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28 September - 1 October 1998

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES SINCE THE FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION AND PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1999 TO 2003

(Item 6 of the Provisional Agenda)

Note by the secretariat

This document contains a brief overview of activities in 1997/98, and identifies certain issues which appear to require the attention of the Committee. On the basis of this review and discussion the Committee is invited to approve a programme of work, a list of forthcoming meetings, and the mandates of its teams of specialists on the basis of the drafts in annexes 1, 2 and 3.

Introduction

1. Under this agenda item, the ECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission are invited to review activities since October 1997 and to approve a programme of work for 1999-2003. The Committee and the Commission have an integrated programme but are meeting separately in 1998, at a relatively short time interval from each other: for that reason the same document is being submitted to both bodies. Decisions by the Timber Committee, which meets first, should be considered provisional until after the EFC session. If any discrepancies arise between the decisions of the two bodies, the problem should be referred to the bureaux to resolve informally.

2. The present document contains:

- a short overview of all activities carried out between October 1997 and October 1998, with references to other documents (e.g. reports of meetings) where fuller information may be obtained;
- an indication of those points of decision or discussion to which the Committee and the Commission may wish to devote priority attention. This section includes the question of how best to support the IPF/IFF and pan-European processes, addressed in more depth in TIM/1998/4; FO:EFC/98/5;
- a draft programme, a list of meetings and the mandates of teams of specialists which the Committee and the Commission are invited to review in detail, adapt if necessary and approve (annexes 1 to 3, respectively).

3. The FAO Council has asked EFC to react to the proposal to abolish the Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds. This question is addressed in a separate document (for the EFC only), EFC/98/7 Add.1.

4. Supplementary documentation for this agenda item includes the following:

- FAO Forestry Strategy (EFC/98/6);
- information on activities which are not reported elsewhere, notably the activities of the teams of specialists on public relations and on recycling, energy and market interactions (TIM/1998/5/Add.1);
- information on activities of FAO and of other ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies which are of relevance to the Timber Committee (TIM/1998/6).

In addition, during the Timber Committee session there will be technical briefings on the Temperate and Boreal Forest Resource Assessment 2000 and on the user survey for ECE/FAO publications.

5. In this way, it is hoped that delegations may have an overview of developments, while maintaining access to detailed background information, and thus be in a position to devote the limited session time to discussion of the most important aspects.

Overview of activities since autumn 1997

1.1 Collection and dissemination of information on trends in the sector

- six issues of the *Timber Bulletin* were published (ECE/TIM/BULL/50/..), with information and analysis on market conditions, production and trade, prices and forest fires;
- a country profile was issued on the Russian Federation (ECE/TIM/SP/14). Thirteen profiles have been issued up to now;
- two numbers of *International Forest Fire News* were issued;
- the Timber Committee website (URL is <http://www.unece.org/trade/timber>), is being further developed, notably by posting session documents and studies (e.g. the Annual review). Plans exist to make available more information such as basic statistics, the H3 data base etc.;
- the *Timber Committee Yearbook 1998* was issued;
- a survey of users of ECE/FAO publications is being carried out, with the support of the government of Finland: preliminary results will be presented to the Timber Committee technical briefing;
- the Intersecretariat Working Group on forest sector statistics will meet in Yokohama in September 1998. One topic will be cooperation with ITTO in the joint FAO/ECE/EUROSTAT questionnaire.

1.2 Temperate and Boreal Forest Resource Assessment 2000

- the enquiry was finalised and circulated in summer 1997, after widespread consultation, with a deadline for reply of 31 January 1998. By July 1998, replies, mostly of a very high standard, had been received from nearly all countries, checked and entered into a data base. Intense dialogue is going on with national correspondents to validate the data and improve inter-country comparability;
- two meetings with TBFRA 2000 national correspondents took place, one focused on countries in transition, in Austria in October 1997, and one, for all correspondents, in Geneva, in November 1997. These briefing meetings were particularly important to improve comparability in interpretation of definitions, and to address problems arising in a cooperative and transparent manner;
- interim results of TBFRA 2000 were presented to the Lisbon Ministerial Conference as quantitative indicators of sustainable forest management;
- some extra-budgetary resources have been obtained, and are being used to improve the quality of the analysis and presentation of the TBFRA data set.

- it is intended to publish TBFRA 2000 in mid 1999;
- a technical briefing on TBFRA 2000 will be organised in conjunction with the Timber Committee session.

1.3 Sustainable forest management in the region: support to the follow-up to UNCED and the pan-European process on the protection of forests

- information was collected, though TBFRA 2000, on quantitative indicators of sustainable forest management and presented to the Lisbon Ministerial Conference in June 1998;
- a team of specialists, under the auspices of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee, prepared a report on "People, Forests and Sustainability" as input to the preparation of the Lisbon Conference;
- a discussion on the state of forestry in Europe will be held at the EFC session in Finland;
- a study tour with the theme "Forestry in border regions in northern Europe", based in Finland, will take place after the EFC session (EFC/98/7/Inf.5 and TIM/1998/7);
- the team of specialists on public relations of the forest sector met in April 1998: A study on promotional activities of substitutes for wood is being prepared;
- the team of specialists on reducing impact of forest operations on ecosystems is preparing a compendium of available knowledge on this topic;
- the special topic at the Timber Committee session in October 1997 concerned markets for certified forest products: a special chapter of the annual review also addressed this question. A workshop on certification of sustainable forest management for countries in transition will be held in Prague in August 1998.

