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TIMBER COMMITTEE

(13th Session, Geneva, 13 to 17 September 1955)

REPORT OF THE THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE TIMBER COMMITTEE

HELD IN GENEVA FROM 13 TO 17 SEPTEMBER 1955

1. The Timber Committee held its Thirteenth Session in Geneva, from 13 to 17 September 1955. It was attended by delegates from: Austria, Belgium Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Finland, France, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Rumania, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, Western Zones of Germany, USSR, Eastern Zone of Germany, and Yugoslavia. (For list of Delegates, see E/ECE/TIM/50).

The Committee regretted that unforeseen circumstances had prevented its Vice-Chairman, Mr. Soederhjelm from participating and that it had thus been unable to consider fully the impact of developments in Finland on the international timber market.

2. The Committee unanimously re-elected Mr. F. M. du Vignaux (France) as Chairman, and Mr. J. O. Soederhjelm (Finland) and Mr. J. Kaczerginski (Poland) as Vice-Chairmen.

3. The delegate of Rumania asked for the inclusion on the agenda of the present session of a new item relating to the sawn hardwood situation in Europe. After some discussion, it was agreed that, lacking advance notice, delegates were unable to discuss this item usefully during the present session. Moreover, the usefulness of any discussion at a future session would be determined by the ability of governments to furnish the necessary statistical information, which should relate primarily to production and trade in oak and beech, and such North American species as may be competitive with these in the European market. The Committee therefore instructed the Secretariat to seek such relevant statistical data as was available from governments, and to prepare in good time a survey of the European sawn hardwood

market (oak and beech) for consideration by the Committee at its next session. This discussion would enable the Committee to decide its further procedure in the matter of hardwoods. It was agreed that for the time being participating countries would not be requested to initiate new statistical series and it was noted that the inclusion of this additional item on the agenda of the next session would not involve any budgetary increase for the organization.

The Committee then adopted the agenda (E/ECE/TIM/49) as submitted by the Secretariat.

4. Sawn Softwood

The Committee heard statements about the European situation and outlook for 1955 and 1956 and filled in the worksheets attached to this report as tables 1 and 2.

(a) Situation in 1955

The course of the European softwood market in 1955 showed many parallels with the previous year. The market opened earlier than usual and, in accordance with the Committee's expectations, it was characterized by continued firmness and a balanced relation between supply and demand. Once again, however, the level of trade proved somewhat higher than had been envisaged. Total imports for the year are likely to come close to 3.9 million standards, thus exceeding by some 350 thousand standards the maximum estimate made at the last session. The record volume of imports in 1954 (3.7 million standards) will thus certainly be exceeded, the most significant increases over 1954 being expected for the United Kingdom, Western Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands.

The level of actual shipments in 1955 would be even higher but for the fact that it will not be possible to lift from the exporting countries all the timber contracted for 1955 delivery. Purchases, in fact, considerably exceeded expectations, but a number of factors - strikes in the United Kingdom and elsewhere, and chartering difficulties - indicate that overlying stocks are likely to be greater this year than last unless chartering possibilities improve unexpectedly in the remaining months of the year.

A striking feature of the market has been the high level of purchases by the United Kingdom, where the transition from a controlled to a free level of consumption continues. Though consumption continues to rise, the rate of increase is slowing down. Nevertheless, optimism on the part of many individual importers seems to have led to purchases somewhat in excess of current consumption.

Once again, a high level of general economic activity in Europe and of house-building in particular has meant a continued firm demand for timber in spite of the fact that in some instances adverse weather delayed the start of the 1955 building programme. Yet the continued high level of relative timber prices has strengthened the trend towards substitution in all importing countries. In the United Kingdom, however, decontrol has enabled timber to recover some lost ground. Some slight advance in international prices was recorded towards the end of 1954, but thereafter c.i.f. prices remained fairly steady, though sharply rising freights in the course of 1955 stepped up the landed cost of goods bought f.o.b. Reselling prices, however, in the face of consumer resistance, again lagged behind replacement costs.

