



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

ECE/TIM/95  
16 November 2000

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION

TIMBER COMMITTEE  
Fifty-eighth session

EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION  
Thirtieth session

**REPORT OF THE JOINT SESSION**  
(9-13 October 2000)

**Highlights of the Joint Session**

- The joint session endorsed the general direction of ECE/FAO's activities, reaffirming the core mandate of ECE/FAO to "monitor and analyse sustainable forest management in the region" and the similar role of FAO at the global level (paras. 17-22);
- The session's special topics were: (a) Sustainable Forest Management Practices, the work of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training; (b) Consequences of storm damage by "Lothar" (paras. 11-15);
- The joint session reviewed the markets for forest products in 2000 and prospects for 2001 and approved a statement (paras. 16);
- The joint session noted that the implementation of the TBFRA-2000, as well as the Global FRA 2000, provided a significant improvement of knowledge of the world forest resources (paras. 23-28);
- The Timber Committee took note of ECE's opinion on operational activities and participation of the business community. In this context, it noted that the business community participated regularly and intensely in its activities. (see para. 38);
- It agreed, in view of the imbalance between resources and aspirations, to undertake a fundamental strategic review of the Committee's objectives, methods, resources and outputs which would be completed before the ECE session in May 2001. (paras. 38, 43);
- The joint session reviewed its activities and approved its programme of work for 2001-2005 (annex I) and a provisional calendar of meetings (annex II).

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. The ECE Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission met in joint session at Rome, from 9 to 13 October 2000. The session was attended by representatives of Albania, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.
2. The session was attended by representatives of the Vienna Liaison Unit of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe and of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training.
3. The following United Nations bodies and intergovernmental organization agencies were represented: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO); International Labour Office (ILO).
4. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: Bracelpa; Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI); Engineered Wood Association (APA); European Observatory of Mountain Forest (EOMF); European Panel Federation (EPF); European Forest Institute (EFI); International Association of Mediterranean Forests; International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO); Le Commerce du bois; Union of Southern European Foresters (USSE).
5. The joint session paid tribute to the memory of Mr. Alfonso Froncillo (Italy), past Chairman and long-time delegate to the Timber Committee.
6. The joint session was addressed by Dr. M. Hosny El-Lakany, Assistant Director-General, FAO Forestry Department, and by Dr. Carol Cosgrove-Sacks, Director of the ECE Trade Division.

## **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Item 1)**

7. The provisional agenda (ECE/TIM/94; FO:EFC/00/1) was adopted.

## **ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHAIRING THE MEETING (Item 2)**

8. The session agreed that the Chairmen of the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission be co-Chairmen of the joint session.

### **STATE OF FORESTRY IN THE REGION (Item 3)**

9. The joint session reviewed the state of forestry in the region, on the basis of national reports on recent developments in forest sector policy and institutions, and a synthesis prepared by the secretariat of 14 reports received by early July. In the discussion a number of developments were identified as being of interest or concern to many countries in the region. These would be taken into account when considering the programme of work and the regional issues to be brought to the attention of the Committee on Forestry (COFO).

10. The joint session agreed that the synthesis should be revised in the light both of countries' comments and suggestions, and the discussion. Corrections and additions should be received by the secretariat by 30 November. The secretariat would then finalize the document, clear the revisions with the bureaux and publish it as a Study Paper. The national reports would be made available on the website.

### **SPECIAL TOPICS (Item 4)**

(a) Sustainable Forest Management Practices, the work of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training

11. Mr. H. Höfle (Germany), Chairman of the Joint Committee, presented in detail the activities, strengths and comparative advantages of the Committee. In carrying out its work, the Joint Committee takes fully into account the goals and priorities of the parent bodies, and contributes to sustainable forest management in the region and to the programme of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests.

12. Mr. M. Wenner (United Kingdom), leader of the Joint Committee team of specialists on participation in forestry, presented a report of the team "Public Participation in Forestry in Europe and North America". The mandate was to clarify the concept of "participation" and develop the conceptual framework for participatory forest management (involvement of the public). The Third Expert Level Meeting on the follow up to the Lisbon Conference of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe had agreed to take into account the findings of the report when dealing with national forest programmes.

