



Comité consultatif public mixte (CCPM)

Comité Consultivo Público Conjunto (CCPC)

Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC)

JPAC SESSION NO. 95-4

October 12-13, 1995

Record of Discussion

A regular session of the members of the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) was held in Oaxaca, Mexico on October 12-13, 1995. The *List of participants*, *Agenda*, *CEC 1996 draft work program* and *Council resolution 95-10* are given Appendices A, B, C and D respectively.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

The Chair

- reminded the members of the importance of the preparatory public session and the regular session of Council to take place the following day;
- in view of the fact that Gilles Lamoureux is attending the Alternate Representatives and Council sessions, Manon Pepin will act as Secretary for this session.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA FOR SESSION NO. 95-4 (October 12-13, 1995)

1. The *agenda* was adopted as presented.

RECORD OF DISCUSSION FOR SESSION NO. 95-3 (August 24-25, 1995)

The *record of discussion* was adopted as presented. However, it was noted that the Spanish translation is not entirely satisfactory.

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

Follow-up: Secretariat

PREPARATORY PUBLIC SESSION

This subject came up for discussion in the Committee and during the meeting with the Alternate Representatives.

- Beatriz Búgeda gave a summary of the presentation she intends to make on behalf of the Secretariat at the preparatory public session. She will explain the CEC's mandate and program, emphasizing the participation of non-government groups in the Commission's activities over the past year.

Follow-up: Secretariat

Patricia Hayes, hired as a consultant to handle the logistics for the preparatory public session, informed the Committee of the process adopted.

At the session with the Alternate Representatives, the JPAC members recommended:

- announcement to the public in attendance of the results of the in-camera session of Council before the ministers meet the media. It was suggested that they meet the public at the conclusion of the preparatory public session, after which the press conference should be held;
- ensuring that the public has enough time for discussion with Council members.

These proposals were adopted by Council.

Follow-up: Council

EXCHANGE OF VIEWPOINTS WITH CHILEAN OBSERVERS

At the invitation of JPAC, representatives of the Chilean *Comisión Nacional del Medio Ambiente (CONAMA)*, Carlos Piña and Leonel Sierrelta, attended for an exchange of viewpoints with Committee members. The representatives stated that:

- environmental issues do not respect borders. For this reason, all environment-related topics are rightly seen as areas of potential cooperation. Although Chile shares no borders with the NAFTA member countries, this should not limit the opportunity for cooperation;
- major efforts to improve the environmental situation in Chile have been made over the past few years, particularly in terms of the harmonization of environmental legislation. Moreover, the Chilean government has adopted a social fairness plan with a view to helping the most economically disadvantaged people reach the objectives of sustainable development;
- concrete actions should be taken soon to maximize public involvement in environmental issues so as to address the issues of public health and energy conservation, among others.

These proposals were recapitulated at the meeting with the Alternate Representatives.

Following this discussion, JPAC members expressed their willingness to work in cooperation with CONAMA. The organization's representative suggested that this discussion be pursued at some future time in Chile.

Follow-up: Chair

1996 CEC WORK PROGRAM

This topic was discussed in the Committee meeting and at the meeting with the Alternate Representatives.

The Secretariat presented the revised *Draft 1996 CEC work program*. Following the presentation, the following issues were raised:

- the willingness of JPAC members to participate in projects, thereby giving the Commission the benefit of each one's expertise;
- a limited number of projects should be taken on so that efforts can be focused and concrete results obtained; however, it is suggested to include three new themes: the urban environment, sustainable development and the role of the private sector;
- the members wish to be regularly informed of activities in connection with the program, as well as to receive reports concerning the projects;
- information dissemination to the public is of prime importance. This involves transmitting information on a wider scale. However, dissemination should not be exclusively by electronic means (e-mail or Internet), especially given that Mexico does not have easy access to these new modes of communication;
- an e-mail address specifically assigned to JPAC would be appropriate.

Follow-up: Secretariat

PREPARATION OF MEETING WITH COUNCIL

In preparing the October 13 meeting with Council, the members discussed the Committee's role. The following points were reaffirmed:

- the importance for JPAC of being sufficiently involved, so that it can play its role as advisor to the Council;
- the members' regret at not having been more involved in preparing the resolutions to be submitted to Council on October 13;
- the willingness to participate in the content of the CEC's program and to contribute to the various projects put forward by the Secretariat;
- the need to receive more information from the Secretariat on a regular basis;
- the proposal to make available to JPAC members a permanent staff member whose primary responsibility would be to act as a liaison between them, the Secretariat and other Commission bodies.

In preparing the private meeting with Council, the three topics of discussion proposed were:

- to inform the Council of the preparatory public session;
- to discuss the role of JPAC;
- to comment on the meeting between the CONAMA guest observers and JPAC members.

Follow-up: Chair

Council resolution 95-10, "*Guidelines for Submissions on Enforcement Matters under Articles 14 and 15 of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation*," is given in Appendix D. Note that this document is subject to ratification by the ministers.

Follow-up: Council

INFORMAL SESSION WITH ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVES

The Chair of JPAC conveyed the following points to the Alternate Representatives concerning the preparatory public session and the public session of Council:

- we must arrange for the public to know the result of the in-camera session of Council before the ministers meet the media. It is suggested that the ministers meet the public before the press conference;
- it must be ensured that the public has enough time for discussion with the ministers during the regular session with Council.

It was then agreed that the ministers should meet the public at the conclusion of the preparatory public session and that, as agreed, there be time for discussion at the regular session of Council.

The Alternate Representatives informed JPAC members that the ministers plan to make at least the following four announcements to the public:

1. Sound management of chemicals;
2. Declaration of intent for cooperation on climate change and joint implementation;
3. Public access to environmental information;
4. Creation of the North American Environment Fund.

The Chair then expressed the viewpoint of JPAC members on the Committee's role.

Please note that subsequent to a meeting with the ministers, the Council mandated JPAC in connection with three specific dossiers:

1. advising the Council on the *Silva Reservoir Report* and submitting an advice within 90 days, i.e. by January 12, 1996;
2. advising the Council on the *1996 CEC work program* proposed by the Secretariat;
3. proposing criteria and parameters to govern the new North American Environment Fund.

Follow-up: JPAC**UPCOMING JPAC SESSIONS**

The members adopted the following calendar:

December 7-8, 1995: JPAC session, location to be determined

ADJOURNMENT

In his closing comments, the Chair emphasized the importance of the preparatory public session and the public session of Council.

The session was adjourned at 6:30 p.m. on October 12, 1995.

Prepared by Manon Pepin
November 15, 1995



Comité consultatif public mixte (CCPM)

Comité Consultivo Público Conjunto (CCPC)

Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC)

Appendice A

JPAC SESSION 95-4 - OCTOBER 12-13, 1995

List of Participants

CANADA

Louise Comeau
Michael E. Cloghesy
Jacques Gérin
Rosemarie Kuptana

MEXICO

Francisco José Barnes
Guillermo Barroso
Jorge A. Bustamente
María Cristina Castro

UNITED STATES

Peter Berle
Jean Richardson
John D. Wirth

OBSERVERS

Amanda Atkinson (Office of Dan Morales)
Carlos Piña (CONAMA)
Leonel Sierrelta (CONAMA)
Angela Stadel (Office of Rosemarie Kuptana)