



Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/TIM/93
9 December 1999

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
TIMBER COMMITTEE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION (27-30 September 1999)

Highlights of the fifty-seventh session of the Timber Committee

- ◆ The Committee reviewed, as requested by the Commission, its operational activities, cross-sectoral concerns in the two areas: countries in transition and participation of the business community (paras. 8-11);
- ◆ The Committee warmly endorsed the general direction of ECE/FAO activities in support of sustainable forest management, to which it had attached highest priority and welcomed the contribution to the Lisbon Ministerial Conference and follow-up (paras. 12-14);
- ◆ The session's special topic was "Trade and environment issues in the forest and forest products sector". The bureaux of the Committee and the EFC were asked to make proposals for future work (paras. 17-18);
- ◆ The Committee reviewed the markets for forest products in 1999 and prospects for 2000 and approved a statement (paras. 15);
- ◆ The Committee reviewed its activities and approved its programme of work for 2000-2004 (annex I) and a provisional calendar of meetings (annex II).

Introduction

1. The ECE Timber Committee held its fifty-seventh session at Geneva from 27 to 30 September 1999. The session was attended by representatives of Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

2. The session was attended by a representative of the European Commission. The FAO European Forestry Commission and the Vienna Liaison Unit of the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe were also represented.

3. The following United Nations bodies and intergovernmental organization agencies were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); World Trade Organization (WTO); International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO.

4. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: European Confederation of Woodworking Industries (CEI-BOIS); European Confederation of Agriculture (CEA); European Federation of Plywood Industries (FEIC); European Forest Institute (EFI); European Panel Federation (EPF); International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO); Organization of European Sawmilling Industries (OES); Silviculture Union of Southern Europe (USSE); World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD); and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

5. The Committee paid tribute to the memory of Messrs. Viktor Nemtsov (Russian Federation), past Chairman and long-time delegate to the Committee and active participant in Joint Committee activities; and Henry Widmer (Switzerland), former secretariat staff member; as well as victims of recent natural disasters.

6. The Committee was addressed by Mr. Yves Berthelot, Executive Secretary of ECE.

Adoption of the agenda (Item 1)

7. The provisional agenda (ECE/TIM/92) was adopted.

Matters arising from the fifty-fourth session of the Economic Commission for Europe of relevance to the Committee (Item 2 of the agenda) (TIM/1999/1)

8. Ms. Carol Cosgrove-Sacks, Director of the ECE Trade Division, informed the Committee of those results of the Commission session relevant to its work. It noted that the new priority setting system for ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies would be applied in 2000, the next budget submission year.

9. The Committee reviewed its operational activities, listed in the annex to TIM/1999/1. It noted that these activities could be considerably developed if there were a regional advisor for timber and requested the Commission to consider the possibility of appointing one.

10. It further noted that its team of specialists on forestry assistance to countries in transition had identified the main needs of those countries, which provided strategic direction as requested by the Commission. It also recalled that a system had been set up under the mandate of resolution H3 of the Helsinki Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe to monitor forestry assistance to countries in transition. It considered this pattern of activity - some operational activities, mostly of a sub-regional nature, and a monitoring role - was in accordance with its comparative advantage, and in line with the resources available as well as its core mandate to monitor and analyse sustainable forest management in the region. The main constraint to the Committee's operational activities was lack of resources to support participation at meetings.

11. It also reviewed, as requested, cross-sectoral concerns in the two areas identified by the Commission:

- with regard to **countries in transition**, it noted the operational activities and monitoring/strategy activities of the above-mentioned team of specialists, and considered that they made a significant contribution to improving the situation of the forestry and forest product sector in these countries;
- with regard to the second cross-sectoral concern identified by the Commission, the Committee considered that **the business community** participates actively in many parts of the Committee's work, and that this participation is to mutual benefit. There are no serious formal barriers to this participation: one obstacle to more business participation is the difficulty of making the Committee's activities better known outside official circles: the remedy to this lies in better communication and more user-friendly output, objectives which the Committee is pursuing in any case.

