

**Joint Meeting of
the Executive Committee of the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC)
and the Bureau of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI)**

22 March 2016, Geneva, Switzerland

REPORT

The EFC Executive Committee and the COFFI Bureau met jointly on 22nd March 2016, 10.00 - 18:00h at UN Palais Geneva, Switzerland

This report presents the decisions taken by the Bureaux¹, which was attended by the following members:

EFC Executive Committee:

- Mr Kenan Kiliç (Turkey), Chair
- Mr Rob Busink (The Netherlands), Vice-Chair
- Ms Liubov Poliakova (Ukraine), EFC Vice-Chair

COFFI Bureau:

- Mr Christoph Duerr, (Switzerland), COFFI Chair
- Mr Heikki Granholm (Finland), Vice-Chair
- Mr Guy Robertson (USA), COFFI Vice-Chair
- Ms Marta Gaworska (Poland), COFFI Vice-Chair

Ms Christine Farcy (Belgium), EFC Vice-Chair was not able to participate due to flight cancellation.

From the joint secretariat were present:

- Mr Marco Keiner, Acting Director, Forests, Land and Housing Division, UNECE,
- Mr Roman Michalak, Acting Chief, UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, COFFI Secretary,
- Mr Ekrem Yazici, Deputy Chief, UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, EFC Secretary,
- Mr Florian Steierer, UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section.

On invitation, Mr Johannes Hangler (Austria), Chair of the joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management, Mr Peter Csoka, Deputy Director, FAO Forestry Department; Mr Peter Pechacek, FAO Forestry Officer for Central Asia attended the meetings as an observer.

The bureaux' meeting was chaired by Mr Christoph Duerr and Mr Kenan Kiliç.

¹ Bureaux refer to the members of the Bureau of the Committee on Forests and Forest Industry and the Executive Committee of the European Forestry Commission meeting jointly.

Agenda item	Information provided and discussion	Decisions taken	Action required
1. Adoption of the agenda	The COFFI Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the Bureaux. He introduced the agenda which was adopted by the bureaux members		No action required
2. Evaluations of Silva2015 and 3rd European Forest Week	<p>The secretariat presented the results of participants' evaluation of the joint meeting of the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) - Silva 2015 and the third European Forest Week. COFFI chair also briefed the Bureaux about evaluation of the Silva 2015 and the third European Forest Week done by the host country, with the participation of the secretariat.</p> <p>Regarding EFC/COFFI invitations, Liubov Poliakova mentioned that two types of invitation letters should be sent to the member countries: one to the official authority and the other one to the responsible national forestry institution in order to prevent delays and to ensure proper nomination.</p> <p>Secretariat mentioned that nomination of delegates is a formal procedure which goes beyond the secretariat mandate. Secretariat further mentioned that despite secretariat request, member states do not mention in their response letters, if they provide, who is delegate and who is participant.</p> <p>The Bureaux briefly discussed the simplifying the joint session reporting in the next joint session. Secretariat mentioned that there is some flexibility about reporting; however, secretariat has to observe the ECE rules in this regard.</p>	<p>More information and explanation about the nomination process should be provided to countries.</p> <p>It was concluded that the topic will be further discussed at the next meetings of the bureaux and look at all reporting options and take decision accordingly.</p>	Secretariat will liaise with secretaries of other ECE sectorial committees to learn about the reporting formats and procedures used by them.
3. Outcome of 4th Steering Committee Meeting of the FAO – UNECE Partnership Agreement	Mr Keiner briefed the Bureaux about outcomes of the 4th UNECE-FAO Steering Committee meeting, which took place in Rome on 11 March 2016, including the decision to review the UNECE/FAO Partnership Agreement. The next Steering Committee meeting is foreseen at the beginning of 2017.		No action required