1.4 Activities for countries in transition

- the team of specialists met in November 1997 in Slovenia;
- the secretariat continued to implement its mandate as international coordinator for Helsinki resolution H3 on forestry assistance to countries in transition; a data base on the topic, based on project by project information supplied by national correspondents has been developed: its contents were distributed in printed form and in ACCESS format. It will shortly be posted on the website;
- the third workshop on marketing of forest products for countries in transition took place in Arkangelsk (Russian Federation) in November 1997.

1.5 Review of markets for forest products and short-term forecasts

- the *Annual Forest Products Market Review* was prepared in July 1998 (ECE/TIM/BULL/51/3);
- the annual market discussion will take place on Tuesday 29 September.

1.6 Outlook for the supply and demand for timber and non-wood goods and services

- the study of non-wood goods and services, prepared by members of a team of specialists led by Ms. L. Langner (USA) was completed and issued (ECE/TIM/SP/15);
- the team of specialists on recycling, energy and market interactions has prepared a special topic for the Timber Committee session in September 1998 and a workshop in Turkey for November 1998.

2.1 Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics

- the next meeting of the Working Party will be in May 1999. The main topics will probably include a review of TBFRA, and the launch of the next round of ETTS work, as well as the regular review of statistics collection and dissemination.

2.2 Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training

- the Joint Committee will meet in Slovakia in September 1998, review activities in the three work areas and consider its potential contribution to sustainable forest management in the region (TIM/EFC/WP.1/1998/2);
- a workshop on new trends in thinnings will take place in Slovakia in September 1997;
- reports are under preparation, by teams of specialists, on multiple use forestry and on reducing impact on forest operations on ecosystems;
- five seminars or workshops are planned for 1998, two for 1999 and two for 2000, with Joint Committee sessions in 1998 and 2000.

Availability of resources

6. According to the ECE Plan of Action, 3.0% of ECE resources are devoted to the Timber Committee. The staff available in Geneva to carry out the integrated ECE/FAO work programme (including both ECE and FAO staff) are 5 professional posts, of which 1 (FAO) post vacant, and 5 general service posts (of which 1 half time). Recruitment is being carried out for the vacant post and the Committee and Commission will be informed of developments.

Questions requiring the attention of the Committee and the Commission

7. Delegations are invited to review in detail all items on the draft work programme, make any necessary changes and agree on a final version. There are a few questions which the secretariat wishes to draw to the attention of the Committee and Commission which appear to merit more detailed discussion.

- Possible new activities to be undertaken in the light of IPF and the Lisbon Ministerial Conference

8. The conclusion of the work of IPF, whose final report identified, at a political level, those areas where international work towards sustainable forest management should be concentrated, and the resolutions and declarations of the pan-European process for the protection of forests in Europe, should be seen both as a political stimulus and guide to the Committee and Commission as to the priorities they should apply when deciding on their activities. For that reason, the secretariat, in consultation with the bureaux has reviewed these documents and made a number of proposals for future work which are within the mandate of the Committee and Commission and feasible with the existing methods and structures. These proposals are in document TIM/1998/4, FO: EFC/98/5. During their discussion, the Committee and the Commission should bear in mind that it is not possible to incorporate all the proposals into the programme: the secretariat estimates that three is the absolute maximum, assuming unchanged resources, and two would probably be better if quality is to be guaranteed.

9. During the discussion delegations should not only agree on which areas should be included but define in more detail timetables, methods of work, mandates of teams etc. To do this it may be necessary to set up small informal groups during the sessions.

- Resumption of work on outlook studies

10. Since ETTS V was completed in 1996, work on outlook studies has been suspended, because of the vacancy in the team and because of the priority attached to TBFRA 2000. However, it is hoped the vacancy will be filled before the end of 1998, with a specialist in outlook studies, and most of the work on TBFRA will be completed by spring 1999. Furthermore it became evident during consultations on future work and support for sustainable forest management that outlook study work was considered one of the very highest priorities by members. It is therefore proposed that in 1999, work on outlook studies should be strongly reactivated. In particular:

- developments in the 1990s should be compared to ETTS V scenarios and divergencies analysed;
- the consequences for Europe of recent outlook work by FAO (global outlook study, Asia Pacific study) should be examined;
- new issues should be identified;
- consideration should be given to the feasibility of achieving a faster

rhythm of studies with more frequent updating.

11. It is therefore suggested that the ETTS core team should be convened for late 1998/early 1999 (depending on the recruitment process) and plans prepared for review by the Working party in May 1999.

Team of specialists on assistance for countries of eastern and central Europe in transition

12. Originally the activities of the team of specialists to monitor the programme of assistance for countries of eastern and central Europe in transition, were due to terminate in 1997. However, in view of the priority attached by ECE and FAO to the problems of CITs and the mandate of the Lisbon Conference on the implementation of resolution H3, it is proposed that the mandate be prolonged, unchanged, until 2000. A meeting of the team should be convened in 1999.

