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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
European Forestry Commission

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

**JOINT FAO/ECE/ILO COMMITTEE ON FOREST TECHNOLOGY,
MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING**

Twenty-second session, Zvolen (Slovakia), 14-16 September 1998

REPORT

(as approved by the session)

Highlights of the session

- The Joint Committee was informed that the study prepared by its team of specialists on socio-economic aspects of forestry "People, Forests and Sustainability" had served as the basis for drafting resolution L1 of the Lisbon Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe and that the role of the team had been recognized by the Ministerial Conference. The Joint Committee expressed its wish to continue to contribute to the pan-European process in favour of sustainable forest management and agreed on the scope and methods of cooperation (paras. 24-27).
- Three special topics were presented: forests and forestry in Slovakia, social aspects of forestry and multiple-use forestry (paras. 4-8);
- The Joint Committee reviewed recent achievements and developments in its field of interest (paras.9-23), prepared proposals for its programme of work, including notably social aspects of sustainable forest management, public relations and environmental education in forestry, participation and partnerships in forestry and the role of women in forestry (paras. 30-50);
- The Joint Committee agreed to establish a team of specialists with the main task to draw-up the programme for a seminar on "Partnerships" (para. 31);
- It reviewed and approved a programme of work for 1999 to 2003 (annexes I and II).

Introduction

1. The Joint Committee held its twenty-second session in Zvolen (Slovakia) from 14 to 16 September 1998. Participants attended from: Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Sweden, and Switzerland. An observer from the United Kingdom also participated at the session.

2. Participants were welcomed by Mr. I. Kosír, General Director of European Integration and International Relations, Ministry of Agriculture of Slovakia, Mr. J. Ilavský (Slovakia), Director of the Forest Research Institute Zvolen, Mr. P. Efthymiou (Greece), Chairman of the Joint Committee and Messrs. R. Heinrich (FAO), C. Prins (ECE) and P. Poschen (ILO).

Adoption of the agenda (Item 1)

3. The provisional agenda (TIM/EFC/WP.1/27) prepared by the secretariat was adopted.

Special topics (Item 2) (TIM/EFC/WP.1/1998/1 and Add.1)

(i) Forests and Forestry in Slovakia

4. Dr. I. Ilavský and Mr. J. Balkovic, Director, Department of Forest Management, Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic, introduced the paper on *Forests and Forestry in Slovakia*, prepared by Mr. J. Balkovic. A brief introduction was provided on the history of forestry and forestry education in Slovakia. According to forestry statistics in the Green report of Slovakia in 1996, some 2 million hectares or 40 % of the land area are covered by forests. Since 1920, forest cover in Slovakia has increased from 34 % to 40 % and, per capita, from 0.55 ha to 0.77 ha. Growing stock increased from 130 m³/ha to 200 m³/ha. Before 1990, all forests were managed by the State forest service, now there exists also non-state forest enterprises comprising private, church, municipal forest enterprises and other entities. The restitution of private forests was based on the original forest ownership as of 1948. More than 30 % of the State forests were considered as non-commercial forests. The annual harvested wood volume amounted to some 5 million m³. In recent years some adjustments in forest legislation had to be made. Industrial emissions were causing serious problems to the health of forests. The political and economic changes brought also a change in employment in forestry which decreased since the end of the 1980s from 40.000 to 27.000 employees at present. The main game species in Slovakia were roe deer, red deer, wild boar, fallow deer, pheasant and hare. In addition, brown bears, wolves and lynx could be hunted in Slovakia.

5. Mr. Balkovic provided additional information and comments on Slovakian forestry highlighting the importance of processed wood products which contributed 16 billion SKK or 8 % to the GDP. A brief account was also provided on the organization and administration of state-owned forest enterprises, as well as forest research facilities and resources. With reference to education and training, it was explained that forest workers receive basic training in secondary forestry schools and further education in technical schools. Some private organizations also provided education and training, such as employers'

associations of forest industry and non-state owned forest associations.

(ii) **Social aspects of forestry** (see paras. 24-29)

(iii) **Multiple-use forestry**

6. Mr. G. Nordanstig (Sweden), leader of the team of specialists on multiple-use of forestry, introduced the final report of the team. Two major events had taken place since the establishment of the team in 1992:

- The seminar on 'Exploring multiple-use and ecosystem management, from policy to operational practice', Prince George (Canada) in 1995; and
- The workshop on 'Biodiversity in managed forests, concepts and solutions', Jönköping (Sweden) in 1997.

7. The report took into account the work carried out in some 40 countries worldwide, some 40 national reports and 20 additional reports from countries of the ECE region and thus demonstrated the enormous scope of multiple-use forestry. The priorities appeared to vary over time even during the relatively short period of activity of the team of specialists.