The Committee noted that the advance in prices recorded over last year meant that international prices had now gradually moved up to near the levels recorded at the peak of the 1951 boom.

Softwood exports from European countries in 1955 are now expected to reach over 3.5 million standards, thus exceeding the maximum estimated at the last session by some 400 thousand standards. Though not all northern European sales will be cleared this year, exports are likely to come close to the 1954 level, thus substantially exceeding the estimates made a year ago. This high level has been again facilitated by the exceptional storm-felling of early 1954 in Sweden, a factor whose impact will cease to be felt from now on. Austrian exports did not decline to the extent that had been feared when the government reimposed export restrictions at the end of 1954. Exports from the Soviet Union have risen as, in general, have those from other eastern European countries. Canadian shipments to Europe, in line with the express policy of Canadian exporters of spreading their exports evenly over their traditional markets, have been maintained, in spite of the continued high level of demand in the United States. Supplies to Europe from the United States, where domestic demand remained very firm throughout 1955, showed little change.

With a few months still to go and some further sales for 1955 delivery yet to be effected, unsold balances in the hands of exporters at the end of the year are not expected to exceed the normal level.

A comparison between total imports and total exports leaves an apparent export balance of something over 200 thousand standards; this difference between import and export estimates for the current year amounts to only 5 per cent of

total trade and is due in part to changes in the coverage of certain export estimates.

The Committee noted that the revised figures now submitted represented a considerable increase in the volume of trade as compared with 1954, even though, as already mentioned, part of the increase reflected improved coverage in the statistics, certain elements of intra-European trade which were formerly excluded now being included.

(b) Outlook for 1956

Import requirements in 1956 are estimated to be fractionally higher than in the current year. This estimate is based on the assumption that the general conditions influencing the European timber market will remain good through 1956, with industrial activity continuing at a high level and the rate of building maintained in most European countries. Against this, it must be remembered that it is not yet possible to predict the effect of new credit restrictions in several countries. While United Kingdom purchases may be slightly reduced in consequence of overlying stocks, imports are likely to show little change, corresponding roughly to expected consumption, subject, of course, to the uncertainties mentioned above. Western Germany's present level of imports is likely to be maintained. Industrial programmes in eastern European importing countries will give rise to some increase in import needs, in spite of efforts to effect wood economies; Mediterranean requirements will continue higher than in earlier years and there may be some increase in the needs of overseas markets.

Export prospects from European countries for 1956 are set somewhat below export realizations in the current year, though substantially above the estimates for 1955 that were made a year ago. At the maximum, current estimates for exports from northern Europe fall slightly short of the expected 1955 level, though the Committee noted that, given sufficiently firm demand, supplies from this source might in due course prove more elastic than might be inferred from the figures submitted.

The Soviet Union is now once again firmly established as one of Europe's leading suppliers, with exports to all destinations nearing 45 per cent of the pre-war level, and exports from that country are likely to be maintained in 1956 if the market prospects continue favourable. Austrian supplies would come close to this year's level, but in certain of the eastern European exporting countries export possibilities are certain to decline in face of rising domestic needs, in spite of continuing efforts towards substitution.

On the whole, availabilities from North America and other overseas sources will rise slightly, as production in the areas capable of waterborne shipments continues to expand. Thus total softwood availabilities for 1956 were placed at between 3.72 and 4.13 million standards. This corresponds closely with estimated total import requirements of 3.70 to 4.03 million standards. The apparent export surplus is lower than in the preceding year.

The Committee noted that, after making due allowance for changes in statistical coverage, the European sawn softwood trade was showing a steady expansion, and that there were indications that it might, in 1956, top the 4 million standard mark for the first time since the war. Though this expansion in trade was the accompaniment of a rise in sawnwood consumption, the latter continued to lag behind the increase in activity in the principal wood-using sectors, a lag attributable partly to the high price of timber relative to those of its principal competitors.

Several delegates stressed the fact that the appraisal of prospects for the coming year was fraught with more uncertainty than usual since it had taken place several weeks earlier than was customary, while at the same time circumstances pointed to a somewhat later opening of the market this year. Nevertheless, on the evidence available, and subject to the uncertainties mentioned in this report, it is believed that the balance between supply and demand which has characterized the European sawn softwood market for the last three years is likely to continue.

