

**ADDENDUM****International Committee Report to CCLS Annual Meeting  
Quebec City, October 2 to 4, 2007****1. Recent Changes to the NAFTA MRA Negotiation Situation**

In August, I sent the English version of the First Formal Bilateral NAFTA Meeting minutes that I prepared to FECITEUM Presidente Lino Solis, Ing. Ignacio (Nacho) Marcial Figueroa, Ing. Braulio Mercado Gutierrez and Enrique G. Larios Arcos, as well as to Dick Wright and Hugh O'Donnell, CCLS International Committee members.

Carlos Arizmendis, a former University of Mexico City Geomatics instructor, sent an email to me on September 10th that said that FECITEUM had no right to represent the Ingenieros Topographers. Mexican Committees for International Professional Practice (COMPI's), are organizations that claim that they are the proper organizations that we should deal with. (See Note 1, below.)

I immediately notified Vince Sacchetti at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) and copied Dick and Hugh. Vince followed up with the Canadian Embassy which replied that FECITEUM had not applied for a comfort letter. This is a letter from the federal government saying that the organization is recognized as having authority to negotiate on behalf of their constituency. Vince said that the Mexican Economics Ministry was notified by his Department two years ago but that Ministry seems to have failed to notify the appropriate COMPI.

Late last week I got a letter from Presidente Lino confirming that it was true. They need to get permission to represent the Mexican surveyors.

All have egg on our faces. Between Bob Prescott (former US NAFTA Committee Chair) and me, we certainly tried to push them to get the comfort letter. It's in the minutes.

**2. As It Stands Now**

Presidente Lino's letter seems to say that FECITEUM will try right away to get permission, then we go on as though nothing happened, but the COMPI for engineering may have its nose out of joint and will stonewall, just to teach the surveyors a lesson.

There may be some embarrassment in Mexican Government circles and they might put pressure on the COMPI to cooperate, considering the "the tremendous work that has been accomplished to date and the potential for a lost opportunity should the MRA negotiations not proceed to conclusion." (quote from Vince's last email to me.)

Canadian Embassy staff spoke to SEP on Friday September 14th to set up a meeting the next week to address this issue. The Embassy is informed of the involvement of Mexican government officials from Economia dating back to 2005 in respect to our negotiations. "Hence their claim that no one from Mexican government was aware of your negotiations is totally unfounded. This is a case of a serious lack of consultations between relevant government agencies. We recognize however that this does not excuse FECITEUM of engaging in MRA negotiations in the absence of their government's support." "It's good that FECITEUM is aware of their mistake and we must leave it to them to sort it out with SEP." (Quotes from Vince's email to me September 14th.)

CCLS is looking for any way possible to save money so the delay for us at this time is not all negative. The International Committee can stop spending money on NAFTA until the Mexicans resolve the issue and the President could double as the liaison to NSPS if that is CCLS's wish.

The above information was made known to a special meeting of CCLS held in Ottawa on September 17th and 18th. It was decided to have the Futures Task Force consider the new MRA before sending it to the member associations, or even if it should go. It appears that the MRA that the International Committee was about to introduce may be premature until FECITEUM gets its blessing from COMPI. The MRA may be worthless if it doesn't. I doubt that it can be straightened out before the CCLS AGM. For the reader's information, the draft MRA and the draft English version Minutes are on the CCLS website.

### **3. Revised Recommendations:**

Because of this unexpected turn of events, the International Committee is recommending acceptance of the Report, and the draft MRA as information but is withdrawing its recommendation that the MRA be circulated to the member associations for comment until the problem raised by the COMPI is resolved.

It also withdraws its recommendation that the MRA be studied by DFAIT to verify that the meaning and intentions of the English and Spanish versions are the same, however, consistent with the wishes of DFAIT, the Committee will forward a copy of the draft minutes and draft MRA to DFAIT for information purposes.

Similarly, all the recommendations on Page 3 of 5 of the International Committee Report should be directed to the CCLS Futures Committee for consideration.

The International Committee awaits direction concerning all its functions as outlined in its Terms of Reference.

Wayne Brubacher, Chair,  
CCLS International Committee.

### **Note 1.**

I found this explanation for COMPI's while preparing this addendum to my report.

#### **UNDERSECRETARY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH GENERAL DIRECTION OF PROFESSIONS**

##### **a) Measures adopted since the last meeting of the Committee with regard to the creation and/or reorganization of the regional organizations responsible for the application of the Convention.**

It is considered that this matter is the competence of the General Direction of Accreditation, Incorporation and Recognition.

##### **b) Bilateral, subregional or regional Agreements signed by the Member States. Treaty of North American Free Trade (TLCAN).**

In accordance with Annex 1210.5 of Chapter XII of the TLCAN, twelve Mexican Committees were constituted for the International Practice of Professions being negotiated (COMPI's): Actuarial, Agronomy, Architecture, Public Accounting, Law (Juridical Adviser), Infirmary, Pharmacy, Engineering, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and

Zootechnics, Odontology and Psychology. These Committees are in charge of preparing mutually acceptable standards and criteria for the granting of licenses and certificates to the providers of professional services, and of presenting to the Free Trade Commission the recommendations regarding mutual recognition which they agree upon with their United States and Canadian counterparts.

These standards and criteria are being prepared based on the following aspects: education, examinations, experience, conduct and ethics, professional development and renewal of certification, area of action, local knowledge and protection for the consumer.