8. Mr. M. Wenner, Forestry Enterprise (United Kingdom), currently seconded to the Swedish National Board of Forestry, presented the main findings of the report. In future work, it was desirable to concentrate on certain more specific aspects, such as the socio-economic issues of multiple-use forestry, participatory forest management or the gender issue. The Joint Committee thanked Mr. Nordanstig, Mr. Wenner and the team members for their valuable work.

Achievements, problems and priorities in the Joint Committee's field of interest
(Item 3)

(i) **Subject area 1: forest management**

9. Mr. J. Suoheimo (Finland) provided a 'tentative' overview as only six country reports had been received prior to the session: Cyprus, France, Germany, Poland, Portugal and Slovakia (in addition, the following national reports were made available during the meeting: Finland, Hungary, Romania and Russian Federation). In these countries, the international debate on sustainable forest management had influenced legislation and practices, leading to a broader concept of sustainability. Several countries were preparing national forestry programmes or plans in a participatory manner. Funding mechanisms were being put in place to facilitate implementation.

10. Economic pressure and a concern over the competitiveness of the forestry sector were a common problem and the search for means to achieve further rationalization was considered a priority. Another area deserving attention was internationally accepted, practical guidance on sustainable management, including the selection and use of technology.

11. Mr. P. Efthymiou (Greece) complemented the summary by reporting on the trend to regionalisation in his country. One serious problem with this approach was the dispersal of responsibility for supervision, management and in particular

for preventing and controlling forest fires. It was preferable to maintain the responsibility for forest fires under the forest authorities which could use their qualified personnel for fire fighting as well as prevention.

(ii) **Subject area 2: technology**

12. The Coordinator Mr. S. Rzadkowski (Poland) provided an overview on recent achievements and problems in this field, based on six country reports received prior to the session. Over the last two years, increased mechanization of forest operations had been observed with due consideration to environmental issues, introducing wood extraction machines with low ground pressure tyres, use of ecofriendly hydraulic oils, and an increased number of tracked harvesters with an outreach of 10 m.

13. Reference was made to the importance of ecologically well managed forests and forest certification. Further important issues were the reduction of fuel consumption per m³ harvested, increased use of fuelwood and non-wood forest products, as well as use of GIS and GPS in wood harvesting operations and forest engineering. Concerns were expressed about the high costs of modern forest machines and operations, economics of thinnings, ecological problems related with the use of heavy duty equipment, cooperation of forest and wood industries, and insufficient mechanization. The following priorities for the Joint Committee activities were suggested:

- Promotion of cooperation between forest owners and industries, creation of optimized logistic chains, improved communication among manufacturers and users of forest technology, collection and dissemination of information on forest technology and the development of criteria for the efficient use of technology for wood harvesting in mountain forests.

14. Mr. V. Korobov (Russian Federation) informed the Committee about some of the problems related to forest harvesting in his country, such as the decrease of national wood production and consumption, protection of biological diversity, multiple-use forestry, the need for more modern equipment and machines and the training of forest workers and technicians.

15. Mr. J. Bartoška (Slovakia) provided some additional information on various forest harvesting machines in use in Slovakia and the difficulties faced by enterprises to introduce advanced machines.

16. Mr. R. Bonneville (France) referred to the conclusions of a recent symposium on sustainable forest management in his country. It was considered important to seek more cooperation with other partners and maintain an equilibrium between ecological, economic and social functions rather than to focus on ecological functions alone. Moreover the ownership structure with a high proportion of small private forest owners had to be taken into account. Utmost care should be taken not to increase the price of forest products relative to substitute materials.

17. Mr. J. Balkovic (Slovakia) requested information about the compilation of forest statistical data from private forest enterprises based on the experiences

in Germany and those emerging from the FAO/ECE meeting on "Timber certification" in Prague (Czech Republic), August/September 1998.

18. Mr. H. Höfle (Germany) informed that the State Forest Services provided in Germany assistance to many private forest owners for forest management and had good information on wood harvesting volumes and growing stock. Mr. A. Pavel (Romania) referred to recent developments in forestry, wood harvesting levels, difficulties of accessibility of forests, need for new forest administration organization and policy, limited investments and funds, as well as lack of forest harvesting equipment.

19. Mr. R. Heinrich (FAO) reported on recent developments in Austria in the sector of cable logging equipment, in particular new mobile cable equipment with a self driven carriage and remote control.

20. Mr. P. Efthymiou (Chairman) felt there was a growing gap in the use of forest machinery between northern and central European countries and the countries in transition and suggested that there was a need to compile and distribute information on advanced forest technology, drawing on data bases available in institutions in member countries such as FERIC in Canada, the KWF in Germany and Skogsforsk in Sweden.

21. Mr. G. Nordanstig (Sweden) informed the Committee about a forestry machinery exhibition in Jönköping (Sweden) in 1999, intended for the southern hemisphere.

