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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
Timber Committee

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
European Forestry Commission

Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party On Forest
Economics And Statistics

Twenty-eighth session
Geneva, 2-4 May 2006
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

MATTERS REFERRED TO THE WORKING PARTY BY ITS PARENT BODIES

Note by the Secretariat

This document aims to report briefly on requests made by the parent bodies (UNECE Timber Committee or the FAO European Forestry Commission) and how the Working Party is responding to these requests. The document is for information only, as the substance of the matters is covered under other agenda items.

Introduction

1. At each session, the Working Party is invited to provide guidance to activities under work areas 1, 2 and 3. However, it is also expected, when necessary, to respond, to requests from its parent bodies, the UNECE Timber Committee or the FAO European Forestry Commission. This document aims to report briefly on any requests made by the parent bodies and how the Working Party is responding. The document is for information only, as the substance of the matters is covered under other agenda items.

Information on certified forest products

2. The policy forum on the role of Governments in forest certification in 2005 found that “The lack of information on production, consumption and trade of certified forest products hampers policy makers, analysts and market actors”. The Committee’s session “asked the Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, with FAO, ITTO and other partners to consider how to improve the data quality about production, consumption and trade of certified forest products.” (ECE/TIM/2005/2, paragraph 17).

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3. The topic is addressed under item 9 of the Working Party's agenda.

Information on illegal logging and related trade

4. The workshop on combating illegal harvesting of forest products and related trade in Europe, held in Madrid in November 2005, under the auspices of MCPFE, the Timber Committee and the EFC requested "the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics to collect information on the extent of illegal logging and related trade and developing suitable methodology in cooperation with IUFRO, Royal Institute of International Affairs (UK), European Forest Institute and other relevant organizations".

5. In addition, the Ministerial Conference held at St. Petersburg in November 2005 of forest law enforcement and governance (ENA-FLEG) agreed to "Strengthen cooperation, using as much as possible existing structures, for forest law enforcement and governance and timely exchange of information and experience among countries, in particular, those involved in exports and imports of timber and timber products;"

6. The Indicative List of Actions of the Conference also called on international organisations to "Facilitate the gathering, synthesis and sharing of import/export data on wood and forest products and their integration into international open databases (for example from FAO, ITTO);"

7. The topic is addressed under item 10 of the Working Party's agenda.

Information needs and capacity building in transition countries

8. A workshop on Building capacities on Sharing Forest and Market Information was held in Prague and Krstiný, Czech Republic, from 24 to 28 October 2005. It approved a declaration, addressing among other things capacity building for information.

9. The topic is addressed under item 7 of the Working Party's agenda

European Forestry Commission

10. The EFC has not met since the last Working Party session, so there are no matters referred to the Working Party by the EFC. However the EFC is meeting from 23 to 26 May 2006 in Zvolen, Slovakia (agenda and documents are available on the FAO website), so the Working Party has the opportunity to draw the EFC's attention to specific issues or to request specific guidance. The secretariat will transmit any relevant matters orally to the EFC session.

Conclusions

11. The Working Party is invited to take note of the requests from its parent bodies presented in this document.