

**SESSION 06-01 OF ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVES**  
**SUMMARY RECORD**

The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) Council, represented by its Alternate Representatives, met via conference call on 2 March 2006. Mr. Jerry Clifford (United States) chaired the meeting, Mr. José Manuel Bulás and Ms. Jenna Mackay-Alie (in replacement of David McGovern) represented Mexico and Canada, respectively. Mr. Doug Wright, acting CEC Executive Director, represented the Secretariat, Mr. Carlos Sandoval, JPAC Chair, and Ms. Nathalie Daoust, Council secretary, acted as secretary for the session. Other officials of the Parties and the Secretariat were also in attendance.

The chair opened the session and extended welcoming remarks to the new JPAC chair. He also took the opportunity to thank the general standing committee and the Secretariat for the work carried out in reviewing the proposed 2006-2008 Operational Plan.

The Mexican Alternate Representative reported that Mexico had transferred US\$1 million to the CEC in order to cover its arrears and would be transferring US\$3.8 millions to the CEC in the coming weeks.

**Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda**

The Alternate Representatives adopted the agenda.

**Item 2 Interventions by the Acting Executive Director and JPAC representative**

The JPAC Chair reported on the upcoming JPAC meeting in Vancouver on 28 March 2006 being held in conjunction with the Globe Conference. He extended a personal invitation to the Alternate Representatives and indicated that the meeting would center on the North American Clean Electronics Pollution Prevention Partnership. He also mentioned that the Globe Conference would provide an opportunity to hold a workshop with SMEs entitled “Business across North America for green products – Opportunities and Barriers for SMEs”.

The CEC acting executive director congratulated JPAC for the meeting being organized in Vancouver and thanked the Mexican Alternate Representative for the announcement he had made regarding Mexico’s financial contribution to the CEC. The Director of the SEM Unit followed with a briefing on SEM matters and reminded Parties of the votes on whether to instruct the Secretariat to prepare factual records (Quebec Automobiles, Lago Chapala II, and Coal-Fired Power Plants) that have been pending for 10, 9.5 and 3 months, respectively.

**Item 3 Budget Matters**

The Canadian representative provided an update on Canada’s ability to sign the 2006 funding resolution. She first thanked the United States and Mexico for accommodating the difficult

situation and reported that Minister Ambrose was fully apprised of the CEC and, consequently, the issue would hopefully be resolved shortly. The US Alternate Representative asked the Mexican representative whether, following the upcoming Mexican elections, a similar situation could arise. The Mexican Alternate Representative assured that Mexico's full contribution for 2006 would be paid in the coming weeks and that the new Mexican administration would only be in place in December 2006.

The Mexican Alternate Representative reiterated a previous request that the Council Session be postponed until after the 2 July 2006 Mexican elections. Both the US and Canadian Alternate Representatives indicated they were unable to at this time confirm the availability of their respective Council members after 2 July, but would be considering Mexico's request and provide a response. The Canadian representative stated that the new Canadian environment minister, Rona Ambrose, had confirmed her availability for 28 June.

The Alternate Representatives voted in favor of Council Resolution 06-01 authorizing that the funds committed as of 31 December 2005 for the completion of the activities described in the Executive Director's memorandum of 22 February 2006 continue to be available after 28 February 2006 until the dates specified for each activity. The Alternate Representatives also voted in favor of Council Resolution 06-02 authorizing the Secretariat to use, until 31 March 2006, surplus funds from financial year 2005 towards 2006 operational expenses, not to exceed C\$500,000.00 and all expenses related to the JPAC meeting and Secretariat participation at the JPAC and Globe meetings during the week of 27-31 March 2006, not to exceed C\$120,000.00

The Alternate Representatives agreed to postpone their vote on Council Resolution 06-03 until after their discussion on the 2006-2008 Operational Plan.

#### **Item 4      2006-2008 Operational Plan**

The Alternate Representatives approved Sections 1 through 3.4 of the 2006-2008 Operational Plan. In reference to Section 3.5 on *Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting*, the US Alternate Representative expressed concern that the draft language was not specific enough and did not meet US expectations regarding measurement and tracking of results. Both the Canadian and Mexican representatives agreed that this section needed to be revised and tasked the GSC to work on finalizing it. The Alternate Representatives approved Section 4 of the 2006-2008 Operational Plan.

The Chair reported on progress made at the GSC level in discussing the project descriptions. The Alternate Representatives approved four of the six projects under the Information for Decision-Making pillar (projects 1, 3, 4, and 6); they approved three of the four projects under the Capacity Building pillar (projects 1, 3, and 4); and they approved five of the six projects under the Trade and Environment pillar (projects 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6). The Alternate Representatives tasked the GSC with resolving the issues regarding the remaining projects to be approved. [The attached Summary of Decisions provides the status of each project.]

In reference to the draft Council Resolution 06-03, both the US and Mexican representatives indicated they were not in a position to vote in its favor pending a legal review. The Canadian

representative indicated that Canada was in a position to sign Council Resolution 06-03. As a point of clarification, she also underlined that Canada was approving the 2006-2008 Operational Plan subject to the approval of the 2006 funding resolution.

#### **Item 5 Other Issues**

The Mexican Alternate Representative introduced a proposal from the Mexican government to conduct a study of the *Procuraduría Federal para la Protección del Medio Ambiente* (“Profepa: towards a real assessment of its performance”). The purpose of this study is to assess the contribution of PROFEPA to environmental protection, human health and poverty alleviation. In addition to evaluating the efficiency of the institution, he indicated that such a study could bring about changes in the way environmental legislation is monitored in Mexico. He added that Mexico was proposing to allocate C\$120,000.00 from the CEC general funds for this project.

Both the US and Canadian representatives indicated they would need to review the proposal before making a decision. The JPAC Chair expressed support for this initiative.

#### **Item 6 Next Session of the Alternate Representatives**

The Alternate Representatives agreed to hold their next meeting in Montreal on 12-13 April 2006.