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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

TIMBER COMMITTEE

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
from 6 to 9 October 1997
starting at 1500 hrs on Monday, 6 October

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|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. Adoption of the agenda | ECE/TIM/88 |
| 2. Implementation of ECE Plan of Action | TIM/1997/1 |
| 3. Special topic: markets for certified forest products | TIM/1997/2 |
| 4. Market developments in 1997 and prospects for 1998 | TIM/1997/3
ECE/TIM/BULL/50/3 |
| 5. Sustainable forest management in the region:
contribution to the Lisbon Ministerial Conference on
the Protection of Forests in Europe, and follow-up to IPF | TIM/1997/4 |
| 6. Review of activities since the fifty-fourth session
and programme of work for 1998 to 2002 | TIM/1997/5
TIM/1997/6 |
| 7. Election of officers | |
| 8. Any other business | |
| 9. Adoption of the report of the Committee's session | |
| 10. Date of next session | |

NOTE - Timber Committee documents will be distributed to the official list as in previous years. However, this year the Provisional Agenda and other session documents will also be available at the WEB site:
<http://www.unece.org/trade/timber>

TENTATIVE TIMETABLE

	Agenda item	Morning session	Agenda item	Afternoon session
Monday 6 October		No session	1. 2. 3.	Adoption of the agenda Implementation of ECE Plan of Action Special topic
Tuesday 7 October	4.	Market discussion	4. (cont)	Market discussion
Wednesday 8 October	5.	Sustainable forest management in the region	6.	Review of activities and programme of work
Thursday 9 October		Drafting Committee Technical briefings	7. 8. 9. 10.	Election of officers Date of next session Any other business Adoption of the report of the Committee's session

EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1 Adoption of the agenda (ECE/TIM/88)

In accordance with the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the adoption of the agenda is the first item of the agenda.

Item 2 Implementation of ECE Plan of Action (TIM/1997/1)

The ECE approved in February 1997 the Plan of Action (E/ECE/1347) and the proposals on the implementation of the ECE reform (E/ECE/1354). The Committee will be invited to consider how to implement the Plan of action in its area of responsibility, on the basis of proposals prepared by the Timber Committee office-holders.

Item 3 Special topic: markets for certified forest products (TIM/1997/2)

The Committee office holders agreed in April 1997 that the special topic at the Committee's session should be the markets for certified forest products. The discussion will be introduced by invited speakers, and delegations will be invited to include information on markets for certified forest products in their market statements (see below). On this basis, delegations will be invited to discuss the present situation, outlook and major issues regarding markets for certified forest products.

Item 4 Market developments in 1997 and prospects for 1998 (TIM/1997/3
and ECE/TIM/BULL/50/3)

Delegations will be invited to review developments in 1997 and prospects for 1998, on the basis of the Annual Forest Products Market Review (Timber Bulletin, ECE/TIM/BULL/50/4), countries' written statements and forecasts. An agreed statement synthesizing the discussions and forecasts will be prepared during the session and later published. (A note by the secretariat will provide further information for the market discussion.)

Market discussions

The market discussion will be organized on the following lines:

1. General introduction;
2. Softwoods (sawnwood and logs);
3. Hardwoods (sawnwood and logs), temperate and tropical zones;
4. Wood-based panels: particle board, plywood and fibreboard;
5. Roundwood.

- Market statements

Delegations are reminded that their written statements should reach the secretariat¹ in 120 copies by 15 September 1997 in English, French or Russian for distribution at the opening of the session. For this session, the statements should include a special section on markets for certified forest products. Country forecasts for 1997 and 1998 (prepared on the basis of a questionnaire to be sent out by the secretariat in June 1997) should be submitted not later than 8 September 1997. Supplementary copies of the questionnaire may be obtained from the secretariat on request.

- Drafting Committee

It is proposed that the Drafting Committee meet at 0900 hours on Thursday 9 October to consider the draft of the report concerning market developments and prospects, which will be approved by the Committee under item 9.

Item 5 Sustainable forest management in the region: contribution to the Lisbon Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, and follow-up to the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests
(TIM/1997/4)

The Committee will be invited to decide on how it should contribute to the pan-European process and to the follow-up to the IPF, on the basis of a secretariat note.

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CH-1211 Geneva 10 (Switzerland)

Item 6 Review of activities in 1997 and programme of work for 1998 to 2002
(TIM/1997/5, TIM/1997/6 and TIM/1997/7)

The Committee will be invited to review its activities and approve its programme of work, on the basis of a summary document which will draw decision items to the attention of the Committee and present a draft programme of work. Other documents will provide information, notably on the activities of other ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies. Time will be allotted to presenting the activities of FAO and other international organizations of relevance to the Timber Committee. In this connection representatives of the international organizations are invited to provide 120 copies of brief written statements on their activities in English, French or Russian for distribution to delegations.

Item 7 Election of officers

In accordance with its Rules of Procedure and established practice, the Committee is expected to elect a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen, who will hold office until the end of the fifty-sixth session. At the fifty-fourth session, Mr. N. A. Burdin (Russian Federation) was elected Chairman and Mr. G. Siegel (Austria) and Ms. A. Bergquist (Sweden) were elected Vice-Chairmen to hold office until the end of the fifty-fifth session.

Item 8 Any other business

At the time of writing, the secretariat has no points to propose under this item. However, it is proposed to devote the morning of Thursday 9 October to technical briefings by secretariat members on certain priority activities.

Item 9 Adoption of the report of the Committee's session

The Committee will be invited to adopt its report on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat. According to the ECE Plan of Action, the report will be short and decision oriented. Accounts of discussions e.g. under item 2 will be prepared separately, and finalised in cooperation with the office-holders after the session. However, the Committee will be invited to approve formally the market statement based on the discussions under item 4, and approved by the drafting Committee on Thursday morning.

Item 10 Date of next session

The Committee is expected to agree on the date of its fifty-sixth session to be held in Geneva. Provided that conference services are available, the week of 28 September - 1 October 1998 has been provisionally reserved.