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COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
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TRADE, TIMBER AND ENVIRONMENT

**Cross-sectoral activities of the Timber Committee related to the work of the
Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development and the
Committee for Environmental Policy**

Note by the secretariat

This document has been submitted to the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development for information and discussion, in the light of the request by the Economic Commission for Europe to its principal subsidiary bodies (PSBs) to examine the potential for synergies in cross-sectoral work, including in the area of trade, environment and timber.

1. Increasingly, major policy-related issues are cross sectoral in nature and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) has urged all its PSBs to take a cross sectoral approach, building on possible synergies within ECE. At its last session, the Commission drew attention to a number of areas where there was potential for such synergies between PSBs, including trade, environment and timber. The present document informs the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development (CTIED) of the trade-related activities of the Timber Committee, and of efforts so far to launch cross-sectoral activities in the field of trade, environment and timber. The Committee is invited to take note of these activities and consider what its role could be in this discussion.

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2. The mission of the Timber Committee and its sister body, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) European Forestry Commission (EFC), with which the Timber Committee's programme is integrated is, "to contribute to the sustainable development of the forest and forest products sector, including services, in the UNECE region". In pursuing this mission, trade issues are central.
3. The five main work areas of the Integrated Programme of Work are:
 1. markets and statistics (data and analysis on trade, production and markets for forest products, marketing)
 2. forest resources assessment (comparable data on all aspects of the forest, indicators of sustainable forest management)
 3. European forest sector outlook studies (long term outlook for the sector, policy options, interaction with other sectors)
 4. technology, management and training (exchange of information, analysis of social issues)
 5. policy and cross-sectoral issues (monitoring of policy and institutions, transition issues, communication/PR, trade and environment issues).
4. In addition, the extrabudgetary project on sustainable forest management in northwestern Russia (about which the CTIED is regularly briefed) has expanded to focus increasingly on trade/environment issues, including the certification of products exported from northwest Russia and the export of biomass for renewable energy production in other countries.
5. The timber and forest field is one where the tensions between trade and environment policies have been most evident, in such issues as certification of sustainable forest management for products entering international trade, market access, sustainable consumption patterns etc., and the international forest dialogue has called for more analytical work on the topic.
6. Within the limits of available resources, the Timber Committee has carried out some cross-sectoral activities on trade and environment issues:
 - it monitors markets (including trade) on products certified as coming from sustainably managed forests (annual discussions, publications, website)
 - "special topic" discussions at the annual sessions with subsequent publications
 - a presentation was made by Timber Section staff to the Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies (WP. 6), leading to a proposal that a workshop on standardization/certification issues be held in eastern Europe (awaiting funding)
 - proposals that the European outlook study should run a set of alternative policy scenarios based on differing assumption regarding trade/environment policies, with the aim of analyzing the consequences of different policy choices
 - further development of the trade/environment aspect of the project for northwest Russia.
7. In October 2001, the secretary of the Working Party on Technical Harmonization and

Standardization Policies (WP.6) addressed the delegates to the Timber Committee on the activities of WP.6 in the area of certification. To encourage cooperation and to ensure that further discussions on forest certifications will take place, WP.6 has asked its rapporteurs and the secretariat to cooperate with the Bureau of the Timber Committee and its secretariat on the necessary follow-up in this area.

8. The CTIED is invited to discuss how it could contribute to this issue in the context of the preparations for the World Summit for Sustainable Development where trade/environment issues are likely to play a prominent role.

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