

b) Accord de coopération dans le domaine de l'environnement entre le gouvernement du Canada et le gouvernement de la République du Chili

L'Accord de coopération dans le domaine de l'environnement entre le Canada et le Chili, un « accord additionnel » à l'Accord de libre-échange entre le Canada et le Chili, est entré en vigueur en juillet 1997. L'Accord reprend essentiellement les dispositions de l'ANACE et souligne l'engagement des deux parties de mener un programme de travail coopératif et de mettre en oeuvre des mesures visant l'application efficace de leurs lois environnementales.

La Commission canado-chilienne de coopération environnementale, qui s'inspire du modèle de la Commission de l'ANACE, sera officiellement établie le 9 novembre 1998, date à laquelle la composition des secrétariats nationaux et des divers comités établis conformément à l'Accord devrait aussi être annoncée.

c) Climate Change

Negotiations with the objective of reaching an agreement on commitments for greenhouse gas emission reductions beyond the year 2000 led to the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol at the Third Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC), held in December 1997 in Japan. Canada signed the Kyoto Protocol in April 1998; as of August 25, there were 50 signatories. The Protocol will enter into force when 55 parties representing 55% of global greenhouse gas emissions ratify. There have been no ratifications to date.

The Protocol contains greenhouse gas emission reduction commitments aimed at reducing global emissions by at least 5% below 1990 levels in an initial commitment period spanning 2008-2012 (Article 3.1). These commitments, addressed to developed countries and countries with economies in transition ("Annex I Parties"), can be met through net changes in greenhouse gas emissions from sources and removals by sinks resulting from certain types of land-use change and forestry activities (Article 3.3). The Protocol does not introduce emission reduction commitments for developing countries. Canada committed to reducing its aggregate emissions by 6% from 1990 levels (Annex B).

A number of "flexibility mechanisms" are outlined in the Protocol, intended to allow parties to choose the most efficient and cost-effective routes towards emission reductions and/or enhancement of emissions sinks. Thus, the Protocol allows for joint implementation (Article 6), the use of a clean development mechanism (Article 12) and emissions trading (Article 17). The common denominator of all flexibility mechanisms is that they involve transfers of emission rights or emission reduction credits among Protocol parties. While international emissions trading involves transfers of portions of their emissions allowances