

**ECE/FAO Teams of Specialists report to the
thirty-eighth session of the
Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on
Forest Statistics, Economics and Management**

Items for regular reporting to the JWPFSEM

1. Name : [Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products](#)

The Team of Specialists (ToS) on Sustainable Forest Products is engaged to support the implementation of the [Integrated Programme of Work 2014-2017](#), provide advice, or work on specific projects. Our mandate is decided by COFFI and the EFC. We report annually to the [Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management](#).

2. Period covered:

April 2015 – March 2016

3. Leader/Deputies and Secretary:

Leader: Mr. Eoin O'DRISCOLL
Deputies: Mr. Branko GLAVONJIC, Mr. Jeremy WALL
Secretary: Florian STEIERER

4. Members:

78 members

New members, who have an interest in the markets for forest products are most welcome to join our Team of Specialists. Please email ecoin@drima.com to discuss same.

5. Countries:

29 countries: Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uzbekistan.

6. Meetings held:

[Meeting of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products](#), 3 November 2015, Engelberg, Switzerland.

This meeting was well attended by 20 delegates. There was good interaction among those attending. The issues discussed included:

- Forest Products Annual Market Review (FPAMR) 2014-2015.
- Discussion of a survey on how the FPAMR is used and how it can be improved. This work is now ongoing.
- Update on capacity building workshop in S.E. Europe, December 2015
- Update on the work of the ToS on Forest Products Statistics and Wood energy. The group was updated on the work of this Team as well as the plans for a “*State of WoodEnergy in the UNECE*” publication.
- Conversion factors publication. The secretariat updated the group on the forthcoming project to update forest products conversion factors at a global level, which FAO, UNECE and ITTO are jointly working on.
- Promoting sustainable building materials and the implications on the use of wood in buildings. An overview of the Canadian [Wood First Initiative](#) and [Woodworks Initiative](#) in British Columbia, Canada.
- Discussion regarding the running of an awareness raising programme for forest products. Possible topics could include trade policy, barriers to trade, CoP-21 outcomes, harvested wood products (HWP) and the UNECE Goodland study ‘*Promoting sustainable building materials and the implications on the use of wood in buildings*’.

7. Outputs and impacts achieved during last year:

- Provision of editorial guidance for the UNECE Forest Products Annual Market Review (FPAMR).
- Strategic planning for a programme of work to develop the forest-based sector in SE Europe. Building on the existing Bled Declaration, this framework approach will help form the basis of its implementation and updating, including through a series focused, regional events on key issues affecting the region. The first in this series was:
 - Capacity Building Workshop in Podgorica, Montenegro, December 2015.
 - This [workshop](#) brought together 30 experts from the S.E. Europe and Central Asia and Caucasus (UNECE/FAO UNDA project on Sustainable Forest Management for Greener Economies in the Caucasus and Central Asia).

8. Outputs and impacts expected for coming year:

- Ongoing editorial assistance with the FPAMR.
- Review of the use of the FPAMR – currently ongoing.
- Work with the Secretariat to get the forest products sector to attend the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry
- Further development of the strategic planning of the work programme for the development of the forest-based sector in S.E. Europe
- Ongoing capacity building in the S.E. Europe. Possible links with the Croatian Wood Cluster and the Bulgarian wood-processing sector.
- Development of an awareness raising programme for forest products. This is aimed at promoting the use of forest products to a non forest audience. It is intended that this programme would be industry supported and would be organised on a multi-annual basis. We are in talks with forest products trade associations regarding same.
- Potential development of a Workshop in conjunction with the Housing Committee of the UNECE.

9. Issues for the attention of the Working Party: (if significant issues, how do we stimulate WP discussion

- The ToS should ideally aim to run one high-profile event each year, having broad geographic and topical interest to the forest-based sector of the whole UNECE region: (i.e. separately from the S.E. Europe activities).
- However, to run successful events, we need multi-annual funding core funding to ensure continuity. This core funding can then be supplemented and renewed by sponsorship for specific events.
- We are working with interested industry, governmental and other bodies and organisations to seek same.

10. Other comments: (collaboration with other ToS)

Our Podgorica Workshop was successfully run in conjunction with the ToS on Green Jobs. We remain open to running events with other ToS and with other interested bodies.

Eoin O'Driscoll
Date: 26/1/2016