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UCAI/2595/2004

Mexico City, 8 June 2004

**Ms. Donna Tingley**  
**JPAC Chair for 2004**  
**Commission for Environmental Cooperation**  
**393, rue St-Jacques ouest, bureau 200**  
**Montréal (Québec) H2Y 1N9**

**Re: Advice to Council 03-06**

Dear Ms. Tingley:

On behalf of the Council of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) and the Alternate Representatives I would like to thank the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) for its advice to Council 03-06 relating to the Prevention and Control of Invasive Species in North America.

We recognize the deep negative effects invasive species have on the environment and economy of each of our countries, and we agree with your concerns.

As you know, the Parties – through the CEC's Biodiversity Conservation Working Group -- are working towards a more integrated biodiversity agenda for North America, and some of the activities mentioned by the JPAC are already being considered in the CEC's Biodiversity Strategic Plan. Furthermore, we have instructed the Secretariat to implement a new initiative in 2004 designed to evaluate high priority pathways of invasive species infestation through trilateral trade. The goals of this initiative are the following:

- Evaluate selected trade-related pathways for aquatic invasive species to enter North America, develop best practices to control aquatic invasive species, and identify priorities for capacity building.
- Develop regional guidelines for assessing the risks posed by aquatic alien invasive species in selected trade-related pathways.
- Establish a cooperation framework by 2005 to analyze and monitor actions to better address the main threats to shared species and spaces.
- Identify priorities for cooperation on terrestrial invasive species.



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In addition, this year the Parties are establishing a closer working relationship between our trade ministries and our environmental ministries. The subject of invasive species is of concern to the Parties, thus we expect that it will form a significant component of our discussions with our trade counterparts, as well as our trilateral conversations. We share the JPAC's interest to help the CEC's 10(6) Working Group establish concrete plans and policies to create better paths of communication. Trilateral cooperation in this area will ensure that we continue to promote international trade, as well as ensuring that there are strong links to environmental protection of North America's marine and terrestrial ecosystems.

The Parties will maintain close communication with the JPAC on these important issues. Your advice, comments and assistance in defining strategies have been valuable.

We look forward to continued discussions as this initiative develops. Thank you for your ongoing participation in the mission of the CEC.

Sincerely,



**José Manuel Bulás Montoro**  
Alternate Representative for Mexico  
at CEC Council

cc: Norine Smith, Alternate Representative for Canada  
Judith Ayres, Alternate Representative for the United States of America  
JPAC Members  
William Kennedy, CEC Executive Director