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### ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

TIMBER COMMITTEE  
Fifty-sixth session  
28 September - 1 October 1998

#### PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTY-SIXTH SESSION

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
starting at 1500 hrs on Monday, 28 September 1998

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| 1. Adoption of the agenda   | ECE/TIM/90                             |
| 2. Implementation of the ECE Plan of Action   | TIM/1998/1                             |
| 3. Special topic: recycling, energy and market interactions   | TIM/1998/2                             |
| 4. Market developments in 1998 and prospects for 1999   | TIM/1998/3<br>ECE/TIM/BULL/51/3        |
| 5. Sustainable forest management in the region: follow-up to the Lisbon Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe; follow-up to CSD/IPF and contribution to IFF | TIM/1998/4                             |
| 6. Review of activities since the fifty-fifth session and programme of work for 1999 to 2003  | TIM/1998/5<br>TIM/1998/6<br>TIM/1998/7 |
| 7. Election of officers   |  |
| 8. Any other business   |  |
| 9. Adoption of the report   |  |
| 10. Date of next session  |  |

**NOTE - Timber Committee documents will be distributed to the official list as in previous years. However, the provisional agenda and other session documents will also be available on the Committee's website:  
<http://www.unece.org/trade/timber>**

**TENTATIVE TIMETABLE**

	<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Morning session</b>	<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Afternoon session</b>
Monday, 28 September		-	1.  2.  3.	Adoption of the agenda  Implementation of ECE Plan of Action  Special topic
Tuesday, 29 September	4.	Market discussion	4. (cont)	Market discussion
Wednesday, 30 September	5.	Sustainable forest management in the region	6.	Review of activities and programme of work
Thursday, 1 October		Drafting Committee  Technical briefings	7.  8.  9.  10.	Election of officers  Date of next session  Any other business  Adoption of the report

**EXPLANATORY NOTES**Item 1 Adoption of the agenda (ECE/TIM/90)

In accordance with the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the adoption of the agenda is the first item of the agenda.

Item 2 Implementation of the ECE Plan of Action (TIM/1998/1)

A report on the implementation of the ECE reform (E/ECE/1361) will be made available to delegations. The Committee will be invited to consider how to implement the Plan of Action in its area of responsibility, in the light of decisions taken by the Commission at its fifty-third session, and on the basis of proposals prepared by the Timber Committee office-holders.

Item 3 Special topic: recycling, energy and market interactions (TIM/1998/2)

The Committee at its fifty-fifth session agreed that the special topic at its next session should be recycling, energy and market interactions, based on the activities of the team of specialists. The discussion will be introduced by invited speakers, and delegations will be invited to discuss the present situation and outlook in their countries.

Item 4 Market developments in 1998 and prospects for 1999 (TIM/1998/3;  
ECE/TIM/BULL/51/3)

Delegations will be invited to review developments in 1998 and prospects for 1999 on the basis of the *Annual Forest Products Market Review (Timber Bulletin, ECE/TIM/BULL/51/3)*, countries' written statements and forecasts. An agreed statement synthesizing the discussions and forecasts will be prepared during the session and later published. A note by the secretariat will provide further information for the market discussion.

Market discussions

The market discussion will be organized along the following lines:

1. General introduction;
2. Softwoods (sawnwood and logs);
3. Hardwoods (sawnwood and logs), temperate and tropical zones;
4. Wood-based panels: particle board, plywood and fibreboard;
5. Roundwood;
6. Certified forest products.

- Market statements

Delegations are reminded that their written statements should reach the secretariat<sup>1</sup> in 120 copies by 14 September 1998 in English, French or Russian for distribution at the opening of the session. As agreed by the Committee at its last session, the statements should include a new section on markets for certified forest products, in addition to other market sectors listed above. Country forecasts for 1998 and 1999 (prepared on the basis of a questionnaire to be sent out by the secretariat in June 1998) should be submitted not later than 1 September 1998. Supplementary copies of the questionnaire may be obtained from the secretariat on request, or from the Committee's website<sup>2</sup>.

- Drafting Committee

It is proposed that the Drafting Committee meet at 0900 hours on Thursday, 1 October to consider the draft of the report concerning market developments and prospects, which will be approved by the Committee under item 9.

Item 5 Sustainable forest management in the region: follow-up to the Lisbon Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe; follow-up to CSD/IPF and contribution to IFF (TIM/1998/4)

The Committee will be invited to consider how it should contribute to the follow-up to the Lisbon Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, the follow-up to the Commission on Sustainable Development / Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (CSD/IPF) and contribution to the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF), on the basis of a secretariat note.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.unece.org/trade/timber>

Item 6      Review of activities in 1998 and programme of work for 1999 to 2003

The Committee will be invited to review its activities and approve its programme of work, on the basis of a summary document (TIM/1998/5) which will draw decision items to the attention of the Committee and present a draft programme of work.

Another document (TIM/1998/6) will provide information, notably on the activities of other ECE principal subsidiary bodies. Time will be allotted to presenting the activities of FAO and other international organizations of relevance to the Timber Committee. In this connection representatives of the international organizations are invited to provide 120 copies of brief written statements on their activities in English, French or Russian for distribution to delegations. An information note (TIM/1998/7) will be issued on the joint Timber Committee/FAO European Forestry Commission study tour in Finnish and Russian Karelia with the theme Forestry in border regions of northern Europe to be held from 24 to 26 October 1998.

Item 7      Election of officers

In accordance with its Rules of Procedure and established practice, the Committee is expected to elect a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen, who will hold office until the end of the fifty-seventh session. At the fifty-fifth session, Mr. N.A. Burdin (Russian Federation) was reelected Chairman and Mr. G. Siegel (Austria) and Ms. A. Bergquist (Sweden) were reelected Vice-Chairmen to hold office until the end of the fifty-sixth session.

Item 8      Any other business

At the time of writing, the secretariat had no points to propose under this item. However, it is proposed to devote the morning of Thursday, 1 October to technical briefings by secretariat members on certain priority activities.

Item 9      Adoption of the report

The Committee will be invited to adopt its report on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat. According to the ECE Plan of Action, the report will be short and decision oriented. Accounts of discussions e.g. under item 2 will be prepared separately, and finalized in cooperation with the office-holders after the session. However, the Committee will be invited to formally approve the market statement based on the discussions under item 4, and approved by the drafting Committee on Thursday morning.

Item 10     Date of next session

The Committee is expected to agree on the date of its fifty-seventh session, to be held in Geneva. Provided that conference services are available, the week of 27 to 30 September 1999 has been provisionally reserved.