

UNITED STATES - MEXICO
HIGH LEVEL CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION ON
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Eighth Meeting, Washington, D.C.
July 17, 2006

JOINT STATEMENT

Critical economic and public safety needs in the common border area and rapid technological change make it imperative that the United States and Mexico work closely together on telecommunications issues. To that end, both countries have successfully concluded the Eighth Meeting of the United States-Mexico High Level Consultative Commission on Telecommunications (HLCC). Among principal outcomes were the signature of a protocol governing use of a key spectrum band in the border area and an intent to conclude an additional spectrum sharing protocol in the near future. These agreements should facilitate cross-border communication and prevent harmful interference in heavily populated regions. The two countries also discussed a wide variety of issues dealing with spectrum policy, broadcasting, and new technologies and services, with a particular focus on facilitating cross-border public safety and security communications.

The delegation of the United States, led by Ambassador David A. Gross, United States Coordinator for International Communications and Information Policy, Department of State, accompanied by Kevin J. Martin, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission and John M.R. Kneuer, Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information and Acting NTIA Administrator, and the delegation of Mexico, led by Jorge Alvarez Hoth, Under Secretary of Communications of the Ministry of Communications and Transportation, accompanied by Hector G. Osuna Jaime, Chairman of the Federal Telecommunications Commission, having met in Washington, D.C. on July 17, 2006, state that:

The delegations recognize that the actions that flow from the exchange of views and perspectives regarding telecommunications and broadcasting establish an essential foundation and important forward looking incentive for the peoples and industries in the common border area in stimulating economic growth and making critical improvements in border security;

The delegations also recognize that, along the common border, we need to coordinate sharing of the radio frequency spectrum in an equitable and expeditious manner in order to ensure the efficient and compatible development and dynamic functioning of the diverse technologies and varied radiocommunication networks that support the economy of that region;

The delegations considered the following topics, among others, in their discussions:

- Radiocommunication – Reconfiguration of 800 MHz band, new applications in the 700 MHz band (which until now has been used by the television broadcasting service) as well as improving security communications along the common border, and
- Broadcasting – The need for continuing efforts to ensure compatible operations among the radio and television services in the common border area, and ensuring compatibility among the broadcasting and other radiocommunication services.

The delegations reiterate their common desire and intention to promote cooperation and coordination in finding solutions to challenges that arise in the operation of telecommunication and broadcasting services along the common border and those involving satellite services, including implementing cross-border security communications under the Action Plan signed in Brownsville, Texas on March 3, 2006, as well as to review and update existing telecommunications and broadcasting Agreements in order to, among other things, accommodate technological advances and the introduction of new services;

The delegations reaffirm the desire to continue coordinating their work at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and, when in the interests of both Parties, to coordinate their positions for the meetings of the ITU Council and for the Conferences and Assemblies of the ITU sectors as well as in the preparatory work of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) for the Conferences, Assemblies and Meetings of the ITU. The delegations reaffirm that they intend to push for the consolidation of the community connectivity indicators adopted by the ITU;

The delegations share the understanding that the use of the radio frequency spectrum as regards the Action Items of the North America Security and

Prosperity Partnership (SPP) Initiative should be coordinated on a bilateral basis prior to use;

The delegations take note of the results reached by the HLCC Bilateral Working Level to develop a protocol to share the 698-806 MHz band in the common border area, and express their intent to conclude the protocol as soon as possible;

The delegations further reaffirm the general principle that the HLCC should meet once per year, and in case that a face-to-face meeting cannot be held, a video conference will be arranged as a timely alternative;

The delegations sign the following document:

- Protocol Concerning the Allotment and Use of the 138-144 MHz Band for Terrestrial Non-Broadcasting Radiocommunication Services Along the Common Border; and

The delegations adopt the following document:

- The Directory of Bilateral Issues 2006-2008, which consists of the following sections: satellites, broadcasting, radiocommunication, international issues, SPP Initiative and other telecommunications matters. The Directory contains the topics that should be addressed by the staff of the Bilateral Working Level in advancing its work;

Once again the delegations instruct the staff of the Bilateral Working Level in charge of administering the matters of the bilateral agenda to hold at least two meetings per year to review the full bilateral agenda, on dates that they find mutually acceptable. The Bilateral Task Groups should meet as often as necessary on mutually acceptable dates;

The delegations further note that the Bilateral Working Level now includes the following groups:

- Bilateral Task Group on Radiocommunications,
- Bilateral Task Group on Security Communications,
- Bilateral Task Group on the North America Security and Prosperity Partnership Initiative (SPP),
- Bilateral Task Group on Broadcasting,
- Bilateral Task Group on Planning Communications Services, and

- Bilateral Task Group on Satellites;

The delegations intend to present a report on activities regarding the work of the HLCC to the XXIII United States - Mexico Binational Commission; and

Finally, in order to continue with their agenda, to deal with difficult situations that may arise in the common border area and to strengthen our bilateral relations, the delegations state that they intend to hold the Ninth Meeting of the HLCC in Mexico during 2007.

Signed at Washington, D.C., the seventeenth day of July 2006.

/s/ Jorge Alvarez Hoth

Mr. Jorge Alvarez Hoth
Under Secretary of Communications
Secretariat of Communications and
Transportation of Mexico

/s/ David A. Gross

Ambassador David A. Gross
United States Coordinator for
International Communications and
Information Policy
United States Department of State

/s/ Hector G. Osuna Jaime

Mr. Hector G. Osuna Jaime
Chairman, Federal
Telecommunications Commission

/s/ Kevin J. Martin

Mr. Kevin J. Martin
Chairman, Federal Communications
Commission

/s/ John M.R. Kneuer

Mr. John M. R. Kneuer
Acting Assistant Secretary of
Commerce for Communications and
Information, and Acting Administrator
of the National Telecommunications
and Information Administration