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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION  
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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION



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

twenty-fourth session

Ennis, Co. Clare, Ireland, 12-14 September 2002

**Review of the activities in silviculture and forest management (subject area 1)  
and  
programme for 2003-2005**

**Item 5 of the provisional agenda**

Note by the secretariat

This document presents the activities in subject area 1 since the Joint Committee's twenty-third session and draws the Committee's attention to a number of points for decision (in bold, italic type).

The Joint Committee is invited to:

- review its past activities in this subject area and agree on activities for the future;
- agree on the specific points drawn to its attention.

### 1.1 Forest fire prevention and control

1. The activities of the team, lead by Mr. J. G. Goldammer (Germany) during 2000-2002, including the publication, twice yearly, of *International Forest Fire News* (IFFN). Preparations for a seminar.

#### 2. BALTEX FIRE 2000

The Baltic Exercise for Fire Information and Resources Exchange was held in Kuopio, Finland, 5- 9 June 2000. BALTEX FIRE 2000 was part of an initiative devoted to strengthen cooperation in forest fire management and transboundary cooperation in large fire disasters between all countries bordering the Baltic Sea. The conference and exercise was held under the auspices of the Joint Committee and organised and hosted by the Finnish Ministry of Interior and the Emergency Services College in Kuopio. BALTEX FIRE 2000 was arranged and co-sponsored by several national institutions (the Finnish Forest Research Institute; the Forest and Park Service; the University of Helsinki; the Meteorological Institute and the Technical Research Center [VTT] of Finland). The full report is set out in document TIM/EFC/WP.1/AC.1/2001/4.

#### 3. Meeting of the team of specialists

The team met on the occasion of the meeting of the Working Group 4 on Wildland Fire of the Interagency Task Force for Disaster Reduction, ISDR, Freiburg, Germany, on 8-9-March 2002. The main item discussed was the preparation of a seminar in the Mediterranean region, as requested by the Joint Committee's twenty-third session. Information about preparations for the seminar is given below. The list of team members is reproduced in annex II. Other activities by the team include:

- continued bi-annual publication of publication of *International Forest Fire News* (IFFN) with financial support of the USA Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for the preparation of IFFN;
- continued work on statistics standards;
- finalisation of the revision of the FAO Forest Fire Glossary;
- participation at the FAO/ITTO International expert meeting on Public policies affecting forest fires, March 2001;
- participation at the Interagency Task Force for Disaster Reduction of the United Nations Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) and its Working Group on Wildland Fire (WG-4 under the ISDR Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction);

#### 4. Seminar in Turkey in 2003

Turkey officially agreed to host the seminar in April 2003 in Antalya. The theme is "*Forest Fire in the Eastern Mediterranean, Balkans and adjoining Regions of the Near East and Central Asia*". Mr. Dursun Cetin, Head of Board of the Ministry of Forests is the official contact person. The outline of the seminar was discussed at the Steering Committee's fifteenth session. The first announcement of the seminar will be made available at the Committee's session.

#### ***Point for decision:***

- ***The Committee is invited to discuss the team's activities and agree whether its mandate is extended to 2004.*** (The mandate is reproduced in annex 2 of document TIM/EFC/WP.1/2002/6)

## 5. Third International Wildfire Conference

The third International Wildfire Conference is scheduled to take place in Sydney, Australia from 4 to 8 October 2003. It is being organised jointly by the FAO North American Forestry Commission, fire management study group and the Australian Fire Authorities. The Conference will discuss developments and scientific results and agree on issues, programmes and strategies fostering international cooperation and reduction of wildfire losses. The Conference organisers have approached the team of specialists on forest fire requesting a non-financial sponsorship of the Joint Committee.

***Point for decision:***

- ***The Committee is invited to discuss whether it wishes to be associated with the third International Wildfire Conference.***

## 1.2 New roles and modes of operation of forest services

6. Mr. P. Winterman, Joint Committee delegate from the Netherlands, officially agreed to host the seminar on the above theme in 2004 and will appoint a contact person in charge of drawing up the draft agenda and other organisation details with the subject group coordinator and the secretariat. A tentative programme prepared by the host country will be made available at the Committee's session. The seminar should build on the series of workshops on the changing role of national forest services of which the latest is scheduled to take place in 2002.

***Point for decision:***

- ***The Committee is invited to discuss and comment the seminar preparations, and propose changes, if any.***

## 1.3 Afforestation

7. The Committee will be informed of the seminar on afforestation in the context of sustainable forest management, which will immediately follow the Committee's session.

***Point for decision:***

- ***The Committee should review the state of preparations for the seminar and consider how to incorporate recommendations the seminar may make in its programme.***

## 1.4 Disaster preparedness in forestry

8. Establishment of a team of specialists. The joint session of the ECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission held in October 2000 in Rome, welcomed the initiative of the Joint Committee to set-up a team of specialists on this subject. Subsequently, the secretariat has received 10 nominations from 8 countries. The secretariat organized an informal meeting in Geneva between the most affected countries to exchange views on how the work of the team was perceived taking into account the terms of reference, organization, schedule, and methods of work, including possible supplementary resources and financial implications. Mr. M. Hermeline from France has suggested that in order to avoid duplication, the Joint Committee team join forces with an existing team (STODAFOR) established by France with EU membership and led by the Centre Technique du Bois et de l'Ameublement (CTBA). The French Government will finance the participation costs from non EU

countries team members. The JC team's mandate would be fully taken into account. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to set a date for the inaugural meeting of the team. The Committee will be informed on further developments.

***Point for decision:***

- ***The Committee is invited to comment on preparations for the establishment of the team and decide whether the team should merge its activities with those led by CTBA, continue independently, in which case the duration of its mandate should be extended (see annex 3 of document TIM/EFC/WP.1/2002/6), or be terminated.***

**1.5 Information systems in forestry**

9. Proposal for a seminar to be held in 2004 or 2005. This activity is in the pipeline, no action has been taken.

***Point for decision:***

- ***Suggestions for themes and offers to host the seminar are invited.***

**1.6 Close to nature forestry**

10. Proposal for a seminar in Slovakia in 2003 or 2004. Mr. J. Ilavsky has confirmed his country's interest in hosting the seminar and has approached IUFRO and EFI to be co-sponsors. He will provide further written information before the Committee's session.

***Points for decision:***

- ***The Committee is invited to comment on the above proposals.***

**1.7 Biodiversity: from concept to practice**

11. Proposal for a seminar in Sweden in 2003 or 2004. Mr. G. Nordanstig will provide further written information at the Committee's session on preparations for the proposed seminar.

***Points for decision:***

- ***The Committee is invited to comment on the above***

**1.8 Other topics**

12. Given the importance of the programme of activities under this work area in the coming years, there have not been suggestions for new activities.

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