(iii) **Subject area 3: training**

22. The Coordinator, Mr. M. Büchel (Switzerland), presented the highlights of the country reports concerning training and occupational safety and health. He emphasized that contradictory trends were being observed. While there was continuous improvement of training on the one hand, there were dwindling employment and difficulties in recruitment in forestry on the other. While mechanization and the development of new technology tended to make work safer, the pressure to reduce costs posed a threat to occupational safety and health. Suggestions put forward for topics to address in future work included: adaptation of curricula and training systems to new work content and skill requirements; training for contractors and small forest owners; employment and unemployment in forestry; and privatization and safety at work. It was mentioned that the Mediterranean countries, in particular would benefit from introducing systematic vocational training and effective extension services.

23. Mr. G. Nordanstig (Sweden) informed the Committee of a major new extension programme called 'Greener forests' that would be launched in Sweden in 1999. It was directed at forest owners as well as at professional foresters and intended to reach 70-100 000 individuals. Its main purpose was to promote a new concept of forest management planning based on a classification of forests into four classes. Classes I and II had predominantly productive functions with few restrictions on utilization, while in classes III and IV, priority was given to conservation. The programme would issue a manual and establish 100 demonstration sites across the country.

Implications of activities of other international organizations, notably the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (Item 4)
(TIM/EFC/WP.1/1998/2 and Add.1)

24. The Joint Committee was informed that the study prepared by its team of specialists on socio-economic aspects of forestry (People, Forests and Sustainability) had served as the basis for drafting resolution L1 of the Lisbon Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests and that the role of the team had been recognized by the Ministerial Conference. Mr. M. Büchel introduced a paper prepared by Mr. P. Mühlemann, Chairman of the Joint Committee's team of specialists on 'Social aspects of sustainable forest management'. The team's report had suggested five major themes for consideration in a resolution and made specific proposals for objectives and strategies. While some of these proposals had not been retained in resolution L1 adopted at the Lisbon Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, they remained nevertheless relevant (see document TIM/EFC/WP.1/1998/2/Add.1). The Joint Committee warmly thanked the team and its leader, Mr. P. Mühlemann (Switzerland), for their excellent work.

25. A pan-European programme of work would be drawn up shortly, in cooperation with international organizations, including ECE, FAO and ILO. The Joint Committee expressed its wish to continue to contribute to the pan-European process in favour of sustainable forest management. It noted that its mandate was not identical with the scope of the resolutions adopted at the three Ministerial Conferences but agreed that many of its activities were relevant to the planned work programme and should be inserted in it. It identified a number of activities (see list in annex III), which it intended to implement within its own mandate, which would also be considered as contributions to the pan-European programme, as well as possible future activities.

26. A document should be prepared on the basis of the list in annex III, reflecting the pertinent Joint Committee activities, resources and outputs with cross-references to the respective resolutions. In order to enable the team of specialists to respond to a possible request for further inputs by the coordinating unit of the Ministerial Conference, the team's mandate should include the preparation of a report on elements to be incorporated in the work programme of the Ministerial Conference. The team's mandate was extended to the year 2000 and the team was also given the possibility of holding a second meeting in 1998 or 1999 if needed.

27. It requested the secretariats and Mr. Mühlemann, in consultation with the team and the Steering Committee, to transmit those ideas to the pan-European process. If appropriate, the team should be recommended to contribute to the process and its mandate should be modified accordingly.

28. An overview of relations with other organizations with activities in forestry in Europe and North America was provided by Mr. P. Poschen (ILO), the secretariat member in charge of liaison with such organizations. The review covered relevant items of the work programmes of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), of the European Forest Institute (EFI), of *Silva Mediterranea* and of the Forest Engineering Group (FEG) in the United Kingdom. The activity level in IUFRO had recovered in recent years and more

events were scheduled to take place in ECE member countries. In addition to IUFRO Division 3 'Forest Operations', Division 6 'Social Economic Information and Policy Sciences' and Division 8 'Forest Environment' had included items in their programmes that were relevant to the Joint Committee. Cooperation continued to be good, but IUFRO should be more involved in the design and preparation of seminars. There were close contacts with EFI, but their programme had fewer links with Joint Committee interests than in earlier years. Notable exceptions were a seminar on forest management in conservation areas in 1998 and a project on conflict management. *Silva Mediterranea* continued to focus on the silviculture of Mediterranean tree species and on forest fires. There was good cooperation on the latter subject with the Joint Committee team of specialists. It was unfortunate that a FEG conference on 'forest engineering for tomorrow' to take place in Edinburgh (United Kingdom) in June 1999 had been organized with no consultation of other organizations active in this field.

29. The Committee decided to further intensify cooperation with IUFRO and to maintain the close contact with EFI. It also decided to establish formal contacts with the European/Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (OEPP) and to approach the FEG in order to ensure timely information about plans for future activities and explore scope for cooperation.

