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Economic Commission for Europe Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry

Eighty-first session

San Marino, 20-23 November 2023

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Food and Agriculture Organization European Forestry Commission

Forty-second session

San Marino, 20-23 November 2023

Annotated provisional agenda for the joint session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the European Forestry Commission¹

San Marino, San Marino, 20-23 November 2023 (in-person)

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Keynote speech and panel discussion: Biodiversity - implications of the Global Biodiversity Framework for forests in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe.
3. International and regional forest-related developments:
 - (a) The global and regional policy context;
 - (b) Fostering exchanges and cooperation among regional and international organizations on forest-related work relevant to the Integrated Programme of Work.
4. Joint Committee/Commission matters:
 - (a) Global stocktaking of international forest work;
 - (b) Progress in preparation for the 2025 cycle of the Global Forest Resources Assessment and Joint pan-European data collection on forests and sustainable forest management;
 - (c) Forest economics and markets;
 - (d) Reporting on the implementation of the 2021-2025 Integrated Programme of Work and related decisions:
 - (i) Report of the Joint Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management;

¹ The document symbol of the Joint session has been revised, at the request of The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Previously the symbol FO:EFC was used.



- (ii) Review of 2023 activities and publications planned for 2024;
 - (iii) Initiation of a mid-term review of the Integrated Programme of Work – Roadmap for the review process;
 - (iv) The contribution of forests and forest products to a circular bio-economy;
 - (v) Forest damage in the in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe;
 - (vi) Forest landscape restoration – updates;
 - (vii) Any other business.
5. Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry matters (Economic Commission for Europe):
- (a) Matters arising since the last session;
 - (b) Programme of work for 2024 and recommendations on key components of the programme of work for 2025;
 - (c) Urban forestry and land matters;
 - (d) Update on boreal forest work;
 - (e) Gender, human rights and disability inclusion in forestry;
 - (f) Capacity-building and technical assistance;
 - (g) Election of officers;
 - (h) Date and place of next meeting;
 - (i) Any other business.
6. European Forestry Commission matters (Food and Agriculture Organization):
- (a) Follow-up to the decisions of the forty-first session of the European Forestry Commission;
 - (b) Forestry activities of the Food and Agriculture Organization Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia;
 - (c) Progress of *Silva Mediterranea* and the European Forestry Commission Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds;
 - (d) Main outcomes of the European Forestry Commission external review process;
 - (e) Integrated fire management;
 - (f) Forest biodiversity mainstreaming;
 - (g) Global processes and initiatives;
 - (h) Inputs to Food and Agriculture Organization governance and forestry strategic planning;
 - (i) Election of officers;
 - (j) Date and place of next meeting;

- (k) Any other business.
- 7. Adoption of the joint session report and closure of the session.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Opening

In accordance with past practice, the Bureaux of the Committee and Commission have suggested that the Chairs of the two bodies co-chair the joint session.

1. Adoption of the agenda

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2023/1; FAO:EFC/2023/1

Delegations will adopt the agenda of the meeting.

2. Keynote speech and panel discussion: Biodiversity - implications of the Global Biodiversity Framework for forests in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe

The keynote speech on “Biodiversity - implications for forests in the ECE region” will be followed by a panel discussion and case study presentations on the theme’s various aspects, including national and regional context, climate mitigation, finance, planning and policy contexts. The detailed programme will be published on the meeting web page at <https://unece.org/info/Forests/events/374850>.

Delegates will be invited to take note of the information provided and share experiences from their countries.

3. International and regional forest-related developments

(a) The global and regional policy context

Organizations will be invited to provide information about their activities and any developments with an impact on the work of the Committee and the Commission.

Delegations will be invited to consider the possible impact on the work of the Committee and the Commission.

(b) Fostering exchanges and cooperation among regional and international organizations on forest-related work relevant to the Integrated Programme of Work.

At the June 2022 session of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Joint Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management (Joint Working Party), several delegations stressed the importance of international cooperation and coordination for work in forest-related areas. At the request of the Joint Working Party, the secretariat added an item on fostering exchanges and cooperation among regional and international organizations to the agenda of the Committee on Forest and the Forest Industry (COFFI) in November 2022.

At its November 2022 meeting COFFI requested the secretariat to place the item on the agenda of the 2023 Joint session of COFFI and the European Forestry Commission (EFC) as well. COFFI also requested that the secretariat and member States work towards further strengthening cooperation among regional and international organizations active in forest related matters and welcomed the secretariats’ initiative to hold informal regular meetings of five secretariats (ECE, FAO, European Forest Institute Integrate Network (EFI Integrate Network), European Environment Agency (EEA), and Forest Europe).