ANNEX I

PART I

**DRAFT INTEGRATED PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE ECE TIMBER COMMITTEE
AND THE FAO EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION
FOR 1999-2003**

This programme is carried out by the ECE Timber Committee (TC) and the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC), and their subsidiary bodies, which meet approximately in a two year cycle:

- The Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training (JC)(2000, 2002)
- The Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics (FES)(1999, 2001)
- The EFC Working Party on Management of Mountain Watersheds (2000, 2002)
- The EFC/AFWC/NEFC Working Party on Mediterranean Forestry Questions *Silva Mediterranea* (SM) (1999, 2001)

A. CORE PROGRAMME: MONITORING AND ANALYSIS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOREST AND FOREST PRODUCTS SECTOR IN THE REGION

1.1 Collection and dissemination of information on trends in the sector, including publication of the *Timber Bulletin*

Description: Information is regularly collected and disseminated on production, trade and prices of roundwood and forest products, and forest fires.

Method of work: Statistics are collected on an annual basis from countries and published in the *Timber Bulletin*. Data collection is coordinated with FAO Rome and EUROSTAT (possibly other organisations e.g. ITTO in future), and the results are shared between all three organisations. The whole system is reviewed by the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics at its biennial sessions.

Duration: Continuing; Annual outputs: publication of 6 issues of the *Timber Bulletin*: on forest products prices, statistics on production and trade, trade flow data, the annual market review, forest fire statistics and the Committee's market discussion at its annual sessions.

1.2 Forest Resource Assessment 2000 (temperate and boreal forests)

Description: Information on the forest resource of the temperate and boreal zones (including developed countries outside the ECE region), will be collected and published in the context of the FAO global forest resource assessment, under the guidance of the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics.

Method of work: An enquiry was prepared under the supervision of a team of specialists, taking into account the recommendations of the Experts Consultation at Kotka (Finland) in June 1996. At all stages, the work is being carried out in close cooperation with the FAO Forestry Department and other organisations active in this area.

Duration: Continuing, review in 2003. Outputs in 1999: publication, database and background documentation.

1.3 Sustainable forest management in the region: support to the follow-up to UNCED and the pan European process on the protection of forests

Description: The Committee and the Commission will provide support, as appropriate, to the follow-up to UNCED, including the work of the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD), the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF), and the pan-European process of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests. In particular the Commission will review, on a regular basis, national forest policies and selected topical policy issues, such as certification of sustainable forest management, in order to review implementation at the national level of the provisions of UNCED and the pan European process, and as support for national policy makers. The Committee and the Commission will collect and analyse information relevant to Helsinki Conference resolutions H1 and H2, notably as regards quantitative indicators of sustainable forest management and support the report to the Lisbon Conference on this subject.

Method of work: At each EFC session, delegates submit national progress reports, according to an outline drawn up by the Executive Committee. These reports are synthesized by the secretariat before the session, presented and discussed. At its session in 1998, the EFC will discuss those results of CSD relevant to Europe, topical issues relevant to Europe and formulate recommendations concerning FAO's strategy from a European viewpoint. In addition, the secretariat, in agreement with the General Coordinating Committee of the pan European process and in cooperation with other relevant international organisations, including FAO, EU, OECD and ICP Forest supplied data relevant to the list of quantitative indicators of sustainable forest management for the Lisbon Conference. Existing sources, notably the Forest Resource Assessment, were used and modified to the extent possible to improve their capacity to help the pan European process. In view of the considerable importance of good public information and relations for sustainable forest management, a team of specialists will work towards creating a positive image of the forest sector, according to the mandate in TIM/1998/5 and FO:EFC/98/7, annex. A team of specialists, under the auspices of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee provided input for resolution L1 on social aspects of the forest

sector for the Lisbon Conference.

Duration: to 1999

1.4 Activities for countries in transition, including coordination of implementation of resolution H3 of the Helsinki Ministerial Conference

Description: The Committee and Commission will provide assistance to the countries in transition, in order to promote the process of economic reform and transition to a market economy in their forest and forest products sector. The topics and themes to be included in this programme shall be in line with the priorities and needs identified by the countries concerned. In particular, the Committee and the Commission will contribute to implementing resolution H3 on forestry assistance to countries in transition, by monitoring and analysing this assistance, in particular to determine whether it corresponds to countries' real needs and priorities.

Method of work: The work is guided by a team of specialists, which meets regularly. The secretariat, as international coordinator for H3, collects, stores and analyses information and reports regularly to the parent bodies and, as appropriate, to meetings of the pan European process. A data base on forestry assistance to countries in transition is maintained and its contents made available. The Committee and Commission implement a wide range of activities, notably workshops, which are scheduled and organized in a flexible manner, under two broad headings:

- Institution building, including legal and policy infrastructure;
- Development of market oriented and ecologically sound enterprises.

Duration: to 1999; Outputs in 1998/1999: a workshop on certification of sustainable forest management and markets for certified products in countries in transition will be held in the Czech Republic in autumn 1998; a workshop on development of marketing of sawnwood products in countries in transition is expected to be held in Belarus in 1999 or 2000, pending funding

1.5 Review of markets for forest products and short term forecasts

Description: The Committee analyses, on a continuous basis, short term trends in the production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products and forecasts short term prospects, with a view to providing Governments and the forest products sector with accurate and up-to-date information and assessments.