Sustainable forest management in the region: follow-up to the Lisbon Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe; follow-up to CSD/IPF and contribution to IFF (Item 3 of the agenda) (TIM/1999/2)

12. The Committee was informed of activities in support of sustainable forest management, both through the regular programme of monitoring and analysis and through actions directly linked to the pan-European process and the IFF. It noted the contributions made by ECE/FAO to the preparation of the Lisbon Ministerial Conference and in the follow-up to it, and welcomed the close and mutually beneficial cooperation which had been developed between ECE/FAO and the pan-European process, in a wide range of areas, including indicators of sustainable forest management, protected forest areas, forestry assistance to countries in transition, socio-economic aspects, participation in forest decision making and women in forestry. It was informed that the pan-European process and the Montreal process were discussing closer cooperation, and hoped that ECE/FAO might also contribute to any cooperative work with the Montreal process.

13. It agreed that a major meeting should be held on "strategies to stimulate and promote the sound use of wood and other forest based products as environmentally friendly and renewable raw materials", including consideration of life-cycle analysis. It agreed to discuss modalities of holding this meeting

under item 6 of the agenda. It noted that "trade and environment issues in the forest and forest products sector", would be discussed under item 5 of the agenda.

14. The Committee warmly endorsed the general direction of activities in this area, and agreed that implementation of particular items would be further discussed under item 6 of the agenda.

Market developments in 1999 and prospects for 2000 (Item 4) (TIM/1999/3 and ECE/TIM/BULL/52/3)

15. The Committee reviewed the markets on the basis of the *Annual Forest Products Market Review*, country statements and national forecasts for 1999 and 2000. It approved a statement for subsequent publication and wide distribution.

16. The Committee welcomed the initiative of the secretariat to make available on the website the country market statements before the session. It noted that country statements were valuable information and should be maintained in the website until new statements are available for next year's session. Countries which had not submitted statements in electronic format were invited to do so.

Special topic: trade and environment issues in the forest and forest products sector (Item 5 of the agenda) (TIM/1999/4)

17. The Committee reviewed trade and environment issues in the sector, on the basis of a keynote speech by the Director of the Trade Division, and presentations by the following speakers, who each explained the activities and position of their organisation on these issues:

- Mr. J. E. Sorensen (World Trade Organisation);
- Mr. C. Arden-Clarke (World Wide Fund for Nature);
- Mr. A. Fry (World Business Council on Sustainable Development).

The Committee warmly thanked the speakers and requested the secretariat to prepare with their help a *Discussion Paper* based on these presentations.

18. With regard to future work on trade and environment issues in the forest and forest products sector, the following suggestions were made:

- there was need for objective monitoring and analysis, an area where ECE/FAO had a comparative advantage;
- synergies could perhaps be found between analysis of trade/environment issues and the outlook studies work;
- it was recommended to develop cooperation and exchange of ideas and experience between organisations, along the lines started during the special topic discussion. FAO offered its support for future work on trade and environment in the sector;
- in view of ECE's special role with regard to countries in transition, the possibility should be examined of approaching trade/environment issues from their perspective.

It was decided that the secretariat should prepare a proposal for future work for

discussion by the bureaux of the Committee and the EFC at their session in May 2000. The final decision on the direction of future activities, if any, should be taken by the joint session in October 2000.

Review of activities since the fifty-sixth session and programme of work for 2000 to 2004 (Item 6) (TIM/1999/5)

19. The Committee reviewed its activities, on the basis of an overview in TIM/1999/5, supported by more detailed information in TIM/1999/5/Add.1 to Add.4. It approved its programme of work (annex I) and the list of meetings (annex II). The latter is updated regularly throughout the year and posted on the website.

20. The Committee warmly thanked Austria, Estonia, France, Ireland, Switzerland and Turkey which had hosted sessions of its subsidiary body, seminars, workshops, meetings of teams of specialists and study tours during the past year.

(a) Activities of FAO and other Principal Subsidiary Bodies of ECE of relevance to the Timber Committee (TIM/1998/6)

21. The Committee was informed of FAO's forestry programmes in Europe as well as of those areas where there was close cooperation. The Committee welcomed this cooperation which is reflected in the integrated programme of work with the FAO European Forestry Commission and the work carried out by its two joint subsidiary bodies.