13. The joint session warmly thanked the speakers for their most interesting presentations.

(b) Consequences of storm damage by "Lothar"

14. The joint session was informed of the consequences of major storms including "Lothar" and "Martin", which had caused serious damage to European forests and infrastructure in December 1999. Representatives of the three most affected countries, Mr. P. Delduc (France), Mr. E. Wermann (Germany) and Mr. M. Zanetti (Switzerland), provided information on the nature and extent of damage, government measures taken to limit and alleviate the damage and the consequences for markets for roundwood and forest products. They noted that the main losers had been the forest owners (private and public), many of whom had seen the results of decades of investment destroyed in an instant. All governments had taken measures to soften the impact of the storm on the sector. Governments had shared their experience, notably with the last major European storm in 1990, to learn from the past and avoid repeating mistakes. The consequences were highly complex, involving safety aspects, changed work methods (more mechanization, need for expanded workforce), transport and logistical problems, disrupted roundwood markets, with many price falls, cash flow problems, danger of insect infestation, choices as regards regeneration etc. Many countries, in the regeneration efforts following the

storms, paid attention to the desired species composition of the forests in the affected regions. It was noted that older stands were more vulnerable to windthrow, and that the average age of Europe's forests was increasing.

15. The joint session warmly thanked the speakers for their most interesting presentations. It also thanked the secretariat for its prompt action in collecting reliable information on the storms and their consequences, and making it available through press releases and the website. It noted that governments and other actors had found useful the information on how to deal with the consequences of earlier storms (for instance the "Damage Manual" prepared under the auspices of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee). It would be desirable to update and revise this information in the light of the latest experience: the joint session noted that the Joint Committee had formed a team of specialists on disaster preparedness which would undertake this revision.

#### **MARKET DEVELOPMENTS IN 2000 AND PROSPECTS FOR 2001 (Item 5)**

16. The Committee reviewed the markets on the basis of the *Annual Forest Products Market Review*, country statements and national forecasts for 2000 and 2001. It approved a statement for subsequent publication and wide distribution (see paras. 53-55).

#### **IN-SESSION SEMINAR: INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON FORESTS, SUPPORT TO THE GLOBAL AND REGIONAL PROCESSES (Item 6)**

17. On the basis of Secretariat Note TIM/2000/3 and FO:EFC/00/4, and presentations on global processes, particularly the proposed international arrangement on forests including the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) and Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), and on regional processes, the joint session reviewed recent developments in the international dialogue on forests with particular reference to ongoing and proposed future ECE and FAO activities.

18. The joint session endorsed the general direction of ECE/FAO's activities, reaffirming the core mandate of ECE/FAO to "monitor and analyse sustainable forest management in the region" and the similar role of FAO at the global level.

19. The joint session recognized the major role that FAO had played in the informal Inter-agency Task Force on Forests (ITFF) and in providing support to the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) and recommended FAO play a leading role in the activities of the proposed UNFF and CPF. It noted that FAO had considerable strength in monitoring and reporting, which would be important functions of the CPF.

20. The joint session noted that there was already good collaboration between bodies at the regional level, notably ECE, FAO and the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE), but that this could be improved with regard to environmental organizations. The activities of the Inter-secretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics were welcomed, as they reduced the reporting burden on countries. The joint session did not feel that a formal structure for inter-agency collaboration was required at regional level.

21. The joint session stressed the importance of implementation of national forest programmes in support to sustainable forest management, emphasizing the need for the mobilization of national resources. International agencies and processes could promote this. There was a regional role in adapting global principles to regional

conditions.

22. The joint session noted that assistance was needed for countries with economies in transition (CIT) to participate in global processes in particular, and proposed, for example, that inter-sessional meetings could be held in countries in transition.

