

SESSION 07-01 OF ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVES

SUMMARY RECORD

The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) Council, represented by its Alternate Representatives, met via conference call on 31 January 2007. Mr. Enrique Lendo Fuentes (Mexico) chaired the meeting, Mr. Jerry Clifford and Ms. Jenna Mackay-Alie (on behalf of David McGovern) represented the United States and Canada, respectively. Mr. Adrian Vazquez, CEC executive director, represented the Secretariat, Ms. Irene Henriques, represented JPAC as its 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. He then suggested that the Alternate Representatives define the most suitable dates for their next face-to-face meeting which he offered to host in Mexico. The Canadian representative thanked him for the gracious invitation but indicated that, given the distance, it might be easier to find a time in David McGovern's busy schedule if the February or March meeting took place in Montreal. She suggested that the meeting following, likely to be scheduled in April, could be held in Mexico. This proposal was supported by the Mexican and US Alternate Representatives. The Alternate Representatives agreed to consider holding a one-day meeting in Montreal the week of 26 February 2007, and asked the GSC to work with the Secretariat in defining a mutually convenient time.

Item 1 Adoption of the agenda

The Alternate Representatives adopted the agenda based on the provisional agenda.

Item 2 Administrative matters

Item 2.1 Approval of use of pre-2006 surplus funds for 2007 budget expenses

Under this item, the Alternate Representatives voted in favor of draft Council Resolution 07-01, which approves the use of surplus funds from pre-2006 financial years for 2007 budget expenses. This resolution supersedes Council Resolution 06-13, signed on 19 December 2006. The Canadian representative took the opportunity to convey that their department was working diligently with the new Canadian Environment Minister to obtain CEC funding for 2007.

Item 3 Submissions on Enforcement Matters

Item 3.1 Council decision on whether to make the final factual record publicly available in relation to SEM-02-001 (Ontario Logging) and SEM-04-006 (Ontario Logging II)

The Canadian representative conveyed that their department had received instructions from the new Environment minister to put this factual record in the public domain as soon as possible,

therefore Canada was prepared to vote in favor of Council Resolution 07-02. The Mexican and US Alternate Representatives also voted in favor of Council Resolution 07-02 instructing the Secretariat to make the final factual record publicly available in relation to SEM-02-001 and SEM 04-006.

Item 3.2 Council decision on whether to make the final factual record publicly available in relation to SEM 02-003 (Pulp & Paper)

The Canadian representative indicated that they had also been instructed by the new Environment Minister to make this factual record publicly available and that they were pleased that Parties' comments would be an integral part of the document. The US shared that they were diligent to make progress on SEM matters and thanked Canada for bringing this issue to the Minister's attention. The Alternate Representatives voted in favor of Council Resolution 07-03, instructing the Secretariat to make the final factual record publicly available in relation to SEM-02-003.

In closing, the US Alternate Representative reminded his counterparts that two other SEM decisions were pending (Lago Chapala II and Coal-fired Power Plants). He indicated that the US was prepared to discuss both of these matters, either independently or through a conference call of the Alternate Representatives. He encouraged Mexico and Canada to work as diligently as possible on these two decisions. The Canadian Alternate Representative assured him that they were mindful of the issues and that they were hopeful that the two speedy decisions made today would pave the way for speedy decisions on the pending matters.

In response to the Parties' query concerning the date of publication of the factual records, the Executive Director mentioned that the .pdf versions of the documents would be available in less than 48 hours, followed by a printed version that would be made available within the next two weeks. He also indicated that the draft listserv announcements would be circulated to the Parties in advance of the publication. The Director of the SEM Unit reminded the Alternate Representatives that the signed resolutions in all three languages needed to be faxed to the Secretariat. The Alternate Representatives committed to faxing the signed resolutions.

The Mexican Alternate Representative reported that Mexico was working hard on assessing the Secretariat's determination on the Lago Chapala II submission but that they were not ready to present their position at this time. However, he committed to addressing this matter in as short a timeframe as possible.

On a different matter, the Canadian representative referred to the formal internal evaluation being carried out on Environment Canada's involvement in the CEC. She explained that the Secretariat had been briefed on the findings and invited the US and Mexican Alternate Representatives to be briefed as well. Both welcomed this opportunity and indicated they sought to schedule it at the earliest convenience.

In closing, the Mexican Alternate Representative conveyed that he was very happy to be working with the CEC and assured everyone of Semarnat's support. The JPAC chair also remarked that this had been a very efficient conference call.