SESSION NO. 95-2 (April 27-28, 1995)

The *Record of Discussion* was adopted as presented with the following corrections:

The following comment was added to the last point of the section on the consultation process on the guidelines on page 3: "in conformity with the cultural differences of the three countries".

The *Record of Discussion* will be declassified and distributed to the JPAC members, Council and Secretariat and also the Chairs of the National Advisory Committees (NACs) and the Government Advisory Committees (GACs).

**Action: Secretary**

#### **UPDATE BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Among his comments, the Executive Director:

- mentioned the work to prepare for the session of the Council in Oaxaca, Mexico;
- invited the members to analyze the 1996 Program proposal from the CEC and make suggestions at the next session of the Council;
- informed the members that a description of the projects in the 1995 Program will be sent to them shortly.

**Action: Secretariat**

During the ensuing discussion, the members:

- requested information regarding the payment of the contributions by the three Parties.

#### **GUIDELINES ON FACTUAL SUBMISSIONS**

Mrs. Katherine Foster, a JPAC research assistant, presented and explained the methodology relating to *the report on public consultations on the guidelines on factual submissions* following the Ottawa, Washington and Mexico sessions. The Representative of the JPAC (Mrs. Jean Richardson) then presented a summary of the main points expressed by the public.

Following Mrs. Foster's presentation, it was agreed to:

- send the full JPAC report to the Council, the Secretariat, the participants in the public consultations and anyone else who requests it.

**Action: Chair**

Following the presentation of Mrs. Richardson's report and the conference call with Messieurs Barroso and Restrepo, it was agreed to:

- present the JPAC Advice on the guidelines on factual submissions to the Council. These guidelines are based on the main recommendations that came out of the public consultations.

**Action: Chair**

The Chair concluded this discussion by saying:

- that JPAC does not have the mandate to write the guideline procedures. This step is the responsibility of the Secretariat.

Further to the public consultations, the following suggestions were made regarding future public consultations:

- ensure that concrete results come out of these meetings;

- announce the date of the public consultations a reasonable amount of time before the meetings;
- stop using a moderator to avoid making these meetings too formal;
- encourage non-government groups to participate;
- distribute the Record of Discussion of these meetings via the Internet;
- give the Chair more flexibility in managing the JPAC budget in order to facilitate decision-making;
- select the subjects discussed during the public consultations based on their trilateral interest;
- produce a document destined for the public that clearly defines JPAC'S structure and mandate.

## **1996 PROGRAM**

This subject came up for discussion twice during the session.

The Executive Director presented the members with an overview of the 1996 program which will be submitted to the Alternate Representatives during their August 24 session. During the ensuing discussion, the members suggested the following:

- establish priorities;
- develop projects that will have concrete results;
- continue to maximize the participation of NGOs, universities and industry in the different projects;
- emphasize harmonization of the laws and regulations of the three countries;
- implement a project to encourage industry to give priority to "voluntary programs";
- make the "Environmental information" and "Capacity building and training" programs part of the "Business and environment" and "Laws, cooperation on the application of laws and economic instruments" sectors;
- send the JPAC members all the relevant information on the 1996 Program including the description of the programs and the proposed budgets.

**Action: Secretariat**

Further to the discussions on the 1996 Program, the members indicated their interest in taking action on this matter and, if necessary, giving their help and support.

**Action: Chair**

During the session with the Alternate Representatives, the JPAC members submitted the aforementioned points. In addition, it was suggested that the companies in the environment sector present and sponsor certain projects which could be given priority in the 1996 Program.

## PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

The next session of the Council will be held in Oaxaca, Mexico, on October 12 and 13. The JPAC members are counting on help from the Secretariat in calling this meeting and ensuring that the logistics run smoothly.

To ensure that this public session will be successful, the following proposals were made:

- modify the use of time on the Agenda to reflect cultural habits in Mexico in order to maximize public attendance;
- add three specific items to the Agenda: 1) Training and education, 2) Infrastructure and technology, and 3) Transborder pollution problems;
- discuss these specific subjects in a work group during the preparatory meeting with the public and the JPAC members before the members meet the Council during the public session on October 13;
- allow a fixed amount of time for the participants to discuss items that are not on the Agenda.

**Action: Chair**

During the discussion, the members:

- mandated the Chair to invite CONAMA from Chili as an observer.

**Action: Chair**

During the session with the Alternate Representatives, the JPAC members submitted the aforementioned points.

## INTERVENTIONS BY OBSERVERS

Greg Cooke suggested that all organizations connected with NAFTA be invited to participate in the JPAC public hearings and regular sessions of the Council.

## WORKSHOP ON THE ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION

In the absence of Mrs. Louise Comeau who is still in Geneva, it was agreed that the Chair will discuss this workshop with the JPAC person responsible. Discussion of this item is carried forward to the next session.

**Action: Chair**

## CEC ANNUAL REPORT

- The Chair submitted to the JPAC members the preliminary version of a text which will be published in the CEC Annual Report. A more complete text will be presented at the next session.

**Action: Chair**

## **OTHER QUESTIONS**

The JPAC members raised the question of the translation of the Spanish texts. It was suggested that they be revised more carefully in the future.

## **UPCOMING JPAC SESSIONS**

The members adopted the following calendar:

October 12-13: Regular Session of the Council at Oaxaca  
December 7-8: JPAC Session; location to be confirmed

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Among his closing comments, the Chair emphasized the importance of the next session of the Council at Oaxaca.

The session adjourned at 4:30 p.m., August 24, 1995.

Written by Manon Pepin  
September 11, 1995