Method of work: The annual session of the Timber Committee reviews short term trends and prospects in the markets, on the basis of estimates provided by delegations and the Forest Products Annual Market Review, prepared by the secretariat, which reviews trends in the previous year. An analysis of trends and short-term outlook, approved by the Committee, is published. The Committee's market discussion also reviews trends in the markets for certified forest products on the basis of information provided by delegations on developments in their countries, and statements by experts.

Duration: Continuing. Annual outputs: Annual Market Review and the Committee's market discussion at its annual sessions.

1.6 Outlook for the supply and demand for timber and for non-wood goods and services

Description: The Committee and Commission prepare, keep under review and regularly up-date projections and forecasts of long-term trends in production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products, and of the interaction of all of these, in order to assess the long term sustainability of the European timber supply. The Committee and the Commission will also carry out a study on the outlook for the supply and demand of the non-wood goods and services of the forest. The work is overseen and guided by the FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics.

Method of work: The fifth European timber trends study (ETTS V) was published and disseminated in 1996. The joint session in 1996 reviewed its results and discussed its implications for policy. An evaluation of the whole process was carried out by the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party. A core team on outlook studies and data, will be formed and hold its first meeting in 1998/1999. The secretariat, guided by the core team, will implement the Working Party's recommendations, as soon as the Geneva group is fully staffed.

A study, by a team of specialists, on the situation for non-wood goods and services, composed of national reports prepared according to a common format, was issued in 1998.

A team of specialists on recycling, energy and market interactions will analyse the influences and interactions of technological and legislative developments on recycling, energy and timber markets, according to the mandate in TIM/R.281/Add.4; FO:EFC/96/17/Add.4). This analysis will be the basis of a special discussion at the Committee's fifty-sixth session.

Duration: Continuing. Outputs 1998/1999: outline for the next outlook study, workshop on recycling, energy and market interactions, Turkey, November 1998.

B. AREAS OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE COMMISSION AND/OR THE COMMITTEE

2.1 Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics

Description: The Working Party keeps under review the needs for international statistics in the forest and forest products sector and develops programmes to meet those needs, notably with regard to improving comparability; develops methodologies for collection and analysis of information and statistics; and undertakes projects in the field of economics and statistics relating to forestry and forest products.

Method of work: The Working Party meets every two years and advises the parent bodies and the secretariat on the implementation of work in its field. In particular, it is responsible for guiding the implementation, in its area of competence, of programme elements 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5 and 1.6.

Duration: Continuing; At its session in 1999 the Working Party will also review TBFRA, preparation plans for the next outlook study, consider intergovernmental cooperation and forest sector statistics.

2.2 Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training

Description: The Joint Committee assists countries, in particular those which its parent bodies may identify at any time as requiring priority attention, to develop their forestry activities in the context of sustainable development. This is achieved by fostering international cooperation on technical, economic and organizational aspects of forest management and forest working techniques and of the training of forest workers in logging and forest operations.

Method of work: The Joint Committee's activities are led by a Steering Committee, which meets annually. There are three subject areas: management (e.g. multiple use forestry, ecological and economical issues, marketing, information systems), technology (e.g. forest engineering, ecologically and economically sound operations in silviculture, wood harvesting and transport) and training (e.g. for workers, supervisors and managers, including applied ergonomics, occupational safety and health and social aspects of forestry). Much of the work is carried out by teams of specialists which report to the Joint Committee and Steering Committee sessions.

Duration: Continuing; the Joint Committee will hold its twenty-second session in September 1998 and will adopt its work programme for 1999-2003 (the report of the session will be issued with the symbol TIM/EFC/WP.1/28).

2.3 EFC/AFWC/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions, *Silva Mediterranea*

Description: *Silva Mediterranea* will advise FAO and member countries in the Mediterranean region on the implementation of the Mediterranean Forest Action Programme (MED-FAP). It will also encourage the exchange of information and the coordination of research in topics of interest to Mediterranean forestry, through research networks.

Method of work: *Silva Mediterranea* will act, at regular sessions (seventeenth in Turkey in 1997) and between them, as an inter-governmental forum for the coordination, monitoring and orientation of MED-FAP. It will contribute to identifying international regional priority activities, as well as designing and monitoring them. Six research networks are at present operational, focusing on forest fires, key species of the subregion (stone pine, cedar species, and the most recently created network, on cork oak), other multipurpose tree species, and on selection of stands of Mediterranean conifers for the production of seeds to be used in reforestation programmes.

Duration: Continuing

2.4 FAO Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds

Description: The Working Party collects information, documents technologies, monitors evolution, exchanges experience and discusses progress within mountain ecosystems in view of their sustainable management and conservation. Important areas of concentration will be sustainable management and security of mountain ecosystems, with special attention to torrent control, avalanches, risk zoning, and mapping and early warning systems.

Method of work: The Working Party has an important role in the follow-up of Agenda 21, and supports FAO's role as task manager for chapter 13 on mountain ecosystems. The twenty-first session was held in May/June 1998 in the Czech Republic. Key areas of concentration will be sustainable management of mountain ecosystems, improved mountain livelihood systems, in response to UNCED, activities related to international agreements on mountains, and risk and disaster control and monitoring.

Duration: Continuing

PART II

Projects for possible implementation at a future time

(See ECE decision O (45) and Supplementary report containing the views and proposals of ECE to the Special Commission of ECOSOC, E/ECE/1150/Rev.1, para. 131)

Structural trends in markets for forest products and in the structure and capacity of forest industries

Description: The Committee and the Commission review medium-term (3-5 years) trends in the production, consumption, trade and prices of major forest products and the structure and capacity of the sawmilling and wood-based panels industries, so that governments may be continuously informed of structural trends in the forest products sectors.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: Medium-term surveys are carried out on a 3-year rotation of sectors. These surveys incorporate as appropriate the results of surveys of the structure and capacity of major sectors (every time for panels, every other time for sawmilling). The issue of the medium-term surveys has been suspended until the Geneva staff is at full strength.

ANNEX II

**PROVISIONAL LIST OF MEETINGS IN 1999 AND 2000 FALLING WITHIN
THE TIMBER COMMITTEE'S PROGRAMME OF WORK**

Note: The meetings are sub-divided into two categories: meetings marked (A) are open to delegates or approved representatives from all member countries of ECE as well as from other countries that are members of the United Nations and organizations accredited to ECE (or to FAO and ILO, in the case of meetings co-sponsored by them). Meetings marked (B) are those restricted to the countries or individuals nominated by their countries to take part in the activity concerned, e.g. a team of specialists. At the Committee's website (<http://unece.org/trade/timber>) an up to date calendar of meetings, can be consulted.

1999

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Title</u>
April (to be decided)	Geneva	Meeting of the Timber Committee office holders and the EFC Executive Committee (B)
26-28 May	Geneva	Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, twenty-second session (A)
20-24 September	Pessac (France)	Seminar on forest operations of tomorrow (A)
27-30 September	Geneva	ECE TIMBER COMMITTEE, fifty-seventh session (A)
1999 or 2000 (to be decided)	Belarus	Workshop on development of marketing of sawnwood products in countries in transition (A)
1999 or 2000 (to be decided)	Russian Federation	Workshop on multifunctional forestry (A)

2000

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Title</u>
April (to be decided)	Geneva	Meeting of the Timber Committee office holders and the EFC Executive Committee (B)
first semester (to be decided)	Ossiach (Austria)	Workshop on new trends in wood harvesting with cable cranes (A)
25-28 September	Geneva	ECE TIMBER COMMITTEE, fifty-eighth session (A)
(to be decided)	(to be decided)	Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training, 23rd session (A)
(to be decided)	Finland (to be confirmed)	Workshop on information systems in forestry (A)
(to be decided)	Switzerland (to be confirmed)	Seminar on public relations and environmental education in forestry (A)

ANNEX III

MANDATES OF TEAMS OF SPECIALISTS

Reference to programme of work: 1.2.

MANDATE OF THE TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON TEMPERATE AND BOREAL FOREST RESOURCE ASSESSMENT 2000 (TBFRA-2000)	
A.- TERMS OF REFERENCE	
ESTABLISHED BY:	The Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics
References:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report of the 19th, 20th and 21st sessions of the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, TIM/EFC/WP.2/23, 2/25, 2/27 - Report of the 51st, 53rd and 55th sessions of the Timber Committee, and Joint session with the European Forestry Commission, ECE/TIM/71, 85 and 87
MANDATE:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to lead, together with the ECE/FAO and FAO secretariats, the work on the preparation and the implementation of the temperate and boreal forest resource assessment 2000; - to generate recommendations on the concept, classifications, definitions and methods of the assessment, taking into account new developments concerning criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management; - to elaborate the TBFRA-2000 enquiry, which will be proposed to the network of national correspondents. The FAO/ECE Temperate and Boreal Forest Resource Assessment is part of the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment.
DURATION:	Six years to 2001
APPROVED BY:	Joint Working Party, 20th session, June 1995, TIM/EFC/WP.2/25; Timber Committee, 53rd session, November 1995, ECE/TIM/85. paras. 15-18
REPORTING:	The team reports to each session of the Joint Working Party
EXPECTED OUTPUT IN THE NEXT 18 MONTHS: - TBFRA 2000	
B.- INFORMATION SHEET (as of July 1998)	
ACTIVITIES:	
Past:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Kotka II and Kotka III meetings, 1993,1996; - meetings of the team, March 1995, April 1996, Geneva - meetings of the team, March 1997, Birmensdorf (Switzerland)and March 1998, Ispra (Italy) - meetings of national TBFRA national correspondents, for CITs in Gmunden (Austria) 1997 and Geneva, 1997
Ongoing:	implementation of the TBFRA 2000
Future:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - preparation for publication, analysis, dissemination of TBFRA 2000 - preparation of TBFRA 2010
References:	TIM/EFC/WP.2/R.144
TEAM LEADER:	Mr. M. Köhl (Germany)
MEMBERSHIP:	Australia, Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, United States, European Commission, UNEP, Joint Research Centre (Ispra), European Forest Institute, WWF, World Conservation and Monitoring Centre