Review of the activities in silviculture and forest management, subject area 1, and programme for 1999-2001 (Item 5) (TIM/EFC/WP.1/1998/3 and Add.1)

30. As follow-up to the work accomplished by the team of specialists on "Multiple-use forestry", the Committee decided to publish the report of the team as an FAO/ECE discussion paper. Mr. M. Wenner agreed to do some editing of the report for publication.

31. Messrs. H. Höfle and M. Wenner referred to the suggestion made by the Chairman for the establishment of a team of specialists on 'participation and partnership in forestry'. They supported this suggestion and put forward draft terms of reference which are reflected in annex IV. This item was in line with a central element of Lisbon resolution L1 and with the recommendation of the report of the team on "Multiple-use forestry" that future work should focus on individual aspects of this wide field. The Committee decided to include the team in its programme of work and requested the secretariat to explore with the authorities in the United Kingdom the possibility to secure the services of Mr. Wenner as leader of this team. Because of his professional background, his present position in the Forestry Commission and his work in Sweden on the report of the multiple-use team, Mr. Wenner would be a most suitable team leader.

32. The Committee also agreed to accept an offer from the Flanders region in Belgium to host a seminar on "Partnerships in forestry" in 2002. The Steering Committee was requested to prepare a draft programme in consultation with Messrs. Nordanstig and Wenner, as well as with the FAO Forestry Department.

33. The Committee expressed satisfaction about the high level of activity and the quality of outputs generated by the team of specialists on 'Forest fire'. Bearing in mind that within the ECE region forest fires were most critical in southern Europe and North America, it requested the team to encourage participation of these countries also in activities focussing on other regions

and to actively explore the possibilities of organizing a seminar in a Mediterranean member country or in North America. An item on harmonization of forest fire statistics and reporting requirements for the European Union and the ECE was added to the terms of reference of the team. The team leader was requested to report on progress regarding these items to the Steering Committee session in 1999. As from 1998 the Bureau of Land Management of the US Department of the Interior was supporting financially the preparation of the manuscript of *International Forest Fire News* the biannual publication under the auspices of the Joint Committee. The Committee warmly welcomed this initiative.

34. In the discussion about the proposed team of specialists on 'guidelines for codes of forest practices', Mr. D. McAree (Ireland) informed the Committee that his country was in the process of introducing a comprehensive code of best forest practices which was to become a binding reference for all actors in forestry. The code would also serve as the basis for certification. A first draft was already available. The Committee agreed that the work item had to be dropped given the lack of resources and backing from the parent bodies. FAO, ILO and Sweden expressed interest and readiness for cooperation with Ireland in the finalization of the Code.

35. The Committee endorsed the proposed programme for the seminar on "Forest operations of tomorrow", Pessac (France), September 1999.

36. The workshop on "Information systems in forestry" is tentatively scheduled to take place in Finland in May 2000. The Committee requested the coordinator and the secretariat to cooperate with the host country in preparing a detailed agenda and setting final dates. The possibility of a joint venture with EFI should be explored.

37. Mr. V. Korobov (Russian Federation) informed the Committee that the seminar or workshop on "Management of protected/sensitive forest areas", originally planned in Sochi for 1999 or 2000, would have to be postponed to a later date. The Committee agreed to keeping the topic in the pipeline of proposals to be reconsidered at its next session.

Review of the programme on wood harvesting and transport, subject area 2, and programme for 1999-2001 (Item 6) (TIM/EFC/WP.1/1998/4)

38. With reference to the workshop on "New Trends in Thinnings", Zvolen (Slovakia), 8-12 September 1997, thanks were expressed to the Slovakian authorities for the excellent organization of the workshop. The subject was considered of high interest for the Joint Committee in the years to come. The Joint Committee may therefore consider to examine in the future the need for follow-up activities on this subject.

39. Concerning the team of specialists on 'Reducing the impact of forest operations on ecosystems', Mr. H. Dörflinger (Germany) considered this topic of high interest to the European Union. The importance of biological diversity was stressed, as well as the need to reduce soil compaction and damage to roots and stems.

40. With reference to the item on "Harvesting of wood and non-wood forest products in the Mediterranean region", a proposal for a seminar in Italy, the secretariat informed the Joint Committee that no definite answer had been received by the Italian authorities. Suggestions for alternative proposals were therefore, welcome. Mr. Hilmi (FAO consultant) informed the meeting that Turkey had considerable interest and experience in non-wood forest products and might be prepared to host such a meeting. It was agreed that the secretariat should investigate the possibilities of holding a seminar in Turkey.