5. Small-sized Roundwood

The principal feature of the present general outlook for small-sized roundwood for 1955 was the considerable improvement in the situation compared with that envisaged at the last session of the Committee. Although the import requirements for both pitprops and pulpwood were now higher than the earlier estimates, the available export supplies recorded were considerably above the indications given in November 1954, and in fact the deficit shown by the figures tabled at the twelfth session was now eliminated.

For 1956, the outlook for pitprops indicated a continuous stability at the 1955 level of international trade. For pulpwood, on the other hand, the review revealed a further prospective increase in the import requirements of European countries in 1956, while present estimates of export availabilities showed a sharp fall from the 1955 level. The estimates revealed a somewhat higher prospective deficit than when the 1955 position was reviewed in

November 1954. In view of the adjustment of the volume of supply to demand experienced during the last year - (and also having regard to the apparent small surplus in pitprop export availabilities in 1955 and 1956) - the Committee felt that it could reasonably hope that the overall situation in small-sized roundwood in Europe in 1956 would develop in a more balanced way than the present total figures indicated.

Pitprops

The national statements revealed that the European market in pitprops in 1955 had been firm but steady, at a level of prices rather higher than in 1954. The stock position varied in different countries but in total showed little change from that of the previous year. The satisfactory level of pitprop supplies in 1955 at a more or less unchanged volume of trade and production, despite a rise in coal production, was largely achieved by further economies in the use of wood in the mines, and the continuing trend away from wood for mining supports. The increased utilization of hardwoods in many instances undoubtedly helped to relieve the pressure on pitprop supplies on the international market. Altogether, although there had been some chartering difficulties this year, there appeared to be no problem in meeting pitprop requirements either in 1955 or 1956, and in fact, the present estimates indicate the possibility of some pitprop production capacity becoming available to contribute some alleviation to the apparently less favourable situation in pulpwood indicated for 1956 by present estimates.

The Committee believed that although the efforts to increase coal output in Europe were likely to continue, the trend away from the use of wood in the mines, wood economies, together with increasing domestic supplies in some countries both by the introduction of hitherto less used hardwoods and by more efficient utilization of thinnings, suggested that the total European import requirements in pitprops were not likely to show any substantial change.

Pulpwood

The review of pulpwood import requirements and export availabilities in 1955 showed a marked improvement from the situation foreshadowed in the previous session of the Committee. While the present estimates for European import requirements were some half million cubic metres higher than estimated a year earlier, the export availabilities had proved very elastic and in fact showed an increase of about one and a half million cubic metres. As a result the

situation for 1955 revealed only a slight deficit in export availabilities (165,000 cu.m.) and demand and supply could therefore be considered satisfactorily balanced.

The steady increase of European pulpwood requirements in recent years was apparent also in the figures for 1956, estimated import requirements showing a rise of some 300,000 cu.m. on the 1955 level. Estimated export availabilities in 1956, however, indicated a decline of about one million cubic metres from 1955, thus a deficit of 1,145,000 cu.m. in 1956 or close to 20 per cent of the total European import requirements was foreshadowed for 1956. Although this appeared a large deficit, the Committee felt that in view of the unusually early stage at which the estimates had been made, the capacity of the exporting countries to adjust their supplies to external demand, as demonstrated in 1955, and the fact that the deficit represented only a small percentage of total European production, there was a reasonable prospect that the situation would develop towards a better balance than indicated by the present estimates.

Certain national statements revealed some build up of pulpwood stocks in the course of 1955 which also could ease the pressure on the available export supplies in 1956, if these should prove less elastic than in the past. Another point of considerable interest was the declaration by certain delegates that while exports of considerable quantities of wood, such as fuelwood or other categories not originally destined as pulpwood, were not recorded by the exporting country as pulpwood exports, the importing countries entered them in the trade statistics as pulpwood. This revelation thus further weakened the importance of the statistical deficit apparent in the 1956 export availabilities. For all these reasons, the Committee therefore felt that by and large the situation in 1956 did not justify any alarm.