Reference to programme of work: 1.3

Proposed mandate of the team

MANDATE OF THE TEAM OF PUBLIC RELATIONS SPECIALISTS IN THE FOREST AND FOREST INDUSTRIES SECTOR	
A.- TERMS OF REFERENCE	
ESTABLISHED BY: FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) and ECE Timber Committee (TC)	
References:	
MANDATE: In support of the overall goal of creating a positive image of the forest sector (including all phases of forest resource management and forest industry), the TC and the EFC renew their decision to create a Team of Public Relations Specialists in the Forest and Forest Industries Sector, with a mandate to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - promote networking among member states for capacity building and exchange of information in public relations and communication; - identify key common concepts and promote their incorporation in forest sector communications and public relations activities in the member countries; - identify key needs for improvement of forest sector public relations and communication and communicate them to the TC and the EFC; - assist the TC and the EFC to improve public relations and information related to their work; - promote the development of national capacity in forest sector public relations and communication, particularly in countries in transition. 	
DURATION:	November 2000
APPROVED BY:	For discussion by the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission in September and October 1998, respectively
REPORTING:	The team reports annually to the TC session and to each EFC session.
EXPECTED OUTPUT IN THE NEXT 18 MONTHS: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A report on PR campaigns for wood and substitute materials; 2. Assist in PR for TC and EFC outputs like; Lisbon Conference contributions; workshop recommendations; report of the Team of Specialists on Recycling, Energy and Market Interactions; etc; 3. Conduct an international forestry communicators forum; 4. Expansion of the international network of PR specialists in the ECE region; 5. Establish a PR Team website within the Timber Committee site. 	
B.- INFORMATION SHEET (as of July 1998)	
ACTIVITIES	
Past: Meetings in Fontainebleau (France), Tällberg (Sweden) Beaupré, Québec (Canada), Gmunden (Austria), Biri (Norway) and Sesimbra (Portugal). Exchange of information and discussion of issues. Publication of a PR "toolkit". Workshop for countries in transition in Ossiach (Austria). Produced a poster for the 1996 FAO World Food Summit. Published "Forest and forest industries country fact sheets" (hard copy and WWW version).	
Ongoing: Advising PR for the outputs of the Committee and the Commission. A report on PR campaigns for wood and substitute materials	
Future: Next meeting in a country in transition, possibly Estonia. Provide PR follow-up on Lisbon Conference resolutions, especially as applied to the TC and EFC. Extend the Team's network to include more Mediterranean countries and countries in transition. Increase PR activities concerning certification of sustainable forest management where appropriate. Provide PR follow-up to the recommendations from TC workshops titled "Wood--an environmentally friendly material" and other workshops as appropriate. Increase the use of Internet to communicate PR on the TC and EFC activities and outputs and establishment of a PR Team website within the TC site. Report on the campaigns of wood and substitute materials like concrete, steel and plastic. Conduct an international forestry communicators forum.	

References:	
TEAM LEADER:	Mr. I. Gschwandtl (Austria) and Deputy Leader, Ms. B. Sanness (Norway)
MEMBERSHIP:	Austria, Belgium, Belarus, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States of America.

Reference to programme of work: 1.4

MANDATE OF THE TEAM OF SPECIALISTS TO MONITOR THE PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE FOR COUNTRIES OF EASTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE IN TRANSITION	
A.- TERMS OF REFERENCE	
ESTABLISHED BY:	ECE Timber Committee
References:	Report ECE Timber Committee, ECE/TIM/83
MANDATE:	The team will periodically review (one-two years) and make recommendations concerning the whole ECE/FAO programme of assistance to countries in transition to a market economy in the forestry, forest industries and forest products sector, with the purpose to ensure that it was in accordance with countries' needs and effective and efficient. It will develop the ways of cooperation and monitor the implementation of the Resolution H3 "Forestry Cooperation with Countries with Economies in Transition" of the Helsinki Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forest in Europe.
DURATION:	2000
APPROVED BY:	ECE Timber Committee, 52nd session, ECE/TIM/83, paras.9-19 FAO European Forestry Commission, 27th session, FO: EFC/95/REP, para. 42
REPORTING:	The team reports and make recommendations to the ECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission and through the ECE/FAO secretariat to the General Coordinating Committee for Pan-European process for the Protection of Forests
EXPECTED OUTPUT IN THE NEXT 18 MONTHS: Up-to -date database, overview of assistance activities	

B.- INFORMATION SHEET (as of July 1998)	
ACTIVITIES:	
Past:	Meetings of the team: November 1997 in Slovenia
Ongoing:	The team undertakes activities to achieve its mandate stated above. Initially these include compiling the information of countries, signatories of the Resolution H3, on the activities undertaken for its implementation. The list of meetings (workshops, seminars) on aspects of transition to a market economy in the forestry, forest industries and forest products sector should be compiled by the team every year (October). On the basis of this information, the programme of assistance will be prepared and updated on a regular terms.
Future:	
References:	TIM/R.237 and Add.1
TEAM LEADER:	Mr. S. Zajac (Poland)
MEMBERSHIP:	Austria, Bulgaria, Belarus, Cyprus, Czech Rep., Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Finland, Greece, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Poland, Russian Fed., Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom, European Commission, UNEP

Reference to programme of work: 1.6.