41. It was suggested to hold the workshop on 'New trends in wood harvesting with cable systems' in Ossiach (Austria) from 11-17 June 2000, due to the many events in forest harvesting and engineering in 1999. It was also suggested to organize the meeting in cooperation with IUFRO, which had brought most encouraging results at the seminar in Sinaia (Romania). The programme of the workshop was presented to the Joint Committee and accepted.

42. Mr. R. Heinrich (FAO) provided two more points of information not contained in the document TIM/EFC/WP.1/1998/4. On the issue of compilation of existing information on forest technology, he offered FAO's assistance to the Joint Committee as this was not only a problem for technology transfer from industrialized countries to countries in transition, but also of great importance to developing countries.

43. Finally, he informed the meeting that FAO will publish the proceedings of the Seminar on "Environmentally sound forest roads and wood transport", which was held in Sinaia (Romania) in 1996, in November this year.

Review of the activities in vocational training and applied ergonomics, subject area 3, and programme for 1999-2001 (Item 7) (TIM/EFC/WP.1/1998/5)

44. Reviewing the status of the Forestry Workforce Network (FORWORKNET), the Committee agreed that efforts should continue to disseminate it more widely, in particular in the private forestry sector. A sufficient number of copies of the next issues of the 'FORWORKNET update' should be sent to Joint Committee contact points to distribute to interested organizations, firms and individuals. The 'update' should also be made accessible on the FAO/ECE and the ILO homepages.

45. Reflecting on the experience with working groups at the seminar on "Training for target groups that are hard to reach", La Bastide des Jourdans (France) in 1998, the Committee agreed that these were a positive element and should be a regular feature of seminars. Parallel sessions for different topics, as sometimes requested, should be avoided as they fostered compartmentalization rather than exchange and integrated approaches.

46. The Committee endorsed the initiative of forestry training centres to establish a network and agreed to help disseminate information about it through Joint Committee channels, including the FORWORKNET.

47. Regarding the study on small forest owners recommended by the seminar, the Committee requested the secretariat to communicate this proposal to the European Forest Institute and to IUFRO for their consideration.

48. The Committee was informed about the seminar on "Improving working conditions and increasing productivity in forestry", Banska Stiavnica (Slovakia), 1998, and noted that no immediate follow-up was required. It warmly thanked the Slovakian authorities for the excellent organisation.

49. The proposed seminar on "Public relations and environmental education in forestry" was considered important and also relevant as follow-up to the Lisbon resolution L1. The Committee agreed to a suggestion by the host country Switzerland to postpone the seminar to the year 2001 for internal reasons. A detailed programme should be drawn up for approval by the next Steering Committee session. The ECE Timber Committee/FAO European Forestry Commission team of specialists on 'Public relations in forestry' and the FAO forestry education officer should be involved in the programme design.

50. A new proposal was put forward by the delegate from Portugal for a seminar on 'women in forestry' to be held in Lisbon in March 2001. The seminar would deal with all forms of involvement of women in forestry, i.e. as owners, workers, professionals, members of the public and consumers. The Committee welcomed the offer and requested that a draft programme be prepared and circulated among contact points for comments.

Review of activities for countries of central and eastern Europe in transition and programme for 1999-2001 (Item 8) (TIM/EFC/WP.1/1998/6 and Add.1)

51. Ms. E. Horvathné Sandor (Hungary), the rapporteur for this part of the programme, gave an overview and also reported on the results of a FARE project. The latter had involved 13 countries in central and eastern Europe and enabled them to analyse the needs of the forestry sector in the respective countries and to draw up a programme of action at the national level. Unfortunately, the implementation of these programmes which would have been extremely beneficial to the countries could no longer be supported by the project due to a shortage of funds.

52. With respect to the Joint Committees activities in the countries in transition, she pointed out that these were very useful, but that the needs and interests of the countries in transition were essentially the same as those of other member countries. The Committee should therefore no longer have a separate programme for countries in transition, but rather ensure that their concerns were reflected in the design of its regular activities and foster the participation of these countries in its work. This view was echoed by several delegates from central and eastern European countries. The Committee endorsed this position and also took it into account when deciding on the composition and assignment of responsibilities for the new Steering Committee.

53. Mr. J. Najera (ECE) reported on the team of specialists on radioactive contamination in forests, which had completed its task and presented a report and a project proposal on how to deal with the consequences for forests of the Tchernobyl disaster. The proposed project had been approved and the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs was now seeking the required US\$ 23.3 million donor funding. Mr. V. Korobov (Russian Federation) stressed the importance of this work as the Tchernobyl disaster could have repercussions for all of Europe for example in the event of a major forest fire. He agreed with the view also

taken by the team itself that it had accomplished its mission. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the contribution of the team and agreed to terminate this work item.

Adoption of the programme of work (Item 9) (TIM/EFC/WP.1/1998/7)

54. In response to a query by Mr. H. Dörflinger, it was explained that the workshop in Germany in September 1999 was being organized by the German member of the team of specialists on site impact, who was based at the Faculty of Forestry in Munich. It should therefore be assumed that there are no financial implications for the German government.