The Committee discussed the problem of defining the expression of pulpwood in estimating the production, total requirements, import requirements and export availabilities. There seemed to be great differences between the national statements on total requirements as some only indicated the needs of pulpwood proper while others included all wooden material used for pulping purposes, although it was however agreed that generally pulping raw material in international trade consisted of pulpwood proper. The Committee asked that the questions of the treatment of pulpwood in Customs' statistics and of wood

waste and other wooden material used for pulping purposes be referred to the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Statistics in January 1956 for urgent consideration.

The discussions underlined the steadily rising trend in Europe's requirements of pulpwood and the Committee noted with great interest the reports on the increased use of hardwood species for pulping, which in certain countries had reached a considerable degree (in Italy approximately one half of pulpwood consumption, in France 20 per cent and in Western Germany some 10 per cent, etc.). Attention was also drawn to the programmes for reforestation by quick-growing species and their probable effect on future pulpwood supplies.

The Committee also heard with interest the statement by the United States delegate on the future trends of United States pulping capacity which, according to certain estimates, by 1975 was expected to have doubled the 1954 level. The increased raw material requirements created by this development were expected to be drawn equally from three sources, namely, by rising production of traditional softwood pulpwood, by increased utilization and introduction of hardwood species, and finally by a more efficient salvaging of wood waste. The United States delegate drew the attention to the importance of pre-logging operations in order to bring into use small-sized softwood roundwood which otherwise would be destroyed in the woods in the course of logging operations.

In the course of the discussions certain delegations were unable to give all the statistical information required. The Committee felt that the missing details were necessary in order to enable the Secretariat to issue complete worksheets and to improve the general appraisal of the present situation. The Committee asked the delegations concerned to provide the required information and it was agreed that this would be done if at all possible before 1 November 1955.

Medium and Long-term Trade Prospects

In their statements to the Committee on the market situation for sawn softwood and small-sized roundwood, some delegates referred to the longer term prospects for production, consumption and trade in their own countries. The Committee did not, however, consider it practicable at the present time to formulate estimates of export availabilities and import requirements for several years ahead. It recognized, however, that an appreciation of the longer term trends in the European timber market would be of value to both producers and traders, and agreed that this item be retained on its agenda for future sessions and that the Secretariat meanwhile give consideration to any alternative approaches to this problem which might offer the possibility of useful progress.

6. Contract Practices

The Committee took note of the report of the Working Party on the Standardization of General Conditions of Sale for Timber (TIM/WP.1/3) and heard an oral statement by the Working Party's Chairman, Mr. H. Blétry (France). It took note of the fact that at the first session of the Working Party, in which experts from Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Rumania, Switzerland, Turkey, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Eastern Zone of Germany and the Western Zones of Germany took part, initial agreement had been reached on a series of standard clauses but that no decision had yet been taken on a certain number of important questions which are to be discussed at the Working Party's next session, to be held in Geneva from 13 - 18 February 1956. Some of the countries which took part in the session appealed to countries which had not taken part in the Working Party's first session to take part in its future work or at least to assist it in that work by their advice.

The Rumanian representative proposed that the Working Party on the Standardization of General Conditions of Sale for Timber should also be empowered to study structural problems of long-term contracts, as had been done in the Committee on Agricultural Problems. The Secretariat referred to the views expressed by the Ad hoc Working Party on Standardization of Conditions of Sale for Cereals, to which the question had been referred for an opinion by the Committee on Agricultural Problems, in respect of a similar proposal presented to that Committee by the French representative. The Working Party had stated that in principle it was in a position to undertake the study of the structural problems of long-term contracts. It considered, however, that the question could be usefully studied only after general conditions of sale applicable to all contracts had been put in at any rate provisional final form, and moreover that questions affecting long-term contracts should be studied at a special session in order to enable governments to vary the membership of their delegations according to whether they were dealing with general conditions of sale for all contracts or special conditions exclusively referring to long-term contracts.

