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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION  
INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

Timber Committee  
European Forestry Commission

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

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TWENTY-SECOND SESSION**

to be held in Zvolen, Slovakia from 14 to 16 September 1998,  
starting at 1000 hrs on Monday 14 September,  
to be preceded by a study tour on Saturday 12 September 1998

1. Adoption of the agenda TIM/EFC/WP.1/27
2. Special topics TIM/EFC/WP.1/R.133
  - (i) Forests and forestry in Slovakia
  - (ii) Social aspects of forestry
  - (iii) Multiple use forestry
3. Achievements, problems and priorities in the Joint Committee's field of interest (summaries of national reports)
4. Implications of activities of other international organizations, notably the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe TIM/EFC/WP.1/R.134

**NOTE-** Documents for the Joint Committee session will be distributed to the official list as in previous years. However, this year the Provisional Agenda, all session documents as well as any other information of interest will also be available at the WEB site:

<http://unece.org/trade/timber>

5. Review of the activities in silviculture and forest management (subject area 1) and programme for 1999-2001 TIM/EFC/WP.1/R.135
6. Review of the activities in wood harvesting and transport (subject area 2) and programme for 1999-2001 TIM/EFC/WP.1/R.136
7. Review of the activities in vocational training and applied ergonomics (subject area 3) and programme for 1999-2001 TIM/EFC/WP.1/R.137
8. Review of the activities for countries of central and eastern Europe in transition and programme for 1999-2001 TIM/EFC/WP.1/R.138
9. Adoption of programme of work TIM/EFC/WP.1/R.139
10. Any other business
11. Election of officers
12. Date and place of the next session
13. Adoption of the report

#### **TENTATIVE TIMETABLE**

It is proposed that the Joint Committee session adhere to the following timetable:

Monday, 14 September	morning	Items 1, 3 and 4
	afternoon	Items 2
Tuesday, 15 September		Items 5, 6 and 7
Wednesday, 16 September	morning	Item 8, 9 and 10
	afternoon	Items 11, 12 and 13

#### **EXPLANATORY NOTES ON THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

##### **GENERAL**

The Joint Committee (JC) will hold its twenty-second session in Zvolen from 14 to 16 September 1998, at the kind invitation of the Government of Slovakia. The meeting will take place at the Forest Research Institute. The session will be preceded by the seminar on improving working conditions and increasing productivity in forestry, which will take place in Banska Stiavnica, from 9 to 12 September 1998 (the programme of the seminar is issued as document TIM/EFC/WP.1/SEM.47/1/Add.1 and Corr.1).

The study tour to be held on Saturday 12 September is being organized for both seminar participants and delegates to the Joint Committee session.

**Item 1 - Adoption of the agenda**

In accordance with established practice, the adoption of the agenda is the first item on the agenda.

**Item 2 - Achievements and problems in the Joint Committee's field of interest**

Under this item the Joint Committee will review achievements, problems and priorities on the basis of country reports. Delegations are requested to prepare their reports in accordance with the guidelines set out in the annex. A copy of their national report should be sent to the secretariat<sup>1</sup> by 31 May 1998. The secretariat will distribute the reports among Joint Committee Coordinators who will present the synthesis to the session. Delegations are urged to respect the above deadline and are invited to bring **50 copies** of the country report with them for distribution at the meeting.

**Item 3 - Implications of activities of other international organizations**

The Joint Committee will be informed of relevant activities of other international organisations and invited to comment on present cooperation and whether it should be further intensified.

Since 1993 the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission have accorded the highest priority to the follow up to the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, the activities of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and the International Forum of Forests (IFF). The Joint Committee will be informed of developments since its last session and will be invited to review its role in the process and adapt its programme of work accordingly, taking into account the secretariat resources available. Special emphasis will be given to the reaction to the work of the Joint Committee team of specialists on socio-economic aspects of forests.

**Items 4-7 - Review of activities and programme for 1999-2001**

The Joint Committee will be informed of developments in each subject area, including the programme for transition countries. The Committee is expected to review past activities and agree on a programme for 1999-2001, taking into account the availability of secretariat resources. The documents under each item will provide an overview of activities, with cross references to original documents, and draw the Joint Committee's attention to points where a decision is required.

The activities and proposals to be reviewed are the following:

**Subject area 1**

- (i) Multiple use forestry, team of specialists and workshop in Jönköping (Sweden) in 1997;

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- (ii) Forest fire prevention and control, team of specialists and "First Baltic Forest Fire Conference", Poland, May 1998;
- (iii) Guidelines for codes of forest practice;
- (iv) Forest operations of tomorrow, proposal for a seminar in France, September 1999 in conjunction with the fourteenth session of the Steering Committee;
- (v) Information systems in forestry, programme for a proposed workshop in Finland in 2000;
- (vi) Management of protected/sensitive forest areas, proposal for a workshop in Sochi, Russian Federation in 1999 or 2000.