Delegates will be invited to take note of progress made.

4. Joint Committee/Commission matters

(a) Global stocktaking of international forest work

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2023/3; FAO:EFC/2023/3

Upon request by the Joint Bureau, the secretariat will present a descriptive table outlining emerging forest initiatives in the international forest arena.

Delegations will be invited to consider the impact on the work of the Committee and Commission and discuss possible follow-up.

(b) Progress in preparation for the 2025 cycle of the Global Forest Resources Assessment and Joint pan-European data collection on forests and sustainable forest management

Delegates will be informed about the progress in the Global Forest Resources Assessment processes as well as on the plans for the joint FAO, ECE and Forest Europe forest reporting in the pan-European region.

Delegates will be invited to provide guidance to the regional reporting work.

(c) Forest economics and markets

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2023/4; FAO:EFC/2023/4

The market discussions will focus on forest products' trends in the region, and the sector's contribution towards sustainable development. Delegates are invited to make statements on the latest trends in production and trade of forest products and discuss amendments to the draft Market Statement of the joint session (ECE/TIM/2023/4; FAO:EFC/2023/4). Discussions will be supported by data and additional information, as well as publications issued by the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, in particular the Forest Products Annual Market Review 2022-2023 and the Data briefs on markets.

(d) Reporting on the implementation of the 2021-2025 Integrated Programme of Work and related decisions

(i) Report of the Joint Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management

Documentation: ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2023/2

ECE/TIM/2023/5; FAO:EFC/2023/5

The report of the forty-fourth session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management (Joint Working Party) which was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 31 May-2 June 2023 will be presented to the Committee and the Commission for their consideration.

As the mandates of all Teams of Specialists will end in 2023, an extension request until 2025 will be submitted for approval and subsequent submission to the Executive Committee of ECE for adoption.

(ii) Review of 2023 activities, and activities and publications planned for 2024

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2023/6; FAO:EFC/2023/6

Delegates will be updated on activities implemented in 2023 under the Integrated Programme of Work. They will also be presented with a provisional list of outputs and publications for 2024.

Delegates will be invited to endorse the document.

(iii) Initiation of a mid-term review of the Integrated Programme of Work – Roadmap for the review process

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2023/7; FAO:EFC/2023/7

ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2023/2

Based on the recommendation by the Joint Working Party, delegates will be invited to decide on a roadmap for the review process and possible preparation of a new programme of work,

including the relevant Terms of Reference of the subsidiary body and the Teams of Specialists.

(iv) *The contribution of forests and forest products to a circular bioeconomy*

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2023/8; FAO:EFC/2023/8

The Committee and the Commission will be informed about the work on forests and the circular economy, and the discussions held during the June 2023 Joint Working Party session. The secretariat will present a draft sectoral study and policy brief.

The Committee and the Commission are invited to review the draft and address selected key points.

(v) *Forest damage in the in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe*

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2023/9; FAO:EFC/2023/9

The Committee and the Commission will be informed about work on forest damage in the ECE region, including findings from the project “Improve capacities of the UNECE member States on assessing forest damage/disturbance in the UNECE region”.

Delegates will be invited to discuss findings from the project, provide feedback and recommendations on the possible continuation of this work.

(vi) *Forest landscape restoration - updates*

As a follow-up to the pledges made by countries under the Bonn Challenge during the 2018 ministerial meetings on Central Asia and the Caucasus region as well as the 2021 ministerial meeting on Eastern and South-East Europe, delegations will be invited to report on progress in their work on forest landscape restoration.

The Committee and the Commission will be invited to take note of and discuss the direction and future activities in this area, particularly in the context of the 2021 – 2030 United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

(vii) *Any other business*

None at the time of writing.

5. Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry matters (Economic Commission for Europe)

(a) Matters arising since the last session

Documentation: E/ECE/1503

(i) *United Nations, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and subsidiary bodies*

The ECE secretariat will present developments at the United Nations and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) having an impact on the work of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry.

(ii) *Updates on events, meetings, communication*

The secretariat will present updates on recent events and meetings as well as its communication work, including the side event organized by ECE secretariat on “The city of the future is a green city” at the March 2023 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the ECE region; the side event at the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF); communication material; and its work on forests and climate change.

Delegates are invited to take note and make recommendations on further work and possible funding.