22. The Committee was also informed of the activities of other Principal Subsidiary Bodies of ECE dealing with matters of concern to it. It took note of this information and agreed to take it into account when discussing its own programme of work.

(b) Activities on public relations (TIM/1999/5/Add.1)

23. The FAO/ECE Team of Public Relations Specialists in the Forest and Forest Industries Sector met in Sagadi, Estonia, in May 1999 (report at <http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/pr>). With a theme of building public relations (PR) capacity in central and eastern European countries (CEECs), the meeting focused on strategic approaches to professional communications in forestry, current issues and opportunities. The most recent accomplishment of the Team is the publication of a report on "The competitive climate for wood and paper packaging: The factors causing substitution with emphasis on environmental promotions". This report will be a basis for the team's International Forestry Communications Forum 2000 in Canada in March 2000, which has the goal of bringing together communicators, coordinating messages and promoting the positive image of the sector and the renewability and environmental friendliness of wood. In line with its mandate the Team proposed activities in PR capacity building in CEECs, European Forestry Academies (or forums) for Decision Makers and on the follow-up on Lisbon Resolutions from the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe.

24. The Committee requested that at its meeting in March 2000 the Team consider future work in PR of non-wood goods and services. The Committee noted that some of the Team's work was not well known and suggested that it carry out PR also for its own activities. The Committee requested the Team to follow-up on the

Substitution Report.

25. The Committee requested the PR Team to submit plans for the preparation and content of the proposed meeting on "strategies to stimulate and promote the sound use of wood and other forest based products as environmentally friendly and renewable raw materials" to the next bureau meeting in May 2000.

(c) Recycling, Energy and Market Interactions (TIM/1999/5/Add.2)

26. Mr. B. Hillring (Sweden), leader of the Team of Specialists on Recycling, Energy and Market Interactions, presented an overview of its work, including the presentation of the Committee's special topic in 1998 and the outcome of their workshop in Istanbul, Turkey, in November 1998. He reviewed the workshop conclusions and reiterated the recommendation that the Committee "encourage member Governments to implement policies and cooperative projects to promote comprehensive recycling systems for paper and wood fibre and wood-based energy systems. In designing and implementing these systems, the potential effects on timber markets and forest management must be carefully considered". The Committee agreed that the skills and knowledge collected by the Team should continue to be used despite its completion of the mandate in ongoing work such as the market reviews and outlook studies.

27. The Committee noted that the mandate of the Team has been fulfilled, and warmly thanked the Team members and Mr. Hillring for their valuable work. It thanked the Turkish Ministry of Forestry for hosting and co-sponsoring the workshop and offered condolences to the victims of the recent earthquake in Istanbul. It was requested that wood fuel, new products and recycling be considered on a regular basis in future market discussions.

(d) Activities on countries in transition (TIM/1999/5/Add.3)

28. The Committee was informed of the activities being carried out on assistance and cooperation in the forestry sector with countries in transition, in particular on the results of the last meeting of the team of specialists to monitor and develop assistance to countries of central and eastern Europe in transition, Gmunden, Austria, June-July 1999.

29. Mr. J. Ilavsky (Slovakia) informed the Committee about the recently finalized EU-PHARE Multi-Country project "*Sustainable Forestry and Forest Biodiversity Conservation in central-eastern Europe*", specifically on the "Preparation of a Multi-Country Programme". The participants noted a possibility of publishing the main findings of this project as a Timber Committee discussion paper at the end of 1999 or at the beginning of 2000.

30. The Committee confirmed the prolongation of the team's mandate and its Terms of Reference until 2002.

31. Participants warmly thanked the Government of Austria for the financial support of the Team meeting, and the Austrian organizers for their hospitality and the efficient work which had been done in the preparation, organization and running of the meeting.

(e) Options for next steps in outlook studies (TIM/1999/5/Add.4)

32. The Timber Committee was invited to discuss the options on the approach to forthcoming outlook study work (methodology, policy scenarios, geographic scope, product scope, items and periodicity) and to indicate its choices or give other options for further work. It was also informed about proposals for preparatory steps on European outlook studies. The secretariat proposed a course of action for the next year.