The Committee decided to resume consideration of the question of long-term contracts at its next session, when it would take into account both the progress made by the Working Party on the Standardization of General Conditions of Sale for Timber in drawing up general conditions of sale applicable to all contracts, and further developments with regard to the studies undertaken in other Committees on the structural problems of long-term contracts.

7. Substitution Study

The Committee discussed the progress report on the Substitution Study presented by the Secretariat (TIM/99) and took note of the miscellaneous papers, dealing with mining timber and with the categories of information required for the completion of the study, which had been circulated to delegates for their information.

The Committee approved the objective approach adopted by the Secretariat of the Timber Division in co-operation with other Divisions of the Secretariat and was confident that the Study, when completed, would be of considerable value in helping countries to formulate well-considered forest and timber policies.

Many delegates explained the official and private researches which were being carried out on this problem in their own countries; in some instances these enquiries were prompted by the national need to effect wood economies; in others, the principal aim was to promote the use of wood. More rational utilization was an element common to both these approaches. In view of the approach now adopted for the Secretariat study, the Committee agreed that its title be amended to "Trends in the utilization of wood and its products".

Considerable interest was expressed in the report on wood utilization prepared by the Stanford Research Institute and on the light which that study had thrown on changes in timber consumption in specified end uses. The Committee recorded its view that countries should make every endeavour to secure an improvement from all sources in end-use statistics.

Several delegates urged that the scope of the Study be extended to embrace all aspects of rational wood utilization, but on behalf of the Secretariat it was explained that this would not be possible with the resources at present available. The suggestion was made that certain aspects of the problem could be usefully referred for immediate study by specially constituted sub-committees; the Committee believed that not until the results of the present study were known would it be possible to decide what further action was desirable. The Committee noted that many governments had already supplied or agreed to supply all available relevant information and noted the pledges made by all members of the Committee to co-operate in this matter.

The successful prosecution of the Study required that all such data be placed at the disposal of the Secretariat. It was reported that in several countries a co-ordinator had already been appointed to assemble suitable

statistical material from official and private sources and the Committee urged that all countries co-operate in this project by similarly arranging for the designation of a co-ordinator to carry out this task and to maintain contact with the Secretariat.

The Committee expressed the hope that all countries would assemble where required and submit to the Secretariat by 31 December 1955, these necessary background data, making full use of both government and private sources.

8. Progress Reports on Technical Projects

(a) Joint ECE/FAO Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers

The Committee heard the progress report (TIM/100) prepared by the Secretariat, and noted with satisfaction that the Joint ECE/FAO Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers had been set up in agreement with the European Forestry Commission of FAO. The Committee indicated its appreciation of the work accomplished by the study groups and by experts since its last session, and certain delegates expressed the opinion that high priority should be given to this work. It trusted that it also reflected the views of the European Forestry Commission of FAO in stressing the value which would attach to North American participation in this work. The Committee noted that the first session of the Joint Committee would be held in Paris at the kind invitation of the French Government from 28 November to 7 December this year, and that its report would be submitted to the next session of the Timber Committee.

The active support which was being given by the International Labour Office in the sphere of forest workers training and accident control was noted by the Committee with satisfaction.

(b) Commercial Grading of Sawn Softwood

The Secretariat reported on the contacts which had so far been made and stated that it was not yet possible to determine whether this problem should be tackled primarily on the basis of existing grading rules, or whether the aim should be to build up new rules based on the technical properties of timber required for different end uses. The Secretariat was requested to continue to explore the practical possibilities of achieving an international simplification of Europe's timber grades and sizes as indicated by the twelfth session of the Timber Committee (E/ECE/TIM/48).

9. Statistics(a) Timber Bulletin for Europe

The Secretariat reported the steps which had been taken to improve and bring more up-to-date the contents of the Quarterly Bulletin and drew the Committee's attention to the fact that, in accordance with its wish expressed at the last session, a selection of representative price series had been included beginning with Volume VIII, No.1, 1955. The Committee expressed its satisfaction with the improvements which had been effected and requested the Secretariat to consider the possibility of extending the section dealing with price statistics to include graphical presentation of some of the more important series, and of including in the section, in conjunction with fuelwood prices, series of fuel oil prices. It also stressed the importance of countries observing the deadlines agreed upon for the submission of periodic statistics.