#### **FOREST RESOURCES ASSESSMENT (Item 7)**

23. The joint session was informed about the report "*Forest Resources of Europe, CIS, North America, Japan and New Zealand*" (TBFRA-2000), the ECE/FAO contribution to the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2000. It was also informed about progress being made in finalizing the Global FRA 2000, which will be complete by the end of the year.

24. Mr. Peter Csóka (Hungary), the designer of the TBFRA-2000 database, presented its structure, functions and contents. The database will be posted on the Timber Committee website, and published on CD-ROM together with the main TBFRA-2000 Report.

25. The joint session noted that the implementation of the TBFRA-2000, as well as the Global FRA 2000, would provide a significant improvement in knowledge of the world forest resources. The delegations congratulated the secretariat, national correspondents, team of specialists and all those involved in the TBFRA-2000, and commended the transparency and participatory nature of the process.

26. TBFRA-2000 provided a solid information basis for the on-going international forest policy dialogue, and the follow-up work should take into account the needs of current and future international forestry related processes. The policy implications of the TBFRA-2000 should be considered at the next sessions of the ECE Timber Committee (2001) and the FAO European Forestry Commission (2002).

27. The session endorsed in general the conclusions and recommendations of the last meeting of the TBFRA-2000 Team of Specialists (TIM/2000/4; FO:EFC/00/5), noting that some conclusions of the team would need further review when preparing for future assessments. The following comments and suggestions were made:

- a thorough and efficient evaluation of the whole FRA process (global, temperate/boreal, tropical) should be carried out before starting the next round of the assessment;
- continuity of terms and definitions is important for comparability over time and to avoid further adjustment of national data systems to conform with international definitions, noting that care should be taken not to overburden future resource assessment work by adding too many new parameters;
- early decisions on new parameters and revised definitions of existing parameters are essential to make it possible for national forestry institutions to provide data for the next TBFRA and other relevant processes;
- the importance of having sufficient resources and of national commitment was stressed: Finland and Sweden confirmed their willingness to make efforts to contribute to a future TBFRA process through financial, manpower and other possible support;
- the relative roles of the team of specialists, the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics and the parent bodies as regards responsibility for oversight and implementation of forest resource assessments should be reviewed in the light of experience;
- several delegations suggested a periodicity of 10 years for a full TBFRA with updates of major parameters about every 5 years or as required, e.g. for Ministerial Conferences, Rio +10, etc.

28. Mr. J. Serveau (Canada), on behalf of the Canadian Forest Service, invited the TBFRA team to organise its next meeting on Vancouver Island in June 2001, in conjunction with the meeting of the Canadian Forest Inventory Committee. The organizational details will be arranged between the Canadian hosts and the ECE/FAO secretariat.

#### **EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION MATTERS (Item 8)**

(a) FAO forestry activities in the region – review of FAO regular and field programmes in Europe, including follow-up to requests and recommendations of the 29<sup>th</sup> session of the commission

29. The joint session reviewed FAO forestry activities in the European region in the past biennium, on the basis of Secretariat Note FO:EFC/00/6 and of presentations made by the Assistant Director-General and Division Directors.

30. The joint session expressed appreciation for the explanation of the wide range of activities being carried out, for the FAO response to requests for support from the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, and for the way in which it had linked activities to the FAO Strategic Framework and the FAO Strategic Plan for Forestry. It also acknowledged FAO's involvement in the global dialogue on forests, in response to a recommendation at its last session, and to support to CIT.

(b) FAO forestry activities in the region – *Silva Mediterranea* research networks in the region

31. The joint session reviewed activities of the AFWC/EFC/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions *Silva Mediterranea*, on the basis of Secretariat Note FO:EFC/00/7 and other information provided by the secretariat, and noted that it was the sole forum for seeking solutions to joint problems facing countries of the Mediterranean. It also involved member countries from three different FAO Regional Forestry Commissions in matters that go beyond their own regional interests.