<p>4. Review and assessment of International Day of Forests events in Geneva</p>	<p>The secretariat informed joint Bureaux members about the results of IDF events in Geneva and asked their assessment for the future IDF sessions.</p> <p>It was concluded that early decision on the theme of IDF 2016 made it possible for joint section to follow the global theme “Forests and Water” and initiate preparations in time.</p> <p>The secretariat informed the joint Bureaux members that work on the forest and water is being continued, a study on this topic is under preparation.</p>		<p>No action required</p>
<p>5. Final preparations of UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management</p>	<p>Mr Johannes Hangler, chair of the JWP, briefed the Bureaux about final arrangements for ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management and the vacancy in the JWP Bureau. Mr Hangler informed that there was any information regarding the candidates to that body.</p>		<p>No action required</p>
<p>6. Progress on implementation of Integrated Programme of Work 2014-17 and the status of budget of IPoW for 2016</p>	<p>Roman Michalak informed the Bureaux about progress on the implementation of IPoW 2014-2017 and shared with the Bureaux the updated version of the ECE/FAO Plan and Budget 2016 document. He briefed the Bureaux about on-going activities as well as new activities which includes game meat survey, market review, forest ownership study, forest sector workforce and future green jobs, forestry education, and forest and water: valuation and Payments for Forest Ecosystem Services.</p> <p>Christoph Duerr underlined that the ECE/FAO Plan and Budget table is unique in terms of transparency.</p> <p>Roman Michalak mentioned the multitude of funding sources and that the table also helps secretariat to see whole picture and efficiently manage the budget. He further informed the Bureaux that Russian Federation confirmed 100.000 USD contributions and with the exception of wood energy, the main activities planned for 2016 received basic funding, necessary for their implementation.</p> <p>Heikki Granholm indicated a complex funding procedure requested by the UNECE, which in the case of relatively small scale projects should be simplified. Mr Granholm suggested introducing thresholds that would allow limiting burden related to processing small-scale projects.</p>	<p>Poland will explore the possibility of hosting wood energy workshop while Turkey will do the same for hosting inception workshop of regional project(s).</p>	<p>Secretariat will bring the proposal on the small-scale projects to the relevant authorities of UNECE.</p>

<p>7. Discussion on the scope and decision on the road map of Strategic Review of IPoW</p>	<p>The Secretariat informed the Bureaux about the Strategic Review of IPoW content and roadmap and asked the Bureaux to review the Strategic Review document and approve a proposed road map.</p> <p>Bureaux members shared their comments and inputs on Strategic Review of IPoW text and its roadmap. Secretariat took note of comments and inputs. It was observed that the first phase of the Strategic Review falls for the period of the UNECE evaluation to assess the relevance of the 2014-2017 Integrated Programme of Work, thus, to avoid possible confusion among the stakeholders, the overlap between the questionnaires envisaged under these two processes should be avoided.</p> <p>Guy Robertson and Liubov Poliakova kindly agreed to contribute to the development of questionnaire.</p>	<p>Secretariat will integrate JB comments and inputs into the Strategic Review document.</p> <p>Agreed roadmap for the Strategic Review of IPoW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Secretariat will present Questionnaire results and explain the process during COFFI session in October 2016. First secretariat's draft of the new IPOW, after JB review, will be shared with member States. -The first draft will be discussed at the special workshop, with participation of JB, organized in the end of November 2016 -First JB draft will be shared with member States in January 2017 -Second JB draft will be discussed with stakeholders at the Joint Working Party in May 2017 and afterwards by JB. <p>Final JB draft of the IPoW 2018-2021 will be completed by June/July 2017 and presented to the COFFI and EFC for the final review and approval at the joint session in Poland in October 2017</p>	<p>Secretariat will revise the Strategic Review document as advised by JB and implement the Strategic Review roadmap as agreed.</p>
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<p>8. Initial discussion on cooperation with Forest Europe</p>	<p>Bureaux members internally discussed the cooperation with Forest Europe, including the new secretariat – Liaison Unit Bratislava, before their joint meeting with the Liaison Unit.</p> <p>Marco Keiner mentioned that ECE/FAO Joint Section met with the Liaison Unit and introduced each other their teams and work programs.</p> <p>Rob Busink proposed that Liaison Unit should be informed about FAO work in the region.</p> <p>Peter Csoka mentioned that different working modalities of ECE and FAO should be kept in mind in aligning joint section work program with that of Forest Europe</p> <p>Guy Robertson, while being positive about cooperation with Forest Europe, reminded the need for the balanced coverage of all parts of the region by the activities of the IPoW.</p> <p>The joint Bureaux had a separate meeting with the Forest Europe Liaison Unit Bratislava (minutes from the meeting available in the Annex).</p>		<p>Secretariat will consult with the Bureaux a proposal of FTS support to the implementation of the Forest Europe work programme.</p>
<p>9. Discussion on the place and dates for the next joint Bureaux meetings in 2016</p>	<p>Bureaux members discussed the possible options and dates for the next joint Bureaux meetings in 2016 taking into account needs for decisions/guidance from JB.</p> <p>Due to the need of approval the agenda and overview preparations to the next COFFI session as well as discussion of the result of the UNECE evaluation, the COFFI Bureau needs to meet in June 2016. The EFC Committee is envisaged during the next COFO session in July 2016.</p>	<p>It was agreed that JB will meet on 17 October 2016, before the next COFFI session in Geneva.</p> <p>Possibility of JB meetings in June and July 2016 session will be sought; if JB is not possible then the COFFI Bureau and EFC Executive Committee meetings will be convened. In the case if the only one body meeting is organised, the members of the other body will be informed by the Chairs about the agenda and the related parts of the report from those meetings</p>	<p>Secretariat will inform Bureaux members about bureau meetings and draft meeting agendas</p>