33. The Committee asked the secretariat to start the work according to the proposed course of action. Therefore, the secretariat should consult members of the core team, of the bureau of the Statistics Working Party and its parent bodies, as well as others able to contribute. Doing so, the secretariat should identify the main approach options and should work out an outlook programme for the next years. In order to discuss the objectives of the future European outlook studies, a meeting of the core group should be held, probably in early 2000.

34. The secretariat, in consultation with the core team and the bureaux of the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission, should develop and implement a work programme, without awaiting the formal approval of the joint TC/EFC session in 2000. The secretariat should report on the outlook study process to this session.

35. During the discussion the following points were made:

- outlook studies should consider the dynamic in development of policy processes in forest sector. Therefore, a policy-oriented approach should be used;
- outlook work should build on a well-settled methodological approach, considering the specific aspects of different countries;
- the outlook study process should not only include the question of timber supply, wood production and trade, but also the whole range of social and environmental aspects of the further development of the forest sector;
- the further outlook study process should proceed from the demand in forest products and balance it to the timber supply;
- the core group should include not only forest and timber market specialists, but also scientists, who could be able to make useful methodological proposals;
- the Russian Federation and other countries in transition should be included in the geographic scope.

The secretariat should take these and other points received later into consideration for further work. The Committee asked delegations to ensure that replies to the user survey reached the secretariat before the end of November, so that they could be taken into account in the planning process.

(f) Temperate and Boreal Forest Resource Assessment 2000 (TBFRA-2000)

36. The Committee was informed that TBFRA-2000 would shortly be completed and sent to processing. It congratulated the TBFRA-2000 team - secretariat, partners, core team and national correspondents - on a major achievement which would produce a significant improvement in the knowledge base on the temperate and boreal forests of the world. It noted that TBFRA-2000 data would be integrated into the global FRA data set, in an excellent example of inter-organization cooperation. A technical briefing was organized to present the methods and main results of TBFRA-2000. In view of developing the use of the data, improving their quality and preparing the next assessment, the Committee endorsed the proposed changes to the mandate of the team of specialists on forest resource assessment, notably that the mandate be extended to 2002.

(g) Team of specialists on participation and partnerships in forestry

37. The Committee requested further information about the objectives of the Team, which had been founded at the 1998 Joint Committee session. The secretariat informed the Committee that the main objective was to clarify concepts of "participation" and to exchange experience. On the basis of this work a report would be prepared for the use of the Joint Committee, and of the pan-European process, as part of the follow-up to Lisbon resolution L1 (itself based on work by a Joint Committee team). The present formulation of the mandate could give the impression that the Team on participation would draw up guidelines for implementation of participation in countries. The Committee agreed to modify the Team's mandate to clarify this point (see annex III).

(h) Study tours

38. The Committee expressed gratitude to Coillte, the Irish Forestry Board, for

hosting the 1999 Timber Committee and European Forestry Commission Forest and Forest Industries Study Tour and thanked it for its excellent organization, generosity and warm hospitality. A secretariat paper reported on the forests and industries visited. A questionnaire circulated among the tour participants showed high satisfaction with the Ireland tour and offered suggestions for future tours.

39. Canada offered to host the next Timber Committee and European Forestry Commission study tour in September 2000 in eastern Canada. A questionnaire circulated to delegations resulted in a number of additional suggestions for future tours. The Committee asked tour organizers and the secretariat to ensure that future tours be focused on a theme, and that a short workshop on that theme be organized during the tour.

Fifty-eighth session of the Committee in joint session with the FAO European Forestry Commission, thirtieth session (Item 7 of the agenda)

40. The Committee endorsed the proposals for the joint session contained in document TIM/1999/7 and asked the bureaux meeting next May to finalize the agenda, notably by integrating two special topics: Temperate and Boreal Forest Resource Assessment 2000 and a presentation of the Joint Committee work on Sustainable Forest Management Practices. The Committee invited delegations to the joint session to make early hotel reservations, preferably in 1999, as 2000 is a holy year in Rome.

