

Workshop and Public Consultations on Environmental Assessments of Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements

You are invited to participate in a workshop and public consultation scheduled to take place on December 1, 2005, from 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Hotel Delta Centre-Ville in Montreal, 777 rue University, in room “Regence A” on Floor C. Due to limited seating, a maximum number of 60 participants can be accommodated for this session and breakout groups. Registration will occur on the first day of the Symposium and will be based on first come first serve.

Purpose

The purpose of the workshop is to raise public awareness about Environmental Assessments of Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements (FIPA) and provide an opportunity for the Government of Canada to consult interested individuals representing academia, civil society and industry groups on this important topic.

Structure

The workshop will be divided into two sessions. The first session will involve a short presentation by International Trade Canada (ITCan) on Environmental Assessments of FIPAs followed by a short question and answer period. The second session will involve small group discussions focusing on specific questions related to the topic which will be distributed to participants in advance when they register for the workshop. Groups will be asked to report to plenary at the end of the session.

Representatives of International Trade Canada, Foreign Affairs Canada, Environment Canada (TBC), and the Environmental Assessment Agency (TBC) will conduct the session.

Follow-Up

Workshop proceedings will be summarized and be made available to the public on the CEC and International Trade Canada websites.

Background on Environmental Assessments of Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements

The Government of Canada is committed to conducting Strategic Environmental Assessments (EAs) of Trade and Investment Negotiations. All EAs follow the 2001 [Framework for the Environmental Assessment of Trade Negotiations](http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/tna-nac/env/env-ea-en.asp) (link to <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/tna-nac/env/env-ea-en.asp>) (The Framework). The main purpose of EAs, which focus on the environmental impacts in Canada, is to assist Canadian trade and investment negotiators to integrate environmental considerations into the negotiating process and to respond to environmental concerns expressed by the public. Public and stakeholder consultations are an integral part of the EAs and are undertaken throughout the process.

Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements negotiations are subject to EAs. To date, the Framework has been applied to the [Canada-Peru FIPA](http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/tna-nac/IYT/consult-regbil-en.asp#peru) {link to <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/tna-nac/IYT/consult-regbil-en.asp#peru>}. FIPA EAs are conducted by an Interdepartmental Environmental Assessment Committee which includes representation at a minimum from International Trade Canada, Foreign Affairs Canada, Environment Canada and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency.