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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-seventh session

to be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva
22 – 24 March 2005, starting at 10.00 hrs on Tuesday, 22 March

Item 6 of the Provisional Agenda

**Special topic: monitoring and analysis of wood energy developments: data quality and availability,
inter-organisation cooperation, strengthening the EFSOS analysis**

Note by the Secretariat¹

This document briefly discusses the review of different sources of information on wood energy statistics in the UNECE region. Delegations are invited to prepare a short statement about the methods by which they gather information about wood energy use and wood flows in their respective countries along with other information that might have been done in an effort to improve the state of knowledge over the course of recent years.

¹ This document was submitted late for documents processing as it was received late from the source.

Background:

1. The break-out session on wood energy during the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics (15-17 March 2004, Geneva) confirmed the importance of reliable and accurate information to aid policy discussions.
2. The Working Party raised the issue of the quality of wood energy statistics, and suggested that it would be helpful if the secretariat assessed the sources and quality of information available via the national statistics correspondents and other sources.
3. The Working Party agreed on wood energy policy emerging from the EFSOS analysis as meriting further, more detailed, consideration by UNECE/FAO over forthcoming years, and suggested the strategic review process took this into consideration.
4. At the Joint session of the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission in October 2004 it was agreed that the policy aspects of increased use of wood energy was an activity of some priority for which extra budgetary funding or special partnerships might need to be sought. In addition, the European Forest Sector Outlook Study (EFSOS) identified the outlook for wood energy as a crucial area, which is at present not well understood, partly because of the weakness of the information base (unclear definitions, missing information, bad quality information)

Present conditions:

5. The secretariat is currently reviewing the different sources of information on wood energy statistics in the UNECE region and will report on this before the Working Party session. However, it is clear already that there is no single, comprehensive, reliable data source. Providing a concise and quantitative description of wood energy supply and use throughout the UNECE region has proved impossible. The position is made still more difficult because there is no agreement on definitions for the various categories of wood that enter the energy market, the size and direction of wood energy flows and the volumes of unrecorded harvests. These difficulties will be brought out in the paper along with information about projects that have sought to improve the state of information. A description of the approaches adopted in some countries will help the delegates taking part in the Working Party to gain insight into options existing at the national level to establish an information system for wood energy.
6. A stakeholder analysis of organisations and agencies that deal with wood energy and wood energy related fields should provide an overview of the various organizations and their involvement.
7. On the basis of such investigations the secretariat will frame a proposal on how existing information sources might be combined to improve the overall standard of information.
8. The paper will invite delegates to consider what might be the ideal state of information about wood energy use, what it might be realistic to expect countries to provide, as well as which organisations and stakeholders might be involved.
9. *Delegations are invited to prepare a short statement about the methods by which they gather information about wood energy use and wood flows in their respective countries along with information about anything that might have been done in an effort to improve the state of knowledge over the course of recent years.*
10. *The Working Party is invited to:*
 - *Review the situation with regard to wood energy information on the basis of the secretariat paper and national statements;*

- *Determine where UNECE/FAO can make a useful contribution, bearing in mind its areas of comparative advantage and the needs and activities of other partners;*
- *Draw up, if considered desirable, a plan of action in the field of wood energy, with final and intermediate objectives, necessary actions, partners and resources. The secretariat, in consultation with partners will make some preliminary proposals in the note it is preparing.*

11. Useful links:

- <http://www.agores.org/>
- <http://www.eufores.org/Summary.htm>
- <http://www.ecop.ucl.ac.be/aebiom/>
- <http://www.fao.org/forestry/foris/webview/energy/index.jsp?siteId=3281&langId=1>
- <http://www.iea.org/Textbase/subjectqueries/index.asp>
- www.ieabioenergy.com
- <http://www.worldenergy.org/wec-geis/publications/reports/ser/wood/wood.asp>