

## SESSION 04-08 OF ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVES

### SUMMARY RECORD

The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) Council, represented by its Alternate Representatives, met via conference call on 5 November 2004. Mr. Jerry Clifford (United States) chaired the meeting. Ms. Jenna McKay-Alie and Elleli Huerta represented Canada and Mexico respectively. Ms. Donna Tingley represented the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) and Mr. William Kennedy, CEC executive director, represented the Secretariat. Ms. Julie-Anne Bellefleur, Council secretary, acted as secretary for the session.

This session was convened by the Alternate Representatives for the purpose of discussing the release of the Secretariat's Article 13 report entitled: *Maize and Biodiversity: The Effects of Transgenic Maize in Mexico*.

The Alternate Representatives cleared the language of the Parties' note to be included at the front of the report, with the change proposed by Mexico to the Spanish version of the note and of the transmittal letter from the United States, dated 4 November 2004 (i.e., replacement of "Publication of this report does not constitute endorsement of its contents by the Council" by "La publicación de este informe no necesariamente refleja los puntos de vista de las Partes").

In accordance with Article 13(3) of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC), the Alternate Representatives instructed the Secretariat to release the final version of its Article 13 report on the CEC web site, as soon as practicable, after Monday, 8 November. The Secretariat was instructed to include the Parties' note on the second page of the report and append the comments and transmittal letters provided by the Parties on the draft and final versions at the end of the report. The Parties also instructed the Secretariat to include their note and comments in the bound copies of the report, which will be available within approximately two weeks from November 8. They also agreed that the news release previously agreed upon by the Parties be released on the CEC listserv at the same time as the electronic version of the report is posted.

The executive director noted for the record that while the Parties' note and comments will be physically attached to the report, as per the Council's instruction, neither of these elements is to be construed as being part of the Secretariat's Article 13 report.

The JPAC chair indicated that following the release of the report, members of the JPAC working group on the Article 13 report would consider the development of JPAC's advice to Council.

In closing, the United States representative thanked everyone for their efforts which led to the public release of the report in advance of the 60-day period provided for in Article 13(3) of the NAAEC.