32. For these reasons, and because the original mandate is still valid, the joint session supported the continuation and revitalisation of *Silva Mediterranea* and urged countries to collaborate with FAO in preparing for the 18<sup>th</sup> session to be held in Ismailia (Egypt) from 8 to 12 April 2001. The 18<sup>th</sup> session should take into account the findings of the external review of *Silva Mediterranea* and the recommendations of the Informal Consultation held as a satellite meeting of the 30<sup>th</sup> session of the European Forestry Commission. The 18<sup>th</sup> session should especially consider the need to broaden issues beyond research, the need to involve new partners including supra- and sub-national structures, NGOs, the private sector etc, and the need to explore new sources of funds. It was stressed that the original mandate to take action on common problems facing countries of the Mediterranean was still valid.

33. Particular reference was made to the need for co-operation on forest fire management and suppression in the region and beyond. FAO would consider responding to specific proposals in this regard.

34. The European Forestry Commission should review the outcome of the 18<sup>th</sup> session of ~~the~~ *Silva Mediterranea* at its next session.

(c) Regional issues identified by the commission for the attention of COFO

35. The joint session recommended that the following matters be brought to the attention of COFO at its next session in 2001. The joint session:

- noted the importance of balancing the environmental, social and economic elements of sustainable forest management. It stressed that economic viability is a key part of long-term management. This could be achieved in a number of ways, for example through public recognition of wood as an environmentally friendly raw material and the promotion of timber and non-wood forest products, the encouragement of cooperation between small-scale owners, compensation for the supply of non-marketed benefits, or various forms of incentives.
- emphasized that reliable, current data and information were essential for sustainable forest management, for the development of forest policy, for planning and for the monitoring of progress in regional processes. The joint session stressed that transparency and participation in data collection and in the synthesis and dissemination of information, as had been practised in the TBFRA-2000 and the Global FRA 2000, will be essential.
- noted that many member countries had developed national forest programmes and recognized the importance of cross-sectoral issues to the nfp process. The joint session recognized the benefits of inter-agency coordination/collaboration in approaching cross-sectoral issues and the potential of the ITFF and its successor to promote this.
- urged FAO to play a leadership role in the proposed Collaborative Partnership on Forests and to contribute to the work of the UN Forum on Forests, building on experience gained in the IPF and the IFF.
- supported the continuation and revitalisation of the AFWC/EFC/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions *Silva Mediterranea*, drew attention to the Committee as an example of inter-regional collaboration in matters that go beyond their own regional interests, with particular reference to the shared problem of forest fires that could be of interest to other regions as well.

(d) Election of officers

36. The Commission elected Mr. José María Solano, Chairman and Mr. Arvid Ozols (Latvia), Mr. Jan Ilavský (Slovakia), and Mr. Bernard Chevalier (France) as Vice-chairmen. The Commission warmly thanked Mr. Peter Csóka (Hungary) for his most valuable contribution as Chairman and Vice-chairman of the Commission.

(e) Date and place of next session

37. The delegate of Spain invited the Commission to meet in Spain in the autumn of 2002, which the Commission gratefully accepted, subject to receipt of a formal invitation and the approval of the FAO Director-General.

**TIMBER COMMITTEE MATTERS (Item 9)**

(a) Matters arising from the fifty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Europe of relevance to the Committee

38. The Timber Committee took note of the decisions of the Commission and agreed to take them into account when discussing its programme of work. The Committee took note of the Commission's opinion on operational activities and the involvement of the business community. In this context, it noted that the business community

participated regularly and intensely in its activities. It agreed, in view of the imbalance between resources and aspirations, to undertake a fundamental strategic review of the Committee's objectives, methods, resources and outputs which would be completed before the ECE session in May 2001. The joint session could not reach final agreement on the prioritization of its programme of work but approved the proforma set out in the annex of document TIM/2000/5, until the finalization of the strategic review (see para. 43).

(b) Activities of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies of ECE of interest to the Timber Committee

39. The Committee took note of the activities recorded in document TIM/2000/6 and agreed to take them into account when discussing its programme of work.

