



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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OFFICE OF
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Ms. Jane Gardner
JPAC Chair for 2005
Commission for Environmental Cooperation
393, rue St-Jacques ouest, bureau 200
Montréal (Québec) H2Y 1N9

Dear Ms. Gardner:

On behalf of the Council of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) and the Alternate Representatives (Alt Reps) I would like to thank the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) for its letter to the Council relating to future cooperation between the JPAC and the Council to continue improving the effectiveness of the CEC.

As you are aware, the CEC is currently in the process of implementing the new 2005-2010 Strategic Plan which was approved by the Council at their last Council Session in June 2005 in Quebec City, through the preparation of the 2006-2008 Operational Plan. Both of these documents are based on the three new priority areas for CEC work: 1) Information for Decision-making; 2) Capacity-building; and 3) Trade & Environment. In addition, the Council and the Secretariat are engaging in a review of management reforms that are necessary for the effective implementation of those changes. The Council is focused on ensuring that the CEC effectively manages its budget so that the Strategic and Operational Plans are appropriately supported and that the CEC's work can be maximized to its fullest potential.

We look forward to the opportunity for the Council members or their representatives to hold meetings with their country's JPAC members to discuss how to best improve the effectiveness of the CEC. Mexico has already started holding such meetings and the US and Canada look forward to doing so in the future. We foresee a fruitful exchange of ideas concerning the improvement of public participation and transparency in CEC decision-making and the annual Council Sessions. We also welcome discussions regarding the JPAC's Strategic Plan and opportunities for collaboration in the CEC program.

We look forward to working with you as we make important decisions for the long- and short-term planning and new strategic vision for the CEC work, as well as for improving communication with and participation of the public in the CEC.

Sincerely,



Judith E. Ayres
Assistant Administrator

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