<p>10. Information on progress of UNECE evaluation to assess the relevance of the 2014-2017 Integrated Programme of Work</p>	<p>The secretariat briefed the Bureaux about UNECE evaluation progress and its relevance with Strategic Review of IPoW.</p> <p>The Bureau indicated the need for the brief description of the IPoW, prepared by the evaluator should be included in the UNECE evaluation questionnaire, which can be of help for the stakeholders involved in the implementation but not familiar with the document as such.</p> <p>The Bureau concluded that ECE evaluation and Strategic Review of IPoW are two related but different processes with different objectives. Accordingly, the secretariat should take action to prevent possible confusion between two processes through communicating them with member states.</p>	<p>It was agreed that the secretariat will ask the UNECE assessment evaluator for the preparation of the brief text about the IPoW</p> <p>It was agreed that secretariat should inform member states and other stakeholders about the two evaluation processes and send three messages to this end:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a general message to both EFC and COFFI members to inform and explain the two evaluation processes -a message in the UNECE questionnaire, sent to COFFI members, - a message to in the Strategic Review questionnaire sent to all stakeholders. 	<p>Secretariat will take action accordingly</p>
<p>11. Initial discussion on the scope and programme of the next session of ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry</p>	<p>The secretariat presented the initial draft of the agenda of the 74th session of the COFFI to the Bureaux and invited them to provide comments and share their proposals.</p> <p>Florian Steierer explained that the draft agenda was developed with the inclusion of input received from members of ToS on Forest Products</p> <p>The Bureau, commented the agenda and the programme of the session concluding that it is a balanced agenda and “business in forestry” should be discussed in depth. Detailed comments on the topics to be included in the session as well as a theme of the possible exhibition organized on the margin of the COFFI session were discussed as well.</p>	<p>It was agreed that first announcement should be sent to the countries in April in order to inform them about exact dates and get their comments on the draft program.</p> <p>The COFFI session is tentatively scheduled for 18-20 October 2016, and will be followed by the workshop on a green economy on 21 October 2016.</p>	<p>Secretariat will send first announcement in April and prepare the annotated agenda of the session to be approved by the COFFI Bureau in June.</p>

<p>12. Any other Business</p>	<p>Secretariat informed the Bureaux about possibility of organising a joint section's side event during COFO, main themes of which will be the introduction of new edition of State of the World's Forests (SOFO) 2016, SDGs and climate change.</p> <p>It was mentioned that a possible topic for the side event would be " How forestry sector contribute to the climate change in the region"</p>	<p>It was agreed that the Bureaux members will inform secretariat about the possible side event topics before the end of March 2016</p>	
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