(c) Election of officers

40. Mr. Jeff Serveau (Canada) was elected Chairman, and Mr. Gheorghe Florian Borlea (Romania) and Mrs. Astrid Bergquist (Sweden) were elected Vice-chairmen. The session warmly thanked Mr. N. Burdin (Russian Federation) for his valuable contribution as Vice-chairman and past Chairman of the Committee.

(d) Date and place of next session

41. Provided that conference services are available, the week of 2-5 October 2001 has been provisionally reserved for the fifty-ninth session of the Committee.

**REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES IN 1999/2000 AND INTEGRATED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2001-2005** (Item 10)

42. The joint session reviewed ECE/FAO activities over the past years (see annexes to TIM/2000/7; FO:EFC/00/9). It was not possible to review every item in detail. Pending the results of the strategic review (see para. 43), the joint session decided to carry out planned activities as proposed, except where modified in the descriptions (see paras. 44-59).

43. It considered that the programme as approved was in accordance with countries' needs and priorities but there were significant problems of the balance between resources and desired outputs, which in turn raised questions of priorities and quality control. It decided that there should be a process of strategic review and asked the secretariat, in close co-operation with FAO Headquarters, to arrange the following:

- request proposals from member countries of the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission on the strategy of ECE/FAO (e.g. priorities, resources, methods of work) by 30 November 2000, taking account of their needs and political priorities, desired outputs, available resources and the means to achieve them, covering questions of fund-raising, efficiencies, novel work methods etc.;
- convene an open-ended Bureau meeting before the end of the year 2000 to review these proposals and agree on a draft strategy;
- hold a satellite meeting at COFO in March 2001 to review the draft strategy.

The strategy should be submitted for approval by the Timber Committee at its next session while the EFC authorized its Bureau to approve it after consultation with countries.



- European Forest Sector Outlook Studies (EFSOS)

44. The joint session reviewed commented and approved the proposed work programme for EFSOS and the mandate for the team of specialists. As the quality and richness of the final output are dependent on the resources available, and considering that regular budget resources are only sufficient to produce a basic study, it invited governments and other agencies, including the private sector, to consider whether they could contribute to the programme in resources or in kind.

45. The joint session urged member countries which had not yet nominated correspondents to do so as soon as possible; participation and transparency are essential to the process, and the national correspondents have an important role to play as a means of communication between the secretariat and the forest and forest products sector in each country.

46. The following specific comments and suggestions were made:

- the enlargement of the scope of the study beyond supply and demand of timber is highly appreciated;
- energy would be an important issue, including use of all parts of the tree;
- the secretariat should seek funds also from the private industry, taking account of the guidelines for co-operation with the business community being prepared by the United Nations;
- a description of the sub-objectives and the corresponding necessary resources is urgently needed for seeking funding;
- EFSOS should describe the development of forest resources on timber production and trade over the next 20-50 years in the framework of 2-3 policy scenarios;
- EFSOS should also cover social and environmental problems and the whole timber product scope, within the limits set by data availability;
- EFSOS results should be addressed to a broad audience of forest sector representatives, including the private industry;
- the goals and tasks of different bodies in the framework of the EFSOS information network need to be clarified, especially for the core group, the team of specialists and the national correspondents;
- all forest sector stakeholders should be involved in the project;
- other Divisions of ECE should be approached in a search for synergies;
- already available outlook studies should be used to the extent possible.

- Trade and environment issues

47. The joint session considered future work on trade and environment on the basis of TIM/2000/7/Add.4; FO:EFC/00/9-Add.4. It took note of the proposal that EFSOS be used to prepare alternative scenarios on trade and environment themes. It decided to consider the question of trade and the environment in the context of the strategic review, while welcoming the work already done, notably the monitoring of markets for certified forest products and the special topic at the 1999 Timber Committee session.

- Countries in transition

48. The joint session was informed of the activities of the UN-ECE/FAO team of specialists to monitor and develop assistance to countries of central and eastern Europe in transition in the forest and forest products sector (ToS on CITs), and the current strategic directions of this work. The joint session noted and commended

the close co-operation on CITs between ECE/FAO and the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe especially in monitoring the implementation of Resolution H3.