Election of officers (Item 8 of the agenda)

41. The Committee reelected Ms. A. Bergquist (Sweden), Chairman and Messrs. J. Serveau (Canada) and N.A. Burdin (Russian Federation), Vice Chairmen to hold office until the end of the fifty-eighth session.

Any other business (Item 9 of the agenda)

42. Estonia announced that it will organize in April 2000 a workshop on the changing role of State forests based on case studies in ECE countries. Other delegations welcomed this initiative.

Adoption of the report (Item 10 of the agenda)

43. The Committee adopted its report, on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

ANNEX I
PART I

INTEGRATED PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE ECE TIMBER COMMITTEE
AND THE FAO EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION
FOR 2000-2004

This programme is carried out by the ECE Timber Committee (TC) and the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC), and their subsidiary bodies, which meet approximately in a two year cycle:

- The Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training (JC)(2000, 2002)
- The Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics (FES)(2001, 2003)
- The EFC Working Party on Management of Mountain Watersheds (2000, 2002)
- The EFC/AFWC/NEFC Working Party on Mediterranean Forestry Questions *Silva Mediterranea* (SM) (2001, 2003)

A. CORE PROGRAMME: MONITORING AND ANALYSIS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOREST AND FOREST PRODUCTS SECTOR IN THE REGION

1.1 Collection and dissemination of information on trends in the sector, including publication of the *Timber Bulletin*

Description: Information is regularly collected and disseminated on production, trade and prices of roundwood and forest products, and forest fires.

Method of work: Statistics are collected on an annual basis from countries and published in the *Timber Bulletin* and on the Internet. Data collection is coordinated with FAO Rome, EUROSTAT and ITTO and the results are shared between all four organizations. The whole system is reviewed by the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics at its biennial sessions.

Duration: Continuing

Annual outputs: publication of six issues of the *Timber Bulletin*: on forest products prices, statistics on production and trade, trade flow data, the annual market review, forest fire statistics and the Committee's market discussion at its annual session. The data and analysis are also made available in electronic form and on the Internet.

1.2 Forest Resource Assessment 2000 (temperate and boreal forests)

Description: Information on the forest resource of the temperate and boreal zones (including developed countries outside the ECE region), will be collected and published in the context of the FAO global forest resource assessment, under the guidance of the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics.

Method of work: An enquiry was prepared under the supervision of a team of specialists, taking into account the recommendations of the Experts Consultation at Kotka (Finland) in June 1996. At all stages, the work is being carried out in close cooperation with the FAO Forestry Department and other organizations active in this area.

Duration: Continuing, review in 2003

Outputs in 1999/2000: publication, database and background documentation. Team meeting in 2000, probably at European Forest Institute.

1.3 Sustainable forest management in the region: support to the follow-up to UNCED and the pan European process on the protection of forests

Description: The Committee and the Commission will provide support, as appropriate, to the follow-up to UNCED, including the work of the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD), the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF), and the pan European process of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests. In particular the Commission will review, on a regular basis, national forest policies and selected topical policy issues, such as certification of sustainable forest management, in order to review implementation at the national level of the provisions of UNCED and the pan European process, and as support for national policy makers. The Committee and the Commission will collect and analyse information relevant to Helsinki Conference resolutions H1 and H2, notably as regards quantitative indicators of sustainable forest management and support the reporting to the pan European process on this subject.

Method of work: At each EFC session, delegations submit national progress reports, according to an outline drawn up by the Executive Committee. These reports are synthesized by the secretariat before the session, presented, discussed and subsequently published. The Committee and the Commission will cooperate with the pan-European process in drawing up a pan-European programme of work, as laid down by the Lisbon Ministerial Conference. The team of public relations specialists will continue to work towards creating a positive image of the forest sector, according to the mandate in TIM/1999/5. The team of specialists on socio-economic aspects of forests, under the auspices of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee, provided input to resolution L1 of the Lisbon Conference and the new team of specialists on participation and partnerships in forestry will submit a report on this topic to the pan European process. Possible activities on trade and environment issues in the forest and forest industries sector will be carried out as decided by the Committee next session. Strategies to stimulate and promote the sound use of wood and other forest based products as environmentally friendly and renewable materials will also be discussed by a seminar (to be confirmed).