(b) Programme of work for 2024 and recommendations on key components of the programme of work 2025

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2023/10; FAO/EFC/2023/10

ECE/TIM/2023/INF.2; FAO:EFC/2023/INF.2

In line with document “Sequential review of the proposed programmes of work of ECE subprogrammes”, approved by the Executive Committee at its 115th meeting on 5 March 2021, the Committee will be invited to adopt the draft annual programme of work of the Forests and the Forest Industry subprogramme for 2024 (ECE/TIM/2023/10; FAO:EFC/2023/10) and recommend that it be approved by the Executive Committee. The programme of work is based on the ECE proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect.20)) and follows the annual budget format approved by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution 77/267 of 30 December 2022.

In line with this sequential review procedure, the Committee will be also invited to consider the “Outline of key components of the programme of work of the Forests and the Forest Industry subprogramme for 2025” (ECE/TIM/2023/INF.2; FAO:EFC/2023/INF.2) and to provide recommendations on its components, as necessary. The recommendations agreed by the Committee and included in its decisions will be reflected in the proposed programme plan of the Forests and the Forest Industry subprogramme for 2025.

(c) Urban forestry and land matters

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2023/11; FAO:EFC/2023/11

ECE/TIM/2023/12; FAO:EFC/2023/12

Delegates will review the draft regional urban forestry opportunity plan, (ECE/TIM/2023/11; FAO:EFC/2023/11) amended and submitted by the Joint Working Party in June 2023. The plan had been developed under a project and was first presented to the eightieth session of COFFI in November 2022. The plan is submitted for possible adoption.

Delegates will also be updated on urban and peri-urban work, related events and projects including its work on the block-chain enhanced city food management tool, NaturEaTown (NET) and the Draft policy guidelines/ principles on advancing low carbon construction in cities (ECE/TIM/2023/12; FAO:EFC/2023/12) developed under a project.

The Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (CUDHLM) at its October 2023 session discussed the possibility of building on the existing synergies with COFFI in the areas of greening cities and urban forests, and widening and intensifying cooperation, including through the Informal Expert Network on Urban Nature. The secretariat will inform delegates of the outcome of the discussions and possible initiatives agreed by CHLM.

(d) Update on boreal forest work

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2023/13; FAO:EFC/2023/13

Delegates will be updated on boreal forest work.

Delegates are invited to take note and provide guidance for further work.

(e) Gender, human rights and disability inclusion in forestry

Delegates are invited to provide updates on their inclusive development strategies and actions and provide guidance on further work in this area.

(f) Capacity-building and technical assistance

Delegates will be informed about ongoing capacity-building and technical assistance projects.

The Committee is invited to provide comments.

(g) Election of officers

The Committee will elect its Chair and Vice-Chairs, who will hold office until the end of the eighty-second session. At the eightieth session, the following individuals were elected to hold office until the end of the eighty-first session: Chair, Mr. Peter Blombäck (Sweden); and Vice-Chairs Ms. Maureen Whelan (Canada), Mr. Tomas Krejzar (Czech Republic) and Ms. Anita Dedic (San Marino).

(h) Date and place of next meeting

The secretariat will inform member States about the date and place of the eighty-second session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry.

(i) Any other business

None at the time of writing.

6. European Forestry Commission matters (Food and Agriculture Organization)

(a) Follow-up to the decisions of the forty-first session of the European Forestry Commission

Delegates will be informed about implementation of the decisions taken by the Commission at the forty-first session. The review of progress in implementing previous decisions pays special attention to global and regional developments, regional cross-sectorial dialogue on forestry, global process and FAO governance matters.

(b) Forestry activities of the Food and Agriculture Organization Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2023/14; FAO:EFC/2023/14

Delegates will be informed about forestry activities by the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (FAO-REU), and by the sub-regional Office for Central Asia (FAO-SEC). This includes activities in the pipeline and those which have been carried out.

Delegates will be invited to provide guidance to FAO's forestry work in the region.

(c) Progress of *Silva Mediterranea* and the European Forestry Commission Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2023/15; FAO:EFC/2023/15

Delegates will be briefed on the activities conducted under the auspices of *Silva Mediterranea*.

Delegates will be briefed on the activities of the EFC Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds, including the most recent development on the protective functions of forests in a changing climate.

Delegates will be invited to provide guidance on activities of the Working Party.

(d) Outcomes of the European Forestry Commission external review process

Delegates will be informed about the main outcomes of the European Forestry Commission external review process conducted by the secretariat as requested by the forty-first session of the Commission.

Delegates will be invited to provide guidance on the implementation of the recommendations of the external review.

(e) Integrated fire management

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2023/16; FAO:EFC/2023/16

Delegates will be informed about FAO global and regional level initiatives and activities towards integrated fire management, including main outcomes of the 8th International Wildland Fire Conference, such as the launch of the Global Fire Management Hub; and possible options for regional cooperation on fire management.

