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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
TIMBER COMMITTEE
Fifty-seventh session
27-30 September 1999

**Fifty-eighth session of the Committee in joint session with the FAO European
Forestry Commission, thirtieth session**

(Item 7 of the provisional agenda)

Note by the secretariat

This document contains proposals for the organisation and content of the joint session in Rome in October 2000. The Committee is invited to comment on these and make further proposals. It is suggested that the arrangements be finalised by the bureaux of the Committee and the Commission which will meet in spring 2000.

Introduction

1. It was decided at the last joint session, in 1996, that from time to time the two sister bodies should meet in joint session. Since then it was agreed that the next joint session should be in Rome in 2000. This document makes a number of proposals for the organisation of the joint session, on which the Committee is invited to comment.

Dates of the session

2. The following dates have been reserved for the session: 9-13 October 2000. At this time, meeting facilities are available at FAO HQ, and data will be available for the market discussion. ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies are expected to meet before the end of September, but the chairman of the *ad hoc* group on the programme of work has given his approval for the slight delay.

3. **As 2000 is a Holy Year in Rome, finding hotel accommodation will be difficult: those intending to participate are urged to make arrangements as soon as possible.**

Organisation of the session

4. Previous joint sessions have included the following major elements:

- regular/compulsory "housekeeping" items for each body
- review of European forest policy and programmes
- a review of forest products markets
- review of activities under the integrated work programme, approval of programme
- discussion of a major special theme or topic.

5. With regard to the special theme, there will be two major events relevant to the Committee and the Commission in 2000,

- availability of major new information on the forest resource (completion of the forest resource assessment for temperate and boreal industrialised countries (TBFRA 2000), and the release of the first results of the global forest Resource assessment); and
- completion of the work of the Intergovernmental Forum on forests and consideration of its results by the Commission on Sustainable Development. These two items were identified by the bureaux members' as deserving the attention of the joint session.

6. On this basis, the secretariat has drawn up the attached draft programme for the joint session (annex). The Committee is invited to comment on it and make proposals for modifications. Arrangements should be finalised by the bureaux of the two bodies when they meet in spring 2000.

Annex

Proposed provisional agenda for the joint session of the ECE Timber Committee
and the FAO European Forestry Commission

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Arrangements for chairing the meeting
3. European Forestry Commission matters
 - Review of FAO Regular and Field programmes in Europe
 - Matters to be referred to the Committee on Forestry
 - Election of officers
 - Date and place of next session
4. Timber Committee matters
 - Matters arising from the session of the Economic Commission for Europe
 - Activities of Principal Subsidiary Bodies of ECE of interest to the Timber Committee
 - Election of officers
 - Date and place of next session
5. Forest resource assessment: results, issues, the way forward
6. State of Forestry in the region
7. Market developments in 2000 and prospects for 2001
8. Sustainable forest management in the region: support to the global and regional processes
9. Review of activities in 1999/2000 and integrated programme of work for 2001-2005.
10. Other business
11. Adoption of the joint session report.