Duration: to 2002

Outputs in 1999/2000: Participation in drawing up pan European work programme. Review of national progress reports, at joint session, Rome 2000. International Communications Forum, Canada, March 2000. European Forest Academy for Decision Makers. Report and/or meeting on participation issues. Possible activities on trade and environment, promotion of sustainable use of wood.

1.4 Activities for countries in transition, including coordination of implementation of resolution H3 of the Helsinki Ministerial Conference

Description: The Committee and Commission will provide assistance to the countries in transition, in order to promote the process of economic reform and transition to a market economy in their forest and forest products sector. The topics and themes to be included in this programme shall be in line with the priorities and needs identified by the countries concerned. In particular, the Committee and the Commission will contribute to implementing resolution H3 on forestry assistance to countries in transition, by monitoring and analysing this assistance, in particular to determine whether it corresponds to countries' real needs and priorities.

Method of work: The work is guided by a team of specialists, which meets regularly. The secretariat, as international coordinator for H3, collects, stores and analyses information and reports regularly to the parent bodies and, as appropriate, to meetings of the pan European process. A data base on forestry assistance to countries in transition is maintained and its contents made available. The Committee and Commission implement a wide range of activities, notably workshops, which are scheduled and organized in a flexible manner, under two broad headings:

- Institution building, including legal and policy infrastructure;
- Development of market oriented and ecologically sound enterprises.

Duration: to 2000

Outputs in 1999/2000: a workshop on sustainable development of marketing of wood and non-wood forest products and recreation services in forests. The database on forestry assistance to countries in transition, established under resolution H3 will be updated regularly and made widely available. The team met in 1999 in Austria.

1.5 Review of markets for forest products and short term forecasts

Description: The Committee analyses, on a continuous basis, short term trends in the production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products and forecasts short term prospects, with a view to providing Governments and the forest products sector with accurate and up-to-date information and assessments.

Method of work: The annual session of the Timber Committee reviews short term

trends and prospects in the markets, on the basis of estimates provided by delegations and the *Forest Products Annual Market Review*, prepared by the secretariat, which reviews trends in the previous year. An analysis of trends and short-term outlook, approved by the Committee, is published. The Committee's market discussion also reviews trends in the markets for certified forest products on the basis of information provided by delegations on developments in their countries, and statements by experts.

Duration: Continuing

Annual outputs: *Annual Forest Products Market Review* and the Committee's market statement at its annual session.

1.6 Forest and forest products sector outlook studies

Description: The Committee and Commission prepare and publish studies of the outlook for the forest and forest products sector in the region, addressing issues such as the long term scenarios for the supply and demand of forest products and other goods and services of the forest, as well as other major, policy relevant, issues, of a regional or subregional nature. The work is overseen by the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, which determines in particular the scope and objectives of the studies to be undertaken.

Method of work: The outlook study core team will meet in 1999 or early 2000 to prepare detailed plans based on the options for the scope, methods and periodicity of outlook studies in TIM/1999/5/Add.4. The secretariat will implement a work programme in consultation with the bureaux and will report to the Committee and the Commission.

Duration: Continuing

Output in 1999/2000: Outline and plan of action for future outlook studies. Initial output, as determined by meeting in 1999/2000.

B. AREAS OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE COMMISSION AND/OR THE COMMITTEE

2.1 Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics

Description: The Working Party keeps under review the needs for international statistics in the forest and forest products sector and develops programmes to meet those needs, notably with regard to improving comparability; develops methodologies for collection and analysis of information and statistics; and undertakes projects in the field of economics and statistics relating to forestry and forest products.

Method of work: The Working Party meets every two years and advises the parent bodies and the secretariat on the implementation of work in its field. In particular, it is responsible for guiding the implementation, in its area of competence, of programme elements 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5 and 1.6.

Duration: Continuing

Outputs in 1999/2000: At its session in 1999 the Working Party reviewed the TBFRA, preparation plans for the next outlook study, and considered intergovernmental cooperation on forest sector statistics.

