



ADVICE TO COUNCIL NO: 03-06

Re: Preventing and Controlling Invasive Species in North America

The Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) of North America;

IN ACCORDANCE with Article 16(4) of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC) which states that JPAC “may provide advice to Council on any matter within the scope of this agreement [...] and on the implementation and further elaboration of this agreement, and may perform such other functions as the Council may direct”;

HAVING participated in a very informative round table on “An Unwelcome Dimension of Trade: The Impact of Invasive Species in North America,” on 4 December 2003, in Miami, Florida, where parliamentarians, experts and policy makers provided information and exchanged views on the ecological and economic impacts of invasive species in North America and discussed options for a CEC role in promoting best approaches for prevention and control;

RECOGNIZING the important baseline work conducted by the CEC through the Conservation of Biodiversity program in identifying existing information and databases;

CONVINCED that serious problems currently exist and enormous problems lie ahead if cost effective solutions for prevention and control are not soon introduced;

UNDERSTANDING that the impacts of invasive species are severe and potentially devastating at many levels—economic, environmental and social;

NOTING that the CEC is ideally positioned to foster trilateral policy and science-based solutions; and

JPAC recommends that Council do the following:

- Make this issue a very high priority for the CEC and champion action on this urgent issue;
- Direct the Secretariat to focus trilateral efforts on developing the appropriate tools to determine acceptable levels of risk and scientific uncertainty and develop policies to support and promote an understanding within the North American constituency of the “cost of doing nothing” at this stage in our common understanding of the impacts of invasive species;

- Encourage the NAAEC Article 10(6) working group to include the issue of invasive species on the agenda for the proposed joint meeting of trade and environment ministers;
- Promote the importance of harmonizing national, regional and local inventories and databases within North America;
- Instruct the Secretariat to continue the very productive strategy of engaging experts, industry and policy makers in future work; and
- Further instruct the Secretariat to increase efforts at educating and communicating information to the public.

Approved by JPAC
9 January 2004