

SESSION 03-04 OF ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVES

DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD

The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) Council, represented by its Alternate Representatives, met via conference call on 12 and 16 June 2003. Ms. Judith Ayres and Mr. Jerry Clifford (United States) chaired the meeting. Ms. Norine Smith and Ms. Ogla Ojeda represented Canada and Mexico respectively. Mr. Gustavo Alanís-Ortega represented the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) and Mr. Victor Shantora, CEC Acting Executive Director, represented the Secretariat. Ms. Julie-Anne Bellefleur, Council Secretary, acted as secretary for the session. Other officials of the Parties and the Secretariat were also in attendance.

Item 1 Adoption of the agenda

The Alternate Representatives adopted the agenda based on the provisional agenda (Annex A), with the exception of item 4 (approval of Summary Records), which was deferred to their next session.

Item 2 Report by the Acting Executive Director

The Acting Executive Director referred to his memo of 11 June 2003 to the Alternate Representative relating to the negotiation of new lease for the offices of the CEC. Considering the favorable conditions in Montreal's current real estate market, he inquired whether Council could authorize him to proceed with the negotiation of new lease for the offices of the CEC either through the adoption of a resolution, or the recording of such a decision in a Summary Record.

The Alternate Representatives authorized the Acting Executive Director to proceed with the negotiation of the lease and agreed that a resolution was not required providing that their decision would be recorded in the summary record of this session.

The Acting Executive Director took the opportunity to inform the Alternate Representatives that, as per the Secretariat's previous commitment to expedite the processing of citizens submissions, three factual records were ready to be forwarded to Council for a vote on their release to the public (Oldman River, BC Mining and BC Logging). In light of competing demands generated by the upcoming Council Session, the Canadian Alternate Representative invited the Secretariat to submit these factual records immediately following the Council Session.

Item 3 Report by the JPAC Chair

In the interest of time, the JPAC Chair indicated that he would reserve his comments for the discussion on the agenda for the Council Session but he invited the Parties to provide an update on the nomination of the new Executive Director. The United States representative indicated

that the selected candidate had accepted the CEC's offer and that he would be introduced at the upcoming Council Session. She underlined that this appointment was not yet into the public domain and that a press release would be issued shortly.

Item 4 Adoption of Summary Records

The adoption of the summary records of Sessions 03-01, 03-02 and 03-03 was deferred to the next session of Alternate Representatives.

Item 5 2003 Council Session

The Alternate Representatives finalized all outstanding items on the draft annotated agenda for the Council's in-camera session.

They also provided an update on the status of their nominations on the Ten-Year Review and Assessment Committee (TRAC). The Canadian representatives indicated that one candidate had accepted to join the TRAC and that a response from a second candidate was forthcoming. The United States representative indicated that one candidate had confirmed acceptance and that they were pursuing their search for a second candidate. The Mexican representative indicated that the nomination of their two candidates had been confirmed in April 2003.

The Acting Executive Director noted that the United States' delegation, including special observers expected at the Council's in-camera session, was exceptionally large. In light of space considerations, he invited the United States to consider the possibility of streamlining the number of representatives that would be attending the session at any one time.

In closing, the Alternate Representatives agreed to vote on the release of the Aquanova factual record at their next session to be held on 23 June in Washington, D.C. To that effect, they asked the Secretariat to draft a Council Resolution for their consideration.

Item 6 Other Issues

No other issues were discussed.

Item 7 Next session of Alternate Representatives

The Alternate Representatives agreed to meet on the morning of 23 June 2003 in Washington, D.C.

Item 8 Closure of the session

The Chair adjourned the Session.