Delegates will be invited to provide guidance on the implementation of initiatives and efforts.

(f) Forest biodiversity mainstreaming

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2023/17; FAO:EFC/2023/17

Delegates will be informed about FAO Global Programme on Forest Biodiversity Mainstreaming and relevant regional levels works.

Delegates will be invited to provide guidance on the implementation of the program and the relevant regional work.

(g) Global processes and initiatives

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2023/18; FAO:EFC/2023/18

Delegates will be updated on global processes and initiatives relevant to forestry, including the outcomes of the 18th Sessions of UNFF and the preparations to the 19th session of UNFF, the State of the World's Forests Report 2024 (SOFO24), outcomes of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP27) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15).

Delegates will be invited to provide inputs to FAO contributions to the global process and initiatives.

(h) Inputs to Food and Agriculture Organization governance and forestry strategic planning

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2023/19; FAO:EFC/2023/19

Delegates will be informed about the FAO Forestry strategic planning and FAO governance, including preparations for the thirty-fourth Regional Conference for Europe (ERC 34) and the twenty-seventh session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO 27).

Delegates will be invited to discuss and provide inputs to FAO Forestry strategic planning and FAO governance issues.

(i) Election of officers

In accordance with its rules of procedure and established practice, the Commission is expected to elect a Chairperson and three Vice-Chairpersons, who will hold office until the end of the forty-third session. In accordance with its Rules of Procedure and established practice, the Commission at the forty-first session, elected by acclamation Ms. Liubov Poliakova (Ukraine) as Chair, and Mr. Keith Anderson (Switzerland), Mr. Teemu Seppä (Finland), and Mr. Abduvokhid Zakhadullaev (Uzbekistan) as Vice-Chairs to hold office until the end of the forty-second session.

(j) Date and place of next meeting

The FAO secretariat will inform member States about the date and place of the next session.

(k) Any other business

None at the time of writing.

7. Adoption of the joint session report and closure of the session

The Committee and the Commission will be invited to adopt the report based on a draft prepared by the secretariat.

III. Tentative timetable

Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry, eighty-first session and European Forestry Commission, forty-second session

Monday, 20 November 2023

<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Title</i>
10:00 – 13:00	Item 1	Opening and Adoption of the agenda
	Item 2	Keynote speech and panel discussion: Biodiversity - Implications for forests in the ECE region
15:00 – 18:00	Item 3	International and regional forest-related developments (a) The global and regional policy context (b) Fostering exchanges and cooperation among regional and international organizations on forest-related work relevant to the Integrated Programme of Work
	Item 4	Joint Committee/Commission matters (a) Global stocktaking of international forest work (b) Progress in preparation for the 2025 cycle of the Global Forest Resources Assessment and Joint pan-European data collection on forests and sustainable forest management

Tuesday, 21 November 2023

<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Title</i>
10:00 – 13:00	Item (4 cont.)	(c) Forest economics and markets
15:00 – 18:00	Item 4 (cont.)	(d) Reporting on the implementation of the 2021-2025 Integrated Programme of Work and related decisions: (i) Report of the Joint Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management (ii) Review of 2023 activities, and activities and publications planned for 2024 (iii) Initiation of a mid-term review of the Integrated Program of Work – Roadmap for the review process (iv) The contribution of forests and forest products to a circular bioeconomy (v) Forest damage in the ECE region (vi) Forest landscape restoration – updates (vii) Any other business

Wednesday, 22 November 2023

<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Title</i>
10:00 – 13:00	Item 5	Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry matters (Economic Commission for Europe) (a) Matters arising since the last session: (b) Programme of work for 2024 and recommendations on key components of the programme of work for 2025 (c) Urban forestry and land matters (d) Update on boreal forest work (e) Gender, human rights and disability inclusion in forestry (f) Capacity-building and technical assistance (g) Election of officers (h) Date and place of next meeting (i) Any other business
15:00 – 18:00	Item 6	European Forestry Commission matters (Food and Agriculture Organization): (a) Follow-up to the decisions of the forty-first session of the European Forestry Commission (b) Forestry activities of the Food and Agriculture Organization Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (c) Progress of <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> and the European Forestry Commission Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds (d) Main outcomes of the European Forestry Commission external review process (e) Integrated fire management

Thursday, 23 November 2023

<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Title</i>
10:00-13:00	Item 6 (cont.)	(f) Forest biodiversity mainstreaming (g) Global processes and initiatives (h) Inputs to Food and Agriculture Organization governance and forestry strategic planning (i) Election of officers (j) Date and place of next meeting. (k) Any other business
15:00 – 18:00	Item 7	Adoption of the joint session report and closure of the session