(b) Annual Statement on Price Statistics

The Committee expressed satisfaction at the fact that the Secretariat had been able to comply with the Committee's request at its previous session that a comprehensive statement assembling available price data in graphical and tabular form be made available annually to members of the Committee; it noted that for budgetary reasons it had not been possible to publish this document in printed form.

(c) FAO/ECE Joint Working Party on Statistics

The Committee heard a report from the Secretariat on the provisional agenda which had been drawn up for the first meeting of the Joint Working Party on Statistics which is to take place in Geneva in January 1956. It noted that the agenda provided for discussion of a minimum long-term programme in forestry and forest products statistics and for a more exhaustive consideration of the various items which fall under the general heading of forestry statistics. It expressed the hope that all participating countries would nominate experts in these two topics to participate in the work of the forthcoming meeting, keeping in mind the Committee's recommendation, contained earlier in this report, that the Working Party should examine pulpwood statistics.

The Committee noted that it would not be necessary to prepare statistical information for the Working Party since the Working Party would concern itself only with the categories of information which should be collected and the statistical methods and definitions which should be employed.

10. Special Import/Export Problems

Upon the request of the delegations from Hungary, Italy and Eastern Germany, small meetings to discuss special import/export problems among the countries directly interested were arranged as shown on the attached schedule (See Annex I). The Director of the Timber Division was kept informed of the general outcome of these conversations and was able to advise the Committee that satisfactory progress had been made. These conversations will now be pursued through regular channels by the countries concerned and some of the topics raised may be taken up again during the next sessions of the Timber Committee and the Committee on the Development of Trade. The Committee expressed its satisfaction with the initiative taken by the Secretariat in arranging for such direct conversations on import/export problems in view of the practical contribution which such contacts could make in developing a freer flow of timber among nations of Europe.

11. Other Business

(a) Conference on Fibreboard and Chipboard

The Committee was informed by the Secretariat of FAO's intention of convening in 1956 a world conference dealing with the technical aspects of fibreboard and chipboard manufacture and use. Several delegations expressed their close interest in the forthcoming meeting and the hope that members of the Timber Committee would be able to participate both in the preparatory work and in the conference itself, in view of the significance of this growing industry to their programmes of industrialization and forestry development. The Committee therefore considered that the work of the Conference was a matter of interest to the nations participating in the work of the Timber Committee, though it did not wish to be bound by any conclusions which the Conference might reach.

(b) Conference on Social Conditions of Forest Workers

The Chairman advised members of the Committee that in the course of 1957 there will be organized, under the auspices of the International Labour Office, an international conference on the social conditions of forest workers, analagous to the conference dealing with the conditions of agricultural workers which had recently concluded in Paris. Since the matters to be considered by this conference were highly relevant to the work of the Timber Committee, he believed that the Committee would welcome advance notice of this important event.

(c) Annual Report and Programme of Work of the Timber Committee
for 1956/1957

The Committee noted the decisions of the tenth session of the Economic Commission for Europe relative to its work. It approved, in the light of the decisions and recommendations of the present session, the programme of work for 1956/1957 contained in Annex II for submission to the eleventh session of the Economic Commission for Europe. It also authorized its officers, on its behalf, to submit to that session the usual report on its activities and programme.

12. Date and place of next meeting

It was agreed that the next regular session of the Timber Committee should be held in the autumn of 1956 in Geneva, preference to be given to a somewhat later date than had to be selected this year. The Committee also noted with appreciation the renewal of the Austrian invitation to hold a special session in Vienna. Considering the uncertainties prevailing at this early stage regarding the development of the international timber market in 1956, the Committee requested its officers to explore with the Executive Secretary in due course the utility of, and the date for, calling such a special session to Vienna, subject always to the understanding that appropriate arrangements for organization and cost and for meeting the convenience of participating delegations can be made.