49. Participating countries expressed their appreciation of the work done so far in this priority area, and confirmed their support for the future activities of the team of specialists. The future directions, scope, quality and effectiveness of the work with countries in transitions depend on the resources to be allocated, and the joint session urged countries to consider contributing resources to this work.

50. The joint session thanked Estonia for the organization of the workshop on the "Changing Role of State Forests" (Sagadi, Estonia, 6-8 April 2000) and noted that the topic of the workshop was very relevant in the light of developments of the transition process in countries of the central and eastern Europe. Mr. I. Gschwandtl (Austria) proposed to host the next international workshop on the "Changing Role of State Forests" in the first half of the year 2001 in Austria. The invitation was accepted with the gratitude. The exact time of the workshop, place and practical details will be arranged by the organizers (Oesterreichische Bundesforsten AG) in co-operation with the ECE/FAO secretariat.

51. The delegation of Poland invited the team of specialists to hold its next meeting in September 2001 in Poland, in conjunction with the workshop on Resolution H3, which is to be organized by MCPFE. The invitation was accepted with gratitude, and the practical organizational details will be arranged by the ECE/FAO secretariat, the Vienna Liaison Unit of MCPFE, and the leader of the team Dr. S. Zajac (Poland).

- Public relations

52. Mr. I. Gschwandtl (Austria), Leader of the FAO/ECE Team of Public Relations Specialists in the Forest and Forest Industries Sector, reviewed the accomplishments of the team, emphasizing the success of the International Forest Communicators Forum 2000 held the previous month in Canada as documented in its report (TIM/2000/7/Add.6). He mentioned the team's meeting in conjunction with the Forum which focussed on the follow-up of the Forum (TIM/2000/7/Add.5). The joint session approved a 4-year extension of its mandate to carry out that specific work, to assist in three upcoming seminars of the FAO/ECE/ILO Joint Committee and to assist in public relations for the Commission and Committee's products, e.g. the TBFRA. The strategic review will consider the implications of this extension of mandate.

- Forest products markets

53. Mr. Pepke introduced the programme for the review of markets for forest products, explaining how it fits into the mandate of the Committee and Commission and defining the current program and its resources. The Programme needs assistance in order to meet more of its mandate through a country-sponsored associate professional officer, a team of specialists and loaned experts.

54. The difficulty of receiving comprehensive and reliable statistics in a timely manner from the member countries in response to the Committee and Commission questionnaires was mentioned. As the country-supplied statistics are the basis of all the work, the joint session supported conducting a second meeting of statistical correspondents in order to improve collection and reporting of statistics.

55. The joint session agreed to consider the proposed team of specialists on forest products markets in the context of the strategic review.

- Study tours

56. The subject of the Joint Timber Committee and European Forestry Commission Study Tours was introduced by the secretariat. The joint session thanked the hosts, Industry Canada, and the organizers in the provinces of Quebec and British Columbia, for the successful tour held in September 2000 on "Certification of sustainable forest management and forest products in the forest and forest industries of Canada." A special thanks by the participants of the tour was given to Mr. Serveau.

57. Mr. E. Lenart (Poland), on behalf of the Minister of Environment, Poland, invited the Committee and the Commission to conduct the 2001 tour in Poland, possibly in conjunction with the meeting of the Team of Specialists on Countries in Transition (provisionally scheduled for 15-17 September 2001, meaning the tour might be 18-23 September 2001) (see para. 51). The joint session accepted the generous offer from Poland.

58. The joint session stressed the usefulness of the study tours, although concern was expressed over the level of secretariat resources devoted to them.