55. Mr. D. McAree confirmed his country's offer to host a seminar on 'Afforestation' as well as the twenty-fourth session of the Committee in September 2002.

56. A proposal to include activities on the marketing of forest products in the programme was not retained as this was a subject dealt with by the Timber Committee and the Forestry Department of FAO in Rome.

57. The programme presented in annexes I and II was adopted.

Any other business (Item 10)

58. The Committee expressed its dissatisfaction with the delay of the dispatch of the documents prepared for the session. Numerous delegations had received only part of the documentation and too late as to allow a thorough preparation. The Committee also put on record its recognition for the good quality of the documents prepared for the present as well as for previous sessions and for the timely delivery in previous years. It was hoped that measures would be taken to remedy the situation and to ensure timely translation, reproduction and dispatch in the future.

59. Mr. M. Wenner expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to attend the session which had been rich and fruitful. He was convinced that the Joint Committee had much to offer for the advancement of forestry in the ECE region.

60. The chairman, Mr. Efthymiou, explained that he was withdrawing his proposal to discuss the functioning of the Steering Committee at this session. He had prepared an aide-memoire with suggestions in this respect that would be discussed first by the Steering Committee itself. The matter could then be taken up again by the twenty-third session.

61. The Joint Committee expressed its appreciation for the efficient organization and generous hospitality provided by the Slovakian authorities, notably the team from the Forest Research Institute of Zvolen led by Messrs. Ilavský, Bartoska and Gecovic.

Election of officers (Item 11)

62. The outgoing chairman, Mr. P. Efthymiou, presented his proposal for the composition of the new Steering Committee. He explained that the structure and

the number of positions was in line with the recommendations of the task force about the functioning of the Joint Committee adopted in 1994.

63. The representatives of France, the Netherlands and Sweden seconded the proposal of the chairman. They congratulated him on the good balance between experienced and new members and on the broad representation of member countries. They particularly welcomed the nomination of Mr. McAree (Ireland) as vice-chairman for liaison with the European Union and North America.

64. The Joint Committee appointed the following Steering Committee composition and distribution of responsibilities:

		<u>Responsibility</u>
Chairman:	Mr. H. Höfle (Germany)	Overall coordination
Past Chairman:	Mr. P. Efthymiou (Greece)	Liaison southern Europe
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. V. Korobov (Russian Federation)	Liaison Russian Federation
	Mr. D. McAree (Ireland)	Liaison European Union & North America
Coordinators:	Mr. J. Suoheimo (Finland)	Subject area 1
	Mr. S. Rządowski (Poland)	Subject area 2
	Mr. M. Büchel (Switzerland)	Subject area 3
Special		
Coordinators:	Ms. E. Horvathné Sandor (Hungary)	Women in forestry, Liaison central /eastern Europe
	Mr. J. Ilavský (Slovakia)	Liaison Timber Committee, European Forestry Commission & central/eastern Europe

65. The incoming chairman thanked the meeting for the confidence. He stressed that the Joint Committee had managed to remain a very modern institution in spite of its more than forty years of existence. It was a forum for integration among the different actors in the forestry sector, among the various specializations within forestry and among member countries. Its mandate, programme, structure and mode of operation were constantly under review and updated to meet the needs of the forestry sector in member countries. This had only been possible because of the contribution of the countries and the commitment of the individual members of the Committee, which was critically important in order to ensure that it would be as successful in the future as it had been in the past. He very warmly thanked his predecessor who had steered the Committee through difficult times. The programme adopted at the session was a fine legacy to leave to his successor.

Date and place of the next session (Item 12)

66. As no invitations had been received from member countries for hosting the twenty-third session of the Joint Committee, it was decided that it should be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva in 2000. The secretariat was requested

to explore the availability of meeting facilities as soon as possible. The governments of Switzerland and France should be approached about the possibilities for organizing a study tour in connection with the session.

Adoption of the report (Item 13)

67. The draft report was adopted with a number of amendments. The secretariat was entrusted with inserting these amendments into the final report, checking the report for consistency in the three official languages and editing the draft report for style.

ANNEX I

**PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE JOINT FAO/ECE/ILO COMMITTEE ON
FOREST TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING
FOR 1999-2003**

Programme in subject area 1, silviculture and forest management,
(e.g. multiple-use forestry, ecological and economical issues, marketing,
information systems)

1.1. Multiple-use forestry (Nordanstig)

Activities of the team of specialists:

- publication of the report of the team of specialists on multiple-use forestry as a discussion paper.

