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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
Timber Committee

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
European Forestry Commission

JOINT FAO/ECE WORKING PARTY ON FOREST ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS
Twenty-sixth session

to be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva
15 - 17 March 2004, starting at 10.00 hrs on Monday 15 March

Provisional agenda

(TIM/EFC/WP.2/2004/..series)

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Note – Working Party documents will be distributed to the official list as in previous years. However, the provisional agenda and other session documents will be available on the Timber Section's website: <http://www.unece.org/trade/timber>

EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

General

During the strategic review of the ECE/FAO integrated programme of work in the field of forest and timber (see TIM/2001/2 and 8), it was agreed that the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics should provide guidance for work areas 1, 2 and 3 of the integrated programme, and act as an interface between the technical and the intergovernmental levels. The Working Party should henceforth meet annually. For the first time in 2002, the Working Party session followed this pattern. At the end of the 2003 session, delegations were asked to review these decisions in the light of experience, and make suggestions for the future.

The provisional agenda has been drawn up to allow the Working Party to concentrate on the guidance function, and discussion of major topics, with formal parts of the agenda kept to a minimum. As the outlook study work is at a critical phase, more time will be allocated to work area 3, delegations are invited to ensure that experts on the EFSOS work area will be able to participate.

Documents will be issued in advance to the regular mailing list, and will also be available for downloading from the Timber website (<http://www.unece.org/trade/timber>).

Tentative Timetable

The secretariat proposes the following timetable:

Monday 15 March 2004		
	a.m.	Items 1-3
	p.m.	Item 4
Tuesday 16 March 2004		
	a.m.	Item 5 (start)
	p.m.	Item 5 (conclusion)
Wednesday 17 March 2004		
	a.m.	Item 6
	p.m.	Items 7-11

The Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics may meet on Thursday and Friday.

Detailed Agenda

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure and established practice, the first item on the agenda is the adoption of the agenda.

Item 2: Matters referred to the Working Party by its parent bodies

Under this item the Working Party's attention will be drawn to questions referred to it by its parent bodies, excluding those questions which will be addressed under individual work areas. This will focus on the drive by ECE to reduce and focus publication output and to increase their policy impact; and the discussion by the EFC of how to set priorities for international information gathering and how to coordinate activities.

Items 3-5: Guidance of work areas

For each of the work areas, the Working Party will be informed of activities, results and plans for the next two years, and invited to review and comment on these activities and plans, and to approve the detailed section of the integrated work programme referring to each work area. Decisions from the meetings of the respective Teams of Specialists will be reviewed. There will also be an area of special focus for each area:

Work Area 1: scope and form of the markets and statistics outputs

Work Area 2: organization and direction of regional FRA work

Work Area 3: review of major draft outcomes of EFSOS

Item 6: Strategic Review of the integrated programme of work of the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission

The Secretariat will present to the Working Party a draft report of the status of the Strategic Review process and a summary of responses received from partners in the forestry sector on its invitation to contribute to the process.

Item 7: Inter-organization co-operation on forest and forest products statistics

Delegates will be informed of the activities of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics

Item 8: Role and functioning of the Working Party

Under this item the Working Party will be invited to consider whether the objectives of the reform instituted in 2001 have been achieved, and whether the new role and methods should be continued or modified

Item 9: Any other business

At the time of writing the secretariat has no matters for discussion under this item

Item 10: Election of officers

The Working Party is expected to elect a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen. At its twenty-fifth session, the Working Party elected M. Gecovic (Slovakia) Chairman and Messrs H. Huckert (Germany) and M. Aarne (Finland) Vice-Chairmen to hold office until the end of the twenty-fifth session.

Item 11: Adoption of the report

The Working Party will be invited to adopt the report of its session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat. However, in order to use meeting time in the most efficient way possible, and in view of the detailed nature of some of the discussions which may take place, it may not be possible to present a full draft report at the end of the session, so that it may be necessary to for the Working Party bureau to finalise the report after the session.



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