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## **JPAC public review of the first 20 years of NAFTA and the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation**

### **Call for Information and Comments**

**Assessment of the environmental effects of NAFTA** (Source: OECD, *Environmental Performance  
Reviews: Mexico, 2003; country submission*)

The list below does not pretend to be exhaustive, just to mention the main issues from the report, related to the environment. There have been several positive aspects, as well as, opportunity areas in the last 10 years that strongly impact over the environment and the economy of the country and the region.

#### **Relevant Points:**

1. Over the last decade, air quality has generally improved,
2. Capacity for hazardous waste treatment more than tripled.
3. There have been somewhat higher levels of patenting activity for some environmental technologies and renewable energies.
4. PROFEPA has been giving greatest priority to self-regulation and environmental audits.
5. Infrastructure for hazardous waste treatment was developed and treatment capacity more than tripled from 5.2 million tonnes in 2000 to 16.7 million tonnes in 2011.
6. Increasing electricity generation from non-fossil fuels to 35%.

**Opportunity areas:**

1. Further efforts are needed to improve public participation in environmental decision-making.
2. Mexico has the least R&D-intensive economy in the OECD and one of the lowest private sector shares in gross expenditure on R&D. Innovation outcomes have been weak.
3. Integration of environmental concerns in economic decisions.- tax rates are not linked to the environmental performance of vehicles.
4. Elimination of subsidies with harmful environmental effects.

**The CEC's Cooperative Work Program—its successes and shortcomings**

The main success of the CEC's Cooperative Work Program has been the implementation of the strategy for 2010-2015: Healthy Communities and Ecosystems; Climate Change – Low-Carbon Economy; and, Greening the Economy in North America.

However it is clear that the budget need to be increased to work not only in the big projects but in the small ones as well, especially in the local ones, of course approved coordinated and controlled through the CEC.

For instance, as you know, Profepa handles the voluntary audit program. Once the facility demonstrates, through an audit, that their environmental performance is above the law, Profepa issues the "Clean Industry Certificate" This is our main objective, our primary goal, our daily activity, but we do not know if the certificate itself or the process can be homologated somehow with our partners: United States and Canada in order to adopt the best practices.

The work we perform every day is a key issue to improve the environment and should be supported by our partners.