2.2 Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training

Description: The Joint Committee assists countries, in particular those which its parent bodies may identify at any time as requiring priority attention, to develop their forestry activities in the context of sustainable development. This is achieved by fostering international cooperation on technical, economic and organizational aspects of forest management and forest working techniques and of the training of forest workers in logging and forest operations.

Method of work: The Joint Committee's activities are led by a Steering Committee, which meets annually. There are three subject areas: management (e.g. multiple use forestry, ecological and economical issues, marketing, information systems), technology (e.g. forest engineering, ecologically and economically sound operations in silviculture, wood harvesting and transport) and training (e.g. for workers, supervisors and managers, including applied ergonomics, occupational safety and health and social aspects of forestry). Much of the work is carried out by teams of specialists which report to the Joint Committee and Steering Committee sessions.

Duration: Continuing

Outputs: The Joint Committee's work programme for 1999-2003 is set out in the report of its twenty-second session (September 1998), (TIM/EFC/WP.1/28).

2.3 EFC/AFWC/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions, *Silva Mediterranea*

Description: *Silva Mediterranea* will advise FAO and member countries in the Mediterranean region on the implementation of the Mediterranean Forest Action Programme (MED-FAP). It will also encourage the exchange of information and the coordination of research in topics of interest to Mediterranean forestry, through research networks.

Method of work: *Silva Mediterranea* will act, at regular sessions and between them, as an inter-governmental forum for the coordination, monitoring and orientation of MED-FAP. It will contribute to identifying international regional priority activities, as well as designing and monitoring them. Six research networks are at present operational, focusing on forest fires, key species of the subregion (stone pine, cedar species, and the most recently created network, on cork oak), other multipurpose tree species, and on selection of stands of Mediterranean conifers for the production of seeds to be used in reforestation programmes.

Duration: Continuing

2.4 FAO Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds

Description: The Working Party collects information, documents technologies, monitors evolution, exchanges experience and discusses progress within mountain ecosystems in view of their sustainable management and conservation. Important areas of concentration will be sustainable management and security of mountain ecosystems, with special attention to torrent control, avalanches, risk zoning, and mapping and early warning systems.

Method of work: The Working Party has an important role in the follow-up of Agenda 21, and supports FAO's role as task manager for chapter 13 on mountain ecosystems. The twenty-first session was held in May/June 1998 in the Czech Republic. Key areas of concentration will be sustainable management of mountain ecosystems, improved mountain livelihood systems, in response to UNCED, activities related to international agreements on mountains, and risk and disaster control and monitoring.

Duration: Continuing

PART II

Projects for possible implementation at a future time

(See ECE decision O (45) and Supplementary report containing the views and proposals of ECE to the Special Commission of ECOSOC, E/ECE/1150/Rev.1, para. 131)

Structural trends in markets for forest products and in the structure and capacity of forest industries

Description: The Committee and the Commission review medium-term (3-5 years) trends in the production, consumption, trade and prices of major forest products and the structure and capacity of the sawmilling and wood-based panels industries, so that governments may be continuously informed of structural trends in the forest products sectors.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: Medium-term surveys are carried out on a 3-year rotation of sectors. These surveys incorporate as appropriate the results of surveys of the structure and capacity of major sectors (every time for panels, every other time for sawmilling). The issue of the medium-term surveys has been suspended until the Geneva staff is at full strength.

(The bureaux will be asked to advise on this matter in 2000, as the professional staff is at full strength since August 1999)

ANNEX II

PROVISIONAL LIST OF MEETINGS IN 2000 AND 2001 FALLING WITHIN
THE TIMBER COMMITTEE'S PROGRAMME OF WORK

Note: The meetings are sub-divided into two categories: meetings marked (A) are open to delegates or approved representatives from all member countries of ECE as well as from other countries that are members of the United Nations and organizations accredited to ECE (or to FAO and ILO, in the case of meetings co-sponsored by them). Meetings marked (B) are those restricted to the countries or individuals nominated by their countries to take part in the activity concerned, e.g. a team of specialists. At the Committee's website (<http://unece.org/trade/timber>) an up to date calendar of meetings, can be consulted.

