



## Economic and Social Council

Distr.  
GENERAL

TIM/1998/5/Add.3  
3 August 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

TIMBER COMMITTEE  
Fifty-sixth session  
28 September - 1 October 1998

**PROGRAMME OF WORK: UN-ECE TIMBER COMMITTEE AND FAO EUROPEAN  
FORESTRY COMMISSION FOREST AND FOREST INDUSTRIES STUDY TOUR TO IRELAND**

(Item 6 of the Provisional Agenda)

Note by the secretariat

This document contains initial information on the joint Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission study tour on the forest and forest industries sector of Ireland in September 1999.

The Timber Committee Session is invited to:

- consider the plans for this study tour;
- make proposals for study tours in 2000 and 2001.

**UN-ECE TIMBER COMMITTEE AND FAO EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION  
FOREST AND FOREST INDUSTRIES STUDY TOUR TO IRELAND**

5-11 September 1999

**Introduction**

1. Coillte Teoranta - the Irish Forestry Board is pleased to host the joint UN-ECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission study tour from 5-11 September 1999. The tour will provide an opportunity to visit forests and forest industries in Ireland and to experience the unique landscapes, culture and traditions which make the Ireland the land of *Cead Mile Failte* (one hundred thousand welcomes).

2. This document contains background information on the study tour as prepared by the host country and a preregistration form.

3. It would be appreciated if national authorities receiving this document would redistribute it to organizations and individuals within their countries. This document may be duplicated and an electronic version is available either from the Timber Committee website (<http://www.unece.org/trade/timber>) or from the secretariat: Timber Section, fax +41 22 917 0041 or e-mail: [info.timber@unece.org](mailto:info.timber@unece.org)

**Background**

4. Ireland (or, in the Irish language, *Eire*) is an island nation of 70,000 square kilometres in extent. With a population of 3.6 million people it is Europe's most westerly and least densely populated country and combines cosmopolitan cities with unspoiled wilderness areas. Heralded the "Celtic Tiger" the Irish economy has been Europe's fastest growing economy for the past few years. Historically Ireland has been an agricultural economy but in recent years Ireland has been very successful in attracting foreign investment and developing indigenous industries in sectors such as electronics and computers, engineering, health care, consumer products, financial and international services. Many world leaders in these sectors have their European headquarters and/or major manufacturing facilities in Ireland including IBM, Microsoft, Merck, Smithkline Beecham, Motorola and Boston Scientific.

5. In the forestry sector development has also been impressive. In 1900 forests covered less than 1% of the land area and Ireland was entirely dependent on imports for its timber requirements. As a result of sustained State investment in the forestry programme forest cover has now increased to 500,000 hectares or 8% of the land area.

6. The forest estate comprises plantations of North American species, primarily Sitka spruce, established on land which is considered marginal for agriculture. Excellent climatic and growing conditions mean that growth rates of up to 24 cubic metres per hectare per annum can be achieved. The area of the forest estate is increasing at a rate of 15,000 hectares annually and timber production is now approaching 3 million cubic metres annually. A Strategic Plan for the forestry sector adopted in 1996 envisages that forestry will expand to 17% of the total land area resulting in annual timber production of 13.5 million cubic metres by

2035.

7. The steady increase in wood fibre availability has supported the development of a modern timber processing sector. Substantial investment in recent years in sawmilling has resulted in a number of mills with annual output in excess of 100,000 cubic metres. In the panelboard sector Ireland has three world-scale industries: an oriented strand board (OSB) mill operated by Louisiana-Pacific as a joint venture with Coillte, the Willamette of Europe MDF plant and a moulded door skins plant owned by Masonite Inc.

8. The industry in Ireland faces a number of challenges including the marketing of its increased timber output and compliance with international Sustainable Forest Management requirements. The tour will provide an opportunity to explore how these challenges are being addressed.

### **Provisional Programme**

#### **Sunday 5 September**

Arrive Dublin. Meet group leader and guide at hotel. Sightseeing tour of Dublin. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

#### **Monday 6 September**

Depart Dublin for Wicklow  
Visit Coillte Region Office and Research and Development Centre.  
Visit Avondale House and Forest Park - "The Cradle of Irish Forestry"  
Travel to Waterford  
Visit Louisiana-Pacific Coillte OSB mill Dinner and overnight in Waterford.