Duration: **to 1998**

1.2. Forest fire prevention and control (Goldammer)

Activities of the team of specialists, including the publication, twice yearly, of International Forest Fire News; the team will explore the possibilities of organizing a seminar in the Mediterranean region or North America; the team will make recommendations on the harmonization of forest fire statistics and reporting requirements for the European Union and ECE/FAO. The team will report to the fourteenth session of the Steering Committee in 1999.

Duration: **to 2002**

1.3. Information systems in forestry (Souheimo)

Workshop on information systems in forestry, Finland in May 2000. A detailed proposal to be submitted to the fourteenth session of the Steering Committee in 1999.

Duration: **to 2000**

1.4. Afforestation (McAree)

Seminar in Ireland in September 2002. A detailed programme to be submitted to the fourteenth session of the Steering Committee in 1999.

Duration: **to 2002**

Programme in subject area 2, technology, wood harvesting and transport:

(e.g. forest engineering, ecologically and economically sound operations in silviculture, wood harvesting and transport)

2.1. Environmentally sound forest roads and wood transport (Heinrich)

FAO will publish the proceedings of the seminar held in Romania May/June 1996.

FAO will keep under review and compile information on developments in the sector. A seminar or workshop to be held in 2000 or 2003.

Duration: **to be determined by the Joint Committee's twenty-third session**

2.2. Reducing the impact of forest operations on ecosystems (Wästerlund)

Activities of team of specialists on reducing the impact of forest operations on ecosystems.

- draft guidelines
- joint IUFRO P3.11 and FORSITRISK II workshop 13-17 September 1999, in Fedalging, Germany.

Duration: **to 2000**

2.3. New trends in wood harvesting with cable system (Heinrich)

Proposal for a workshop on new trends in wood harvesting with cable system, 11-17 June 2000, Ossiach (Austria).

Duration: **to 2000**

2.4. Forest operations of tomorrow (France, Poschen)

Seminar in Pessac, Aquitaine, France, from 20 to 24 September 1999 in conjunction with the fourteenth session of the Steering Committee.

Duration: **to 1999**

2.5. Harvesting of wood and non-wood products in the Mediterranean region (Heinrich)

The authorities of Turkey will be approached and possibilities explored for the organization of a seminar on harvesting of wood and non-wood products in the Mediterranean region in 2001, 2002 or 2003.

Duration: **to be determined by the Joint Committee's twenty-third session**

2.6. Forest operations of protected/sensitive forest areas

Workshop on multifunctional forestry to be organized by the Mountain Forestry and Forest Ecology Research Institute in Sochi, Russian Federation in 2001 or 2002. A detailed programme is to be presented at the twenty-third session of the Joint Committee.

Duration: **to be determined by the Joint Committee's twenty-third session**

Programme in subject area 3, vocational training and applied ergonomics:

(e.g. for workers, supervisors and managers, including applied ergonomics and occupational safety and health)

3.1. Forestry workforce network (Poschen)

Activities of the Forestry workforce network, publication of *FORWORKNET Update* by ILO, two or three times per year.

Duration: **continuing**

3.2. Public relations and environmental education in forestry (Büchel)

Seminar in Switzerland, in September/October 2001. A detailed programme to be submitted to the fourteenth session of the Steering Committee in 1999.

Duration: **to 2001**

3.3. Social aspects of sustainable forest management (Mühlemann)

Activities of the team of specialists.

Duration: **to 2000**

3.4. Participation in forestry

A team of specialists is to be established with the main task to draw-up the programme for a seminar on Partnerships in Flanders, Belgium in 2002.

Duration: **to 2002**

3.5. Partnerships in forestry

Seminar on Partnerships in Flanders, Belgium in 2002.

Duration: **to 2002**

3.6. Women in forestry

Seminar in Portugal in March/April 2001. A detailed programme to be submitted to the fourteenth session of the Steering Committee in 1999.

Duration: **to 2001**

ANNEX II

**TABULAR PRESENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE JOINT FAO/ECE/ILO
COMMITTEE ON FOREST TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING**

		1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
	Joint Committee (JC) Steering Committee (SC) annual sessions	SC, 14th session, Pessac, France	JC, 23rd session Geneva to be determined (excursion hosted by the Swiss or French Gov. ?)	SC, 15th session	JC, 24th session Ireland September	SC, 16th session

Subject area 1: Silviculture and forest management

1.1	Multiple-use forestry	publication of the team's report				
1.2	Forest fire prevention and control	IFFN (Newsletter, twice a year, cont.)				
1.3	Information systems in forestry		workshop in Finland May			
1.4	Afforestation				seminar in Ireland September	

Subject area 2: Technology, wood harvesting and transport

2.1	Environmentally sound forest roads and wood transport				seminar or workshop in 2000 or 2003	
2.2	Reducing the impact of forest operations on ecosystems	draft guidelines; workshop in Germany in September				
2.3	Wood harvesting with cable systems		workshop in Austria 11-17 June			
2.4	Forest operations of tomorrow	Seminar in France 20-24, September				