- Strategies to stimulate and promote the sound use of wood and other forest based products as environmentally friendly and renewable materials

59. The delegation of Romania offered to host a seminar on the above topic in September 2001.

#### **FORESTRY AND THE KYOTO PROTOCOL: KEY ISSUES (Item 11)**

60. The joint session reviewed this item on the basis of a presentation of Secretariat Note FO:EFC/00/10 and noted that despite the many issues remaining to be resolved, the provisions of the Kyoto Protocol were likely to be implemented in some form in the near future. The joint session welcomed the contribution that FAO had made to the dialogue on forestry and the Kyoto Protocol through its role as neutral forum and the provision of information, and appreciated the inter-disciplinary work of the FAO Inter-Departmental Working Group to this end.

#### **INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF MOUNTAINS AND WORKING PARTY ON THE MANAGEMENT OF MOUNTAIN WATERSHEDS (Item 12)**

61. The joint session considered this item on the basis of a presentation of Secretariat Note FO:EFC/00/11 and noted the high priority given to issues concerning mountains in the European Region. It expressed appreciation for the work of FAO and the EFC Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds and noted that the programmes and activities of the International Year of Mountains (IYM) should be long-term, action-oriented, process-driven and focussed primarily at country level. The IYM offers the opportunity to share experience with other regions and to provide renewed momentum for implementation of the recommendations of recent meetings. It emphasized that issues of mountain forests are interlinked with other sectors such as water, energy and tourism.

62. The joint session welcomed the recent efforts to re-focus the methods of the Working Party and improve its efficiency, to which the 22<sup>nd</sup> session (Toulouse) of the Working Party had contributed. It could play an enhanced role in providing linkages between various ongoing initiatives. The joint session adopted the revised mandate as agreed at the 22<sup>nd</sup> session of the Working Party.

**OTHER BUSINESS** (Item 13)

63. None

**ADOPTION OF THE JOINT SESSION REPORT** (Item 14)

64. The Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission adopted the present report of the joint session.

**ANNEX I  
PART I**

**INTEGRATED PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE ECE TIMBER COMMITTEE  
AND THE FAO EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION  
FOR 2001-2005**

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

- The Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training (JC)(2002, 2004)
- The Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics (FES)(2001, 2003)
- The EFC Working Party on Management of Mountain Watersheds (MMW) (2000, 2002)
- The AFWC/EFC/NEFC Working Party on Mediterranean Forestry Questions *Silva Mediterranea* (SM) (2001, 2003)

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**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* and on the Internet. Data collection is coordinated with FAO Rome, EUROSTAT and ITTO and the results are shared between all four organizations. 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 six 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 session. The data and analysis are also made available in electronic form and on the Internet.

**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 Expert Consultation at Kotka (Finland) in June 1996. The results were published in 2000. At all stages, the work is being carried out in close cooperation with the FAO Forestry Department and other organizations active in this area.

**Duration:** Continuing, review in 2003

**Outputs in 2000/2001:** publication, database and background documentation. The team met in 2000, at the European Forest Institute.

### **1.3 Sustainable forest management in the region: support to the follow-up to UNCED and the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe**

**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 UN Forum on Forests (UNFF), and the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE). 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 reporting to the pan European process on this subject.

**Method of work:** At each EFC session, delegations 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, discussed and subsequently published. The Committee and the Commission will cooperate with the pan-European process in drawing up a MCPFE programme of work, as laid down by the Lisbon Ministerial Conference. The team of public relations specialists will continue to work towards creating a positive image of the forest sector, according to the mandate in annex III. The team of specialists on socio-economic aspects of forests, under the auspices of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee, provided input to resolution L1 of the Lisbon Conference and the team of specialists on participation and partnerships in forestry will submit a report on this topic to the MCPFE. Possible activities on trade and environment issues in the forest and forest industries sector will be carried out as decided by the Committee and the Commission during the strategic review of the programme. Strategies to stimulate and promote the sound use of wood and other forest based products, as environmentally friendly and renewable materials will also be discussed by a seminar in Romania in 2001.

**Duration:** to 2002

**Outputs in 2000/2001:** Review of national progress reports, at joint session, Rome 2000. International Communications Forum, Canada, September 2000. European Forums for Forest and Society (to be confirmed). Report on public participation in forest decision making. Possible activities on trade and environment, promotion of sustainable use of wood.

