



ADVICE TO COUNCIL: NO. 01-02

Re: Free Trade Area of the Americas Agreement (FTAA)

The Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC):

IN ACCORDANCE with its mandate to provide advice to Council;

HAVING discussed, during its regular session 01-01, held on 16 March 2001, the absence of environmental issues in the discourse leading to the upcoming Summit of the Americas in Quebec City, Canada, on a Free Trade Area of the Americas agreement;

NOTING plans for a meeting of Environment Ministers of the Americas to be held on 29-30 March 2001, in Montreal, Quebec;

URGES the Council, through its members, to ensure that a FTAA agreement include mechanisms to deal with the linkages between environment and trade. An example of such a mechanism is the CEC, established in the environmental side agreement to NAFTA, which, among other objectives, has been able to implement programs related to:

- a) the sound management of chemicals;
- b) the collection and dissemination of data related to the emission of toxic chemicals;
- c) identification of strategies to reduce the environmental impact of increased activity in trade corridors;
- d) protection of shared wildlife species such as migratory birds and the Monarch butterfly;
- e) environmental protection and environmental enforcement; and
- f) trade in green goods and shade coffee.

JPAC further recommends that any provisions in a FTAA agreement that permits investors to claim damages for regulatory, or policy actions, must not interfere with the ability of any Party to protect the environment or natural resources.

APPROVED BY THE JPAC MEMBERS

28 March 2001