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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

Item 6 of the Provisional Agenda
**Strategic Review of the Integrated Programme of Work of the
UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission**

Note by the Secretariat

This document presents to the Working Party the timetable for the Strategic Review of the integrated programme of work of the UNECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission. A synthesis of replies received for the Strategic Review will be presented to the Working Party and it is invited to make inputs into the Strategic Review. It is also suggested that the role of the Working Party be discussed together with the Strategic Review.

Introduction

1. The integrated programme is the subject of its second strategic review over 2003/2004. The timetable agreed by the Timber Committee in October 2003 was as follows:

- November 2003: circulation of invitation to comment/make proposals to governments, partners/stakeholders/clients
- February/March 2004: Secretariat (Geneva), in consultation with the FAO Forestry Department (Rome) and the Subregional Office for Europe (Budapest), develop draft strategic plan for 2004 - 2008.
- 1-2 April 2004: extended¹ bureaux meeting to review draft strategic plan, and resolve questions of prioritisation of programmes in light of the resources availability, etc.
- Summer 2004: finalisation of plan taking into account results of the extended bureaux meeting.
- October 2004: formal approval of new strategic plan at joint session of UNECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission.

2. Comments have been received from countries and stakeholders and are being posted on the ECE/FAO website². Teams of specialists and subsidiary bodies have also been asked to make a self-evaluation of their activities. The secretariat, with its partners, is in the process of preparing a set of proposals for the extended bureau meeting which will take place on 1 - 2 April.

3. The secretariat will brief the Working Party on the synthesis of replies received and on the proposals it is putting forward to the extended bureaux meeting

Input of the Working Party to the Strategic Review

4. The Working Party will have the opportunity to contribute to the strategic review at different stages as indicated below:

- The Working Party may pay special attention to the strategic aspects while discussing the implementation of work areas 1, 2 and 3. Specifically it may indicate the priorities for the next 4 years taking into account the resources available and indicate changes in the approach adopted in their implementation;
- Under item 8 of the provisional agenda, the Working Party is to review its own role in implementing and guiding the work programme, and make any necessary recommendations (TIM/EFC/WP.2/2004/8)
- After the secretariat has briefed it on countries' and stakeholders' views and the secretariat's proposals, the Working Party will be invited to comment on the review as a whole. These comments will be input to the extended bureaux meeting on 1-2 April .

¹ I.e. with the participation of bureau members and any other representatives, of governments, partners or stakeholders, who wish to attend.

² At http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/strategic_review/2004-strategc-review/2004-strategic-review.htm

5. *It is suggested that the role of the Working Party (item 8) be discussed together with the Strategic Review as a whole (item 6), and that the necessary time be devoted to this discussion on the morning of Wednesday 17 March. The discussion should be based on the questions raised in the secretariat paper on the role of the Working Party and on the proposals for the revised integrated programme, which the secretariat will prepare. All of the Working Party's comments, evaluations and suggestions will be transmitted to the extended bureaux meeting charged with reviewing the draft strategic plan.*