



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB 24 2006

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OFFICE OF  
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

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JPAC Chair  
CEC Secretariat  
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Montreal (Quebec)  
H2Y 1N9

William Kennedy  
CEC Executive Director  
Commission for Environmental Cooperation  
393, rue St-Jacques Ouest  
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Dear Mr. Sandoval and Mr. Kennedy:

On behalf of the Council, thank you for your letter of 13 January 2006 stating that the JPAC and the Secretariat are ready to assist the Council with regard to recommendation #14 of the Report of the Ten-year Review and Assessment Committee (TRAC). That recommendation reads in relevant part "... we recommend that the Council ... report publicly on the implementation of [TRAC] recommendations for the 2006 annual meeting of the Council."

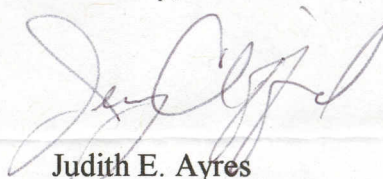
In 2003, noting that January 2004 marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CEC, the Council initiated a review process that would provide recommendations as a means of informing its deliberations on the way forward for the organization. The Council Resolution (CR 03-02) establishing the TRAC, and the Terms of Reference setting forth the TRAC's mandate, which CR 03-02 incorporated by reference, contemplated termination of the activity of the TRAC upon presentation of the final report.

At the 2004 Council Session in Puebla, Mexico, the Council recognized and thanked the Committee for their excellent work in developing the report. As was foreseen, the TRAC report influenced the Council's thinking and helped shape the new vision that was ultimately encapsulated in the Puebla Declaration, thus fulfilling the TRAC's mandate. In addition, when the TRAC members met with the Council in Puebla, Recommendation #14 was discussed at length. The Council was very clear even then that the TRAC process was not intended to create new obligations, and rejected the

notion of expanding the TRAC mandate to include a report out by the Council in 2006. The Council's position regarding the TRAC mandate has not changed.

As always, we appreciate the JPAC's continued engagement in the mission of the CEC and look forward to future advice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Judith E. Ayres', is written over a horizontal line.

Judith E. Ayres  
Assistant Administrator

cc: David McGovern, Alternate Representative for Canada  
José Manuel Bulás Montoro, Alternate Representative for Mexico