

SESSION 98-05 ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVES

**SUMMARY RECORD
18 June 1998**

The Council, represented by the Alternate Representatives, met via conference call on 18 June 1998. Mr. José Luis Samaniego (Mexico) chaired the meeting and Messrs. Avrim Lazar and William Nitze represented Canada and the United States, respectively. Ms. Janine Ferretti, Interim Executive Director of the CEC and Mr. Marc Paquin, Council Secretary participated on behalf of the Secretariat. Mr. Jonathan Plaut attended on behalf of the JPAC. Other government officials were also in attendance.

Item 1 Adoption of the provisional agenda

The agenda was adopted as proposed.

Item 2 Approval of summary records

The Alternate Representatives (US to confirm final OK) approved the summary records for sessions 97-10, 98-02 (with an amendment in item 5.4), 98-03 and 98-04.

Item 3 1998 Regular session of the Council

Item 3.1 Communiqué

The Alternate Representatives agreed to form a drafting committee for the communiqué to be comprised of a representative from the United States, the Alternate Representatives from Canada and Mexico and Michael Keating. The committee will meet initially on 23 June at 7:00 p.m. In the meantime comments on the draft communiqué can be sent to M. Keating.

Item 3.2 General program

The Alternate Representatives will inform their respective member of the Council that an informal meeting of the Council is tentatively scheduled for 24 June from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the hotel in Mérida and that the Council members and the Alternate Representatives have a scheduled informal breakfast on 25 June from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. in the Presidential Suite.

The Alternate Representatives were informed that a working lunch has been scheduled for the Council on 25 June. The Secretariat will provide a room where the Council and the Alternate representatives could meet during that lunch or at any other time.

The program for the session was organized so as to allow the JPAC to meet with the Alternate Representatives on 24 June from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The program for Friday morning was also organized to allow the Council to meet with JPAC for an hour and a half instead of an hour as initially scheduled. Therefore, the break that was scheduled to take place between 10:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. is removed from the program. As well, it was agreed that the Alternate

Representatives would meet in session at 12h30 p.m. on 24 June to review outstanding issues related to the regular session of the Council.

In addition, Mexico offered to organize, for the Council, an excursion to a natural marine reserve on Friday afternoon after the press conference. Mexico also offered to organize an optional excursion for all delegation members all day Saturday.

The Alternate Representatives agreed that the dress code for all events should be casual and asked the Secretariat to inform all participants of that decision.

The agenda for the regular session of the Council was approved with a correction to the title of item 9.1 which will be reflected in the next version of the agenda.

Discussing the agenda for the regular session of the Council, the Alternate representatives asked the Secretariat to prepare as soon as possible a draft proposal for the two outstanding issues related to environment, economy and trade based on their discussion. These issues were: cooperative work between the Free Trade Commission and the CEC, and scoping of the linkages between trade and species' conservation in North America.

On the issue of Greenhouse Emissions Trading, the Alternate Representatives indicated they are ready to discuss that item during the session of the Council. Concerning the agenda item on environmental emergencies, the United States indicated it would make its best efforts to have a position on the issue by the session of the Council. Canada indicated its support for the initiative stressing that its support is specific to the situation at hand.

Concerning the item on environmental management systems and compliance, the Alternate Representatives indicated that further to their review of the report prepared by the working group, the Council could consider the opportunity for a follow-up phase and how JPAC could contribute to the issue.

The Alternate Representatives asked Mr. Robert Connelly, Head of the Canadian delegation for the negotiations on TEIA to prepare, in consultation with his counterparts from Mexico and the United States, a short paragraph to be included in the communiqué of the session of the Council outlining the progress of the negotiations thus far and the related expectations.

The Alternate Representatives agreed, with regard to the review of the Articles 14 and 15 Guidelines, to take a look at the proposed revisions on 24 June in Mérida, after the GSC meeting on 23 June. Finally, it was agreed that the Part V model rules and the revised Articles 14 and 15 Guidelines be developed and approved at the same time.

Item 3.3 Other issues

No issues were raised under this item.

Item 4 Approval of the 1998 Annual Program and Budget

The 1998 Annual Program and Budget (1998 APB) was approved by the Alternate Representatives with the exception of the Environment, economy and Trade program area which will be the subject of a discussion by the Council during its regular session. Copies of the approved sections of the 1998 APB will be made available to the participants at the regular session of the Council.

Item 5 1997 Annual Report

This item was not discussed.

Item 6 Submission on enforcement matters under Articles 14 and 15

In the matter of submission SEM-97-001 (BC Hydro), the Alternate Representatives indicated that their respective internal review of the file was progressing at a good pace and that they expected to be in a position to decide on whether or not to instruct the Secretariat to develop a factual record soon, pending the opinions of their legal counsel.

Item 7 Other business

Item 7.1 External audit of the 1997 financial statements

Mexico indicated that its review of the confirmation letter to be addressed to the auditors Samson, Bélair, Deloitte & Touche regarding its contribution to the CEC for 1997 was completed and that it would return the letter duly signed to the auditors.

Item 8 Next session of Alternate Representatives

The next session will be held on 24 June at 12h30 p.m. in Mérida.

Item 9 Closure of the session

The Chairperson closed the session.

Prepared by Marc Paquin, Council Secretary