MANDATE OF THE TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON RECYCLING, ENERGY AND MARKET INTERACTIONS	
A.- TERMS OF REFERENCE	
ESTABLISHED BY: ECE Timber Committee	
References: Report of the fifty-fourth session, ECE/TIM/87, para. 27 (September 1996)	
MANDATE:	The team will analyze the influences and interactions of technological and legislation developments on recycling (solid wood and fibre), energy and timber markets. It will also provide technology transfer to countries in transition.
DURATION:	October 1999
APPROVED BY:	Timber Committee
REPORTING:	The team reports annually to the ECE Timber Committee session
EXPECTED OUTPUT IN THE NEXT 18 MONTHS: Special topic presentation at 56th Timber Committee Session. Conduct a workshop in Istanbul, Turkey, November 1998. Present workshop report to 57th Timber Committee Session.	
B.- INFORMATION SHEET (as of July 1998)	
ACTIVITIES:	
Past:	A workshop was held in Hamburg in 1996 on "Policy issues in timber markets and recycling and energy generation from wood" by the Teams of Specialists on Wood and Energy and New Products, Recycling, Markets and Applications for Forest Products. A synthesis of national reports on recycling legislation and its effect on the forest and forest industries sector was presented to the fifty-second and fifty-third Timber Committee Sessions from the Team of Specialists on New Products, Recycling, Markets and Applications for Forest Products.
Ongoing:	Preparation of reports for the Timber Committee Special Topic presentation. Preparation of a workshop in Istanbul, Turkey in November 1998.
Future:	September 1998: Timber Committee Special Topic presentation. November 1998: Workshop in Istanbul, Turkey. September 1998: final report to Timber Committee.
References:	Report of the team meeting, TIM/R.281/Add.3, TIM/1998/5/Add.1
TEAM LEADER:	Dr. B. Hillring (Sweden)
MEMBERSHIP:	Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United States of America.

Reference to programme of work: 1.6

MANDATE OF THE TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON TIMBER TRENDS STUDIES	
A.- TERMS OF REFERENCE	
ESTABLISHED BY:	Timber Committee, 56th session and EFC 29th session
References:	TIM/1998/5, FO:EFC/98/7
MANDATE:	The team will advise the secretariat on the planning and implementation of the ECE/FAO programme of outlook studies, notably as regards scope, objectives, methodology, data and presentation
DURATION:	To 2003
APPROVED BY:	(To be discussed by Committee and Commission in autumn 1998)
REPORTING:	To sessions of Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics at sessions in 1999, 2001 and 2003
EXPECTED OUTPUT IN THE NEXT 18 MONTHS:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - inaugural meeting in late 1998/early 1999 - proposals for continuation of outlook study work (methods, timing etc.) For discussion by Working Party in May 1999 - further activities as decided. 	
B.- INFORMATION SHEET (as of July 1998)	
ACTIVITIES:	
Past:	None (this team is the successor of the "ETTS V core team" which advised the secretariat in a similar way for the completion of ETTS V in 1996.)
Ongoing:	Inaugural meeting
Future:	To be determined
References:	TIM/1998/5, FO:EFC/98/7
TEAM LEADER:	To be chosen
MEMBERSHIP:	Members of ETTS V core team included representatives from Austria, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, USA, FAO. Nominations are invited from those countries and others. Team members should have considerable knowledge and experience of outlook study work, and be prepared to make substantive contributions to a technical discussion.

Reference to programme of work: 2.2.(1.1)

MANDATE OF THE TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON MULTIPLE USE FORESTRY	
A.- TERMS OF REFERENCE	
ESTABLISHED BY:	The Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training
References:	Report 19th session Joint Committee: TIM/EFC/WP.1/22, para. 76, 89 and 91 TIM/EFC/WP.1/AC.1/16, paras.19-20 and annex. Report 20th session Joint Committee: TIM/EFC/WP.1/24, paras. 59-62. Report 21st session, TIM/EFC/WP.1/26, para. 33
MANDATE:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Multiple use forestry is a balanced, sustainable and rational combination of production of timber and non-timber forest products, nature conservation and the design of forests for human leisure activities. A clear, precise and detailed <u>definition</u> of multiple use forestry should be developed, i.e. its principles, elements, interrelationship of elements, applicability and economic consequences. 2. Multiple use forestry depends on the <u>needs of society</u> at large. Forestry has to find ways and means to detect these needs and to incorporate them into their goals and activities. The public should be informed about or even included in the planning and decision making process. 3. The results of this process lead to clear and definite long-, medium- and short-term <u>objectives</u> at the enterprise and stand level as well as the assignment of organisational and financial <u>responsibilities</u>. 4. Multiple use forestry affects <u>forest operations</u> (road construction, skidding lines, machinery and equipment, working techniques, etc.). A <u>code of practice for ecologically sound and sustainable operations must be elaborated</u>. Also, appropriate training and proper data (information systems) must be provided. 5. Acceptable systems for <u>monitoring</u> and updating must be developed. 6. The <u>target group</u> consists of the public, opinion leaders and forest professionals (forest managers, supervisors and forest workers).
DURATION:	<i>to be determined by the Joint Committee's twenty-second session</i>
APPROVED BY:	The Joint Committee's 20th session
REPORTING:	The team reports to each session of the Joint Committee and of the Steering Committee
EXPECTED OUTPUT IN THE NEXT 18 MONTHS: Report to Joint Committee on multiple use forestry, September 1998	
B.- INFORMATION SHEET (as of July 1998)	
ACTIVITIES:	
Past:	Meetings in March and August 1994, Seminar on multiple use forestry, Canada, September 1995. Workshop on biodiversity in managed forests, Sweden, June 1997
Ongoing:	preparation of a report on multiple use forestry
Future:	report to 22nd session of Joint Committee
References:	TIM/EFC/WP.1/R.121
TEAM LEADER:	Mr. G. Nordanstig (Sweden)
MEMBERSHIP:	Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Canada, Estonia, Finland, France, Poland, Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine

Reference to programme of work: 2.2.(1.2)

MANDATE OF THE TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON FOREST FIRE	
A.- TERMS OF REFERENCE	
ESTABLISHED BY:	The Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training.
References:	Report 19th session Joint Committee: TIM/EFC/WP.1/22, para. 76 and Report 21st session Joint Committee: TIM/EFC/WP.1/26
MANDATE:	<p>The team will undertake forest fire activities as determined by the Joint Committee, through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the promotion of scientific methods in forest fire management and forest fire policy; - the provision of guidance to member states on forest fire management and forest fire policies; - the organization and preparation of seminars, workshops and educational programmes; and the promotion of the continuous exchange of information and experience among country forest fire specialists from the policy, managerial and research spheres; - cooperation and coordination of activities with other international organizations dealing with forest fire questions in the region (FAO, Silva Mediterranea, IUFRO, the European Union and others); - the publication twice yearly of <i>International Forest Fire News</i> (IFFN).
DURATION:	<i>to be determined by the Joint Committee's twenty-second session</i>
APPROVED BY:	The Joint Committee's 20th and 21st sessions
REPORTING:	The team reports to each session of the Joint Committee and of the Steering Committee
EXPECTED OUTPUT IN THE NEXT 18 MONTHS:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. develop a feasibility study for a Global Vegetation Fire Information System; 2. develop the link between fire inventory, management and policy; 3. develop a fire inventory system to meet the objectives of UNCED; 4. revision of the FAO Forest Fire Glossary; 5. bi-annual publication of <i>International Forest Fire News</i> (IFFN). 6. <i>to establish a Baltic Task Force on forest fire</i> 	
B.- INFORMATION SHEET (as of July 1998)	
ACTIVITIES:	
Past:	Meetings in April 1994, December 1994, 1996 and May 1998, attendance at World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction and the International Wildfire Conference, Canada 1997; Seminar on Forest, Fire and Global Change, August 1996; First International Baltic Conference on Forest Fire
Ongoing:	International Forest Fire News
Future:	Report to Steering Committee, fourteenth session. Finland is currently exploring the possibilities to host BALTEX FIRE 2000
References:	Report of the first meeting, TIM/EFC/WP.1/R.121/Add.1, TIM/EFC/WP.1/1998/3, annex 1 and 2. Issues of IFFN report on the team's activities
TEAM LEADER:	Mr. J.G. Goldammer (Germany)
MEMBERSHIP:	Albania, Bulgaria, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Poland, Russian Federation, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine, United States

Reference to programme of work: 2.2.(2.2)

MANDATE OF THE TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON REDUCING THE IMPACT OF FOREST OPERATIONS ON ECOSYSTEMS	
A.- TERMS OF REFERENCE	
ESTABLISHED BY:	The Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training
References:	Report of the 20th session of the Joint Committee, TIM/EFC/WP.1/22. Report of the 21st session of the Joint Committee, TIM/EFC/WP.1/26.
MANDATE:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Keep under review developments in research on machine-site interactions; 2. On the basis of (1), indicate directions for future research and development to research organizations and funding bodies; 3. Consider whether it is desirable and feasible to prepare international guidelines to designers and users of forest machines and equipment, to minimise the negative impact on forest sites and make a recommendation on this to the Joint Committee in 1996; 4. Prepare standardised measurement methods concerning damage to forest sites, as recommended by the FORSITRISK team in 1994, for use by both practitioners and researchers; 5. Present the findings at a workshop in 1999 and prepare a state of the art report for wide dissemination. <p>All activities should be carried out in close cooperation between researchers, manufacturers and practitioners.</p>
DURATION:	Four years to 2000
APPROVED BY:	Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee, twentieth session, November 1994 Steering Committee, twelfth session, June 1995
REPORTING:	The team reports to each session of the Joint Committee and of the Steering Committee
EXPECTED OUTPUT IN THE NEXT 18 MONTHS: Review of developments. Preparation of draft international guidelines. Preparation of workshop for 1999.	

B.- INFORMATION SHEET (as of July 1998)	
ACTIVITIES:	
Past:	(build on results of previous FORSITRISK team), 1st meeting of the ToS, December 1995, other meetings in 1997 and 1998
Ongoing:	Review of relevant activities and documentation; preparation for the workshop in 1999
Future:	Drawing up of draft international guidelines to reduce the impact of forest operations on ecosystems and recommendations for measurements for damage assessment and standards for measurement methods
References:	Report of the inaugural meeting, presented to the Joint Committee's 21st session (TIM/EFC/WP.1/R.129/Add.1)
TEAM LEADER:	Mr. I. Wåsterlund (Sweden)
MEMBERSHIP:	Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Norway, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United States