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The wood market in Central and Eastern Europe

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Summary

The wood market in central and eastern European countries (CEEC) has had a sinuous evolution in the last decade. The lack of information on development of wood markets in some CEEC countries is still important.

The price of wood in this sub-region is a market driven price, established according to demand and supply. The relation between forestry enterprises and wood buyers is a commercial relation. Most CEEC countries have invested in marketing in order to provide the sound use of wood as natural resource. All CEEC are interested in developing strategies to use wood and wood waste as raw material for energy generation, but only some of the CEEC have invested in it. At present forest enterprises from CEEC use their own regulations and standards for timber assortments with internal use for domestic market (their main customer). The European standards for wood assortments are used mainly at customer's demand in international trade.

Forest certification in CEEC has been imposed by the market and both recognized schemes (FSC and PEFC) exist. Romania and some other CEEC consider that in the long term they should elaborate their own forest certification system, compatible with FSC.

After a decline at the beginning of the transition period in CEEC, the production, trade and consumption of forest products increased in the last two years, and the commercial flow with Western Europe has been intensified. The forecast for 2003 indicates an increase of the production, trade and consumption of wood products in this sub-region.