### **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. 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 2004

**Outputs in 2000/2001:** a workshop on sustainable development of marketing of wood and non-wood forest products and recreation services in forests. The database on forestry assistance to countries in transition, established under resolution H3 will be updated regularly and made widely available. The team will meet in 2001.

### 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:** *Forest Products Annual Market Review* and the Committee's market statement at its annual session.

### 1.6 Forest and forest products sector outlook studies

**Description:** The Committee and Commission prepare and publish studies of the outlook for the forest and forest products sector in the region, addressing issues such as the long term scenarios for the supply and demand of forest products and other goods and services of the forest, as well as other major, policy relevant, issues, of

a regional or subregional nature. The work is overseen by the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, which determines in particular the scope and objectives of the studies to be undertaken.

**Method of work:** A baseline scenario, with approximately the same scope as ETTS V, and “business-as-usual” assumptions will be prepared, followed by a series of alternative scenarios on policy-related themes. Analysis will be based on quantitative scenarios, prepared with and reviewed by national correspondents. Work will be coordinated with the FAO outlook studies programme.

**Duration:** Continuing

**Output in 2000/2001:** Outline and plan of action for future outlook studies. Meeting of national correspondents, identification of themes for alternative scenarios. Baseline scenario completed in 2002.

## **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

**Outputs in 2000/2001:** At its session in 2001 the Working Party will evaluate the TBFRA, review plans for the next outlook study, and consider intergovernmental cooperation on 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, or by seminars or workshops hosted by member countries.

**Duration:** Continuing

**Outputs:** The Joint Committee's work programme for 2001-2005 is set out in the report of its twenty-third session (June 2000), (TIM/EFC/WP.1/2000/2).

### **2.3 AFWC/EFC/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 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 2001 AND 2002 FALLING WITHIN  
THE PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE TIMBER COMMITTEE AND THE EUROPEAN  
FORESTRY COMMISSION**

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.

**2001**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>
30-31 March	Lisbon, Portugal	Steering Committee of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training, 15th session (B)
2-6 April	Viseu, Portugal	Seminar on the role of women in the forestry sector in Europe and North America (A)
1-3 May	Geneva	Meeting of the Timber Committee office holders and the EFC Executive Committee (B)
14-16 May	Geneva	Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, twenty-third session (A)
June (to be decided)	Vancouver Island, Canada	Meeting of the team of specialists on temperate and boreal forest resource assessment 2000 (B)
18-24 June	Ossiach, Austria	Workshop on new trends in wood harvesting with cable cranes (A)
2-5 October	Geneva	ECE TIMBER COMMITTEE, fifty-ninth session (A)
8-11 October	Rüttihubelbad, Switzerland	Seminar on forestry meets the public (A)
(to be decided)	Finland	European Forum on Forest and Society (B)
15-17 September (to be confirmed)	Poland	Meeting of the team of specialists to monitor and develop assistance to countries of central and eastern Europe in transition (B)
18-23 September (to be confirmed)	Poland	Joint Timber Committee European Forestry Commission study tour on integration into the EU of the forest and industries sector (A)
September (to be decided)	Romania	Seminar on strategies to stimulate and promote the sound use of wood and other forest based products as environmentally friendly and renewable materials (A)

**2002**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>
May (to be confirmed)	Geneva	Meeting of the Timber Committee office holders and the EFC Executive Committee (B)
September (to be decided)	Ireland	Seminar on afforestation (A)
September (to be decided)	Ireland	Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training, 15th session (A)
September (to be decided)	Geneva	ECE TIMBER COMMITTEE, sixtieth session (A)
October (to be decided)	Sochi, Russian Federation	Workshop on multi-functional forestry in protected and vulnerable areas (A)
Autumn  (to be decided)	Rome	Meeting of the team of specialists on temperate and boreal forest resource assessment 2000 (B)
(to be decided)	Flanders, Belgium	Seminar on partnerships in forestry (A)
(to be decided)	Turkey (to be confirmed)	Seminar on forest fire (A)