		1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
2.5	Harvesting of wood and non-wood products in the Mediterranean region				seminar in Turkey in 2001,202 or 2003 (to be confirmed)	
2.6	Forest operations of protected/sensitive forest areas				workshop on multi-functional forestry in Russian Federation in 2001 or 2002 (to be confirmed)	

Subject area 3: Vocational training and applied ergonomics

3.1	Forestry workforce network	Continuing publication of <i>FORWORKNET</i>				
3.2	Public relations and environmental education in forestry			seminar in Switzerland Sept. or Oct.		
3.3	Social aspects of sustainable forest management (team of specialists)	team reconvened if requested, possible meetings, termination date 2000				
3.4	Participation (team of specialists)	activities of the team of specialists				
3.5	Partnerships				seminar on Partnerships in Flanders, Belgium	
3.6	Women in forestry			seminar in Lisbon March / April		

ANNEX III**Activities which the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee might contribute to the pan-European programme of work on forests**

(* = confirmed activity)

(** = proposed new activity)

- 1.* Compile a user-friendly compendium of earlier relevant Joint Committee work.
- 2.* Seminar on environmental education in forestry, Switzerland, 2001.
- 3.* Seminar on women in forestry, Lisbon, Portugal, March/April 2001.
- 4.* Seminar on partnerships participation in forestry, Flanders Region, Belgium, 2002.
- 5.** Management of change in forestry institutions.
6. Proceedings seminar on Occupational, safety and health, Kuopio (Finland), 1994 and Konolfingen (Switzerland), 1996.
- 7.** Diversification of activities of forest enterprises.
- 8.** Coordinating forest strategy with industrial development.
- 9.** Seminar/workshop on training for uncertainty.
10. Network on forestry workforce (FORWORKNET), already operational.
11. Network of training institutions (set up at La Bastide des Jourdans (France)), autumn 1998.
12. Study on training: "Professions, skills and training", published, 1996
13. Guidelines on reducing impact of forest operations on ecosystems (in hand by team of specialists), to be completed in 2000.
14. Activities of forest fire team (statistics, International Forest Fire News), ongoing.
- 15.* Conflict resolution and participatory management.
16. Report on multiple-use forestry by team of specialists and seminar proceedings Prince George, Canada, 1995
- 17.* Plantation forestry (link to CBD, FCCC and L1 rural development).

ANNEX IV

MANDATES OF TEAMS OF SPECIALISTS

MANDATE OF THE TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON PARTNERSHIPS	
A.- TERMS OF REFERENCE	
ESTABLISHED BY:	The Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training
References:	Report 22nd session Joint Committee: TIM/EFC/WP.1/28
MANDATE:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assist in the preparation of the proposed seminars in Switzerland on Public relations and environmental education in forestry, and in Belgium on Partnerships. 2. Clarify the concept of "participation" and develop the framework and opportunities for increased participatory forest management (involvement of the public), awareness of the forest and use of forest products and services by the public. 3. Collect and even initiate case studies. 4. Draw-up a report to the Joint Committee on participatory management, including principles , strategies and guidelines.
DURATION:	to 2000
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	

ANNEX V

**Excursion to Cierny Balog
Visit of the Dobroc Virgin Forest and windfall forest area in Osrblie
Sunday, 13 September 1998**

The tour was guided by Mr. Engler, Director of the Forest Service Office in Cierny Balog. The Forestry Branch Office in Hronec was in charge of 38.000 ha of forest which was state-owned and located at a range of 470 m to 1.300 m above sea level. It consisted of 63 % spruce, 14 % fir, 1% other coniferous trees and 22 % broadleaved trees (beech, elm, maple and ash). The average rainfall was 900mm.

The Branch office had 8 sub-offices and 52 units. One forester was in charge of 500-700 ha. It also had three specialized units which were in charge of wood harvesting and transport operations. In addition, nurseries of 20 ha existed, being self-sufficient in forest seedling production.

In the past, wood was transported by river and rail road which was constructed in 1908 and used until 1930, with the introduction of forest machinery more and more forest roads were constructed. In 1996, there was a windfall which destroyed some 400.000 m³ on a forest area of 850 ha. In 1997, some 560.000 m³ were felled by storms. The wood from the windfall was sold on the stump. In the rescue operations, some 1.200 forest workers were employed. Machineries used in the operations included 80 skidders, 60 agricultural tractors, 24 cable systems and 2 harvesters. An average of 1.000 m³ were processed per day.

It is planned that the windfall forest area will be regenerated within the next six years.

Participants were invited by the Branch Forest Enterprise for lunch at the Biatlon Hotel which is the centre of the Biatlon facilities. Participants were also offered a ride on the historical small gage railroad which is now a tourist attraction.