2000

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Title</u>
9 March (to be confirmed)	St. Saveur, Canada	Meeting of the FAO/ECE team of public relations specialists (B)
April (to be decided)	Geneva (to be confirmed)	Meeting of Statistical contacts on collection and updating of timber statistics (B)
2-3 May	Geneva	Meeting of the Timber Committee office holders and the EFC Executive Committee (B)
15-20 May	Hyytiälä, Finland	Workshop on forestry information systems 2000 (A)
19-20 May (to be confirmed)	Joensuu, Finland	Meeting of the team of specialists on Temperate and Boreal Forest Resource Assessment (B)
16-20 May	Chisinau, Moldova	Workshop on sustainable development of marketing of wood and non-wood forest products and services for central and eastern European countries (A)
5-8 June	Geneva	Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training, twenty-third session (A)
7-9 June	Finland	European Forest and Society Forum (B)
September (to be decided)	eastern Canada	ECE Timber Committee study tour in Canada on certification of sustainable forest management in forests and forest industries (A)
2-8 October	Manemen, Turkey	Seminar on harvesting of non-wood forest products (A)

9-13 October	Rome, Italy	ECE TIMBER COMMITTEE, fifty-eighth session in Joint Session with the FAO European Forestry Commission, thirtieth session (A)
(to be decided)	(to be decided)	Seminar on strategies to stimulate and promote the sound use of wood and other forest based products as environmentally friendly and renewable materials (A)

2001

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Title</u>
6-8 March (to be confirmed)	St. Saveur, Canada	International Forestry Communicators Forum 2000 (A)
March/April (to be decided)	Lisbon, Portugal	Seminar on women in forestry (A)
May (to be decided)	Geneva	Meeting of the Timber Committee office holders and the EFC Executive Committee (B)
May (to be decided)	Geneva	Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, twenty-third session (A)
June (to be decided)	Ossiach, Austria	Workshop on new trends in wood harvesting with cable cranes (A)
25-28 September	Geneva	ECE TIMBER COMMITTEE, fifty-ninth session (A)
8-12 October	Lyss, Switzerland	Seminar on forestry meets the public (A)
(to be decided)	(to be decided)	Steering Committee of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training, 15th session (A)

ANNEX III

MANDATES OF TEAMS OF SPECIALISTS

Revised version mandate

Reference to programme of work: 2.2.(3.3)

MANDATE OF THE TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON PARTICIPATION AND PARTNERSHIPS IN FORESTRY	
A.- TERMS OF REFERENCE	
ESTABLISHED BY: References:	The Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training Report 22nd session Joint Committee: TIM/EFC/WP.1/28, (mandate modified by Timber Committee September 1999)
MANDATE:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clarify the concept of "participation" and develop the conceptual framework for participatory forest management (involvement of the public), awareness of the forest and use of forest products and services by the public. 2. Draw up a report to the Joint Committee and the pan-European process on participatory management and proposals for follow-up action. 3. Assist in the preparation of the proposed seminars in Switzerland on <i>Forestry Meets the Public</i>, and in Belgium on <i>Partnerships</i>. 4. Collect and even initiate case studies.
DURATION:	To 2002
APPROVED BY:	The Joint Committee's 22nd session
REPORTING:	The team reports to each session of the Joint Committee and of the Steering Committee
EXPECTED OUTPUT IN THE NEXT 18 MONTHS: Report to the Steering Committee in 1999, and to the Joint Committee in 2000	

B.- INFORMATION SHEET (as of July 1999)	
ACTIVITIES:	
Past:	Preparatory meeting to launch the activities of the team (June 1999) in coordination with the past team on socio-economic aspects.
Ongoing:	Preparation of background paper for the inaugural meeting in autumn 1999/early 2000 and outline for country reports by Team members.
Future:	Develop concepts and address main issues of the participatory process. Assist in the preparation of the Joint Committee seminars on Public relations and environmental education in forestry; on Partnerships; and on Women in forestry.
References:	
TEAM LEADER:	Miles Wenner (United Kingdom)
MEMBERSHIP:	To be determined