#### **Tuesday 7 September**

Depart Waterford for Clonmel  
Visit Willamette of Europe MDF plant  
Visit Rock of Cashel - important religious/heritage site  
Forest visits  
Travel to Killaloe, County Clare for dinner and overnight

#### **Wednesday 8 September**

Sightseeing tour of Clare.  
Explore the Burren a vast lunar landscape harbouring 200 species of rare plants and flowers  
Visit Cliffs of Moher on Atlantic Coast. Dinner and overnight in Galway

#### **Thursday 9 September**

Depart Galway  
Visit a sawmill  
Forest/national park visit  
Dinner and overnight in Sligo or Longford County

### **Friday 10 September**

Depart Sligo/Longford Region  
Visit Masonite moulded door factory  
Visit sawmill and added value products manufacturing plant  
Arrive Dublin for dinner and overnight

### **Saturday 11 or Sunday 12 September**

Departure

### **Cost of the study tour**

Participants will pay their own airfare to and from Dublin. The tour fee will be approximately US\$550-650 which will include all other costs i.e. transportation by bus, meals from dinner on Sunday 5 September to breakfast on Sunday 12 September (excluding dinner on Saturday night 11 September); hotel accommodation based on two people sharing (supplement payable for single room); services of guide and interpreter; sightseeing tours and all taxes. Cost will be finalised when itinerary is agreed and likely numbers participating in tour are known.

### **Payment arrangements**

Coillte is in the process of selecting a tour operator to manage booking arrangements. Details will be circulated in due course, especially to those who have pre-registered.

### **Languages**

The tour will be conducted in English with informal interpretation into French and Russian if sufficient demand exists.

### **Weather and clothing**

September is normally a pleasant month in Ireland. Daytime temperatures will typically vary from 10 - 17 Celsius (50-63 F) with a likelihood of some rain showers. Appropriate field clothing and footwear for forest and plant visits should be brought. Appropriate dress may be required for an official dinner. This will be confirmed in advance of your departure.

### **Participants**

The tour is open to all representatives of the forest and forest industries sector. It will be limited to 50 participants with preference given to those coming from ECE region countries.

### **Passports and visas**

Participants must hold valid passports. Nationals of some countries require visas. Visas are not required for EU countries, the Baltic countries, as well as some other countries. Details of arrangements for obtaining a visa are

available from the Irish embassy or consulate in your country, from the tour operator when appointed or from the Coillte (see below).

Any participants requiring visas must have the visa stamped in their passport before arriving in Ireland. It is not possible to arrange a visa on arrival. You are responsible for determining if you need to have a visa and if so, for obtaining one. If you require a personal invitation to arrange your visa please contact the Coillte representative named below.

**Further information**

Pending appointment of a tour operator all queries relating to travel, accommodation or technical issues should be directed to:

Mr. Gerry Egan  
Coillte  
Leeson Lane  
Dublin 2  
Ireland

Tel: +353-1-6615666  
Mobile: +353-86-2591409  
Fax: +353-1-6768598  
E-mail: Egan\_G@Coillte.ie

Map

PREREGISTRATION FORM

(Please use typewriter or print legibly or send full information by e-mail.)

UN-ECE TIMBER COMMITTEE AND FAO EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION FOREST  
AND FOREST INDUSTRIES STUDY TOUR TO IRELAND

5-11 September 1999

To be completed and sent to: With copy for information to:

Mr. Gerry Egan	Timber Section
Coillte	UN/ECE Trade Division
Leeson Lane	384 Palais des Nations
Dublin 2, Ireland	CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Tel: +353-1-6615666	Fax: +41 22 917 0041
Mobile: +353-86-2591409	E-mail: info.timber@unece.org
Fax: +353-1-6768598	
E-mail: Egan_G@Coillte.ie	

1. Family name: Mr. or Ms.
2. First name(s):
3. Title or position:
4. Complete mailing address:
5. Telephone number with country code:
6. Fax number with country code:
7. E-mail address:
8. Representative of which country:
9. Person to contact in case of emergency:
10. Contact information for that person if different from above:
11. Accompanied by Mr. or Ms. (to share hotel rooms):
12. Preferred language: English French Russian
13. Today's date:
14. Signature:

Note: you are not obligated to participate in the tour by filling out this preregistration form. By returning this form you will receive further information.