#### **Subject area 2**

- (i) New trends in thinnings, workshop in Slovakia, September 1997;
- (ii) Reducing the impact of forest operation on ecosystems, activities of team of specialists and preparations for the workshop in 1999;
- (iii) Harvesting of wood and non-wood forest products in the Mediterranean region, proposal for a seminar in Italy, to be confirmed;
- (iv) New trends in wood harvesting with cable systems, proposal for a workshop in Austria in 1999.

#### **Subject area 3**

- (i) Forestry workforce network, progress report;
- (ii) Forestry training for target groups that are hard to reach, seminar in France, April 1998;
- (iii) Social aspects of forestry, team of specialists;
- (iv) Working conditions and increasing productivity in forestry, seminar in Slovakia, September 1998;
- (v) Public relations and environmental education in forestry, proposal for a seminar in Switzerland in 2000.

#### **Countries in transition**

- (i) Problems in the forestry and forest industry sector arising from radiation contamination, team of specialists;
- (ii) Planning and management in forest operations for countries in transition to market economies, FAO/Austria seminar, September 1998.

#### **Item 8 - Special topics**

##### **(i) Forests and forestry in Slovakia**

A paper on the situation and issues of forests and forestry in Slovakia, the host country, will be presented to the session. The study tour on 12 September will illustrate some of the aspects.

##### **(ii) Social aspects of forestry**

Following the activities of the team of specialists, the Steering Committee agreed that social aspects of forestry be one of the special topics and to invite countries to include this theme in their national reports.

**(iii) Multiple use forestry**

Based on the activities of the team of specialists and the workshop in Jönköping (Sweden) in 1997.

**Item 9 - Adoption of the programme of work**

The Joint Committee will be invited to adopt its programme of work on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat and in the light of its discussions under other items of the agenda. It will also be invited to adopt a tabular presentations of the programme of work.

**Item 10 - Any other business**

At the time of drafting the secretariat has no points to propose under this item.

**Item 11 - Election of Steering Committee**

The Joint Committee will be invited to elect a Steering Committee to hold office until its next session. At present, the Joint Committee has a Chairperson, a past Chairperson, two Vice-Chairpersons, three subject area coordinators and two special coordinators (see TIM/EFC/WP.1/26, para. 66).

**Item 12 - Date and place of the next session**

The Joint Committee should decide on the date and place of its next session. Countries are requested to consider before the session whether they might be in a position to offer host facilities for the next session.

**Item 13 - Adoption of the report**

The Joint Committee will be invited to adopt its report on the basis of a draft to be prepared by the secretariat.

**PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS**

An addendum to this document, TIM/EFC/WP.1/27/Add.1, will be issued shortly providing information on practical arrangements for delegates attending the Joint Committee session.

## ANNEX

### OUTLINE AND PROCEDURES FOR COUNTRY STATEMENTS

Delegations are invited to submit statements on achievements and problems encountered in their countries in the Joint Committee's field of interest. They are also requested to indicate priority issues for possible action by the Joint Committee. These statements are important for the Joint Committee's work, as they facilitate the exchange of information and the preparation of a programme of work in line with the needs and priorities of member countries.

The Steering Committee at its thirteenth session in Jonköping, invited countries to include a section in their reports on social aspects of forestry, that will also be one of the special topics. Social aspects as defined by the Joint Committee team of specialist on the subject include:

- relations between forestry and society/the public;
- forestry's contribution to rural and regional development;
- forestry's contribution to employment;
- development of the forestry workforce;
- development of forestry institutions.

It is suggested to follow a similar pattern to that of previous sessions, i.e.

- **The statements should be subdivided according to the Joint Committee's three main subject areas and social aspects of forestry:**

Subject area 1: Management (silviculture, multiple use forestry, ecological and economical issues, marketing, information systems);

Subject area 2: Technology (wood harvesting and transport, forest engineering, ecologically and economically sound operations in silviculture);

Subject area 3: Training (of workers, supervisors and managers; applied ergonomics and occupational safety and health);

Subject on social aspects: (see above definition by the team of specialists).

- **Under each subject area they should concentrate on:**

- (a) achievements and important innovations over the past two years;
- (b) difficulties that have arisen and measures initiated to deal with them;
- (c) emerging priorities for Joint Committee activities.

- The statements should **not exceed two pages** per subject area.

Countries are requested to respect the deadline for submission of reports:

- Countries are invited to send their complete statements to the secretariat (see address page 3) by 31 May 1998;
- The secretariat will forward a copy of the country statements to the subject area coordinators, who will prepare syntheses to be presented to the Joint Committee's session.