TABLE NO. 1

IMPORTS OF SAWN SOFTWOOD
(incl. boxboards)IMPORTATIONS DE SCIAGES RESINEUX
(Y compris les planches de caisserie)E/ECE/TIM/51
TABLEAU No. 1

In thousands of standards						En milliers de standards						Principaux Pays Importateurs
Principal Importing Countries	1937 (a)	1954	January- June 1955 Janvier- juin 1955	Imports requirements in: -				Besoins d'importations en:				
				1954		1955		1955		1956		
				Estimates revised in Nov. 1954 Estimations révisées en nov. 1954		Estimates made in Nov. 1954 Estimations faites en nov. 1954		Estimates revised in Sept. 1955 Estimations rvisées en sept. 1955		Estimates made in Sept. 1955 Estimations faites en sept. 1955		
				Normal	Maximum	Normal	Maximum	Normal	Maximum	Normal	Maximum	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Belgium-Luxembourg	175	129	40	115	125	110	120	145	150	125	135	Belgique-Luxembourg
Czechoslovakia (g	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	5	10	20	25	Tchécoslovaquie (g
Denmark	130	174	46	165	165	150	150	130*	140*	130*	140*	Danemark
France	218(b	84	24	72	80	85	100	85	95	100	110	France
Germany, Western	(	517	274	400	420	400	480	520	550	500	550	Allemagne occidentale
Germany, Eastern (g	(	4	3	..	..	..	..	18(1	20(1	20(1	21(1	Allemagne orientale(g
Greece	62(c	42	..	40*	50*	40*	50*	35*	45*	35*	45*	Grèce
Hungary (g	125	12	20	15(1	17(1	15(1	20(1	26(1	32(1	38(1	42(1	Hongrie (g
Ireland	76	56	21	50*	60*	50*	60*	50*	60*	50*	60*	Irlande
Italy	200	354	178	300	330	300	330	300	330	320	340	Italie
Netherlands	389	383	143	350	350	330	330	360	360	350	355	Pays-Bas
Portugal	2	2	-	5*	5*	5*	5*	5*	5*	5*	5*	Portugal
Switzerland	10	15	10	15	15	15	20	20	25	20	25	Suisse
Turkey	2	70	25	40*	50*	40*	50*	35*	40*	50*	70*	Turquie
United Kingdom	2,490	1,469	641	1,510	1,510	1,410	1,410	1,550	1,600	1,500	1,600	Royaume-Uni
Other European countries	1(d	10(h	..	30*	30*	30*	30*	35*	40*	35*	40*	Autres pays européens
Other countries normally exporting	58(e	99(i	55	80*	80*	80*	80*	80*	100*	80*	100*	Autres pays normalement exportateurs
SUB-TOTAL A	4,433	3,421	1,481	3,187	3,287	3,060	3,235	3,399	3,602	3,378	3,663	SOUS-TOTAL A
Egypt	94(c	41	18	90*	90*	90*	100*	50*	60*	50*	60*	Egypte
French North Africa	40	91	35	70	75	70	75	75	80	75	80	Afrique du Nord franç.
Israel	54(f	46(k	24(k	(	(	(	(	(	(	(	(	Israël
Lebanon	(	10	(	(	(	(	(	(	(	(	(	Liban
Syria	(	5	(	(	(	(	(	(	(	(	(	Syrie
Other Middle-Eastern and North African countries	..	..	..	(	(	(	(	(	(	(	(	Autres pays du Moyen- Orient et de l'Afri- que du Nord
SUB-TOTAL B	195	193	77	200	215	205	230	205	240	205	240	SOUS-TOTAL B
Other overseas coun- tries not mentioned above (g	..	109	..	100*(m	100*(m	90*(m	90*(m	110*(m	120*(m	120*(m	130*(m	Autres pays d'outre- mer non mentionnés ci-dessus (g
GRAND TOTAL	4,628	3,723	1,558	3,487	3,602	3,355	3,555	3,714	3,962	3,703	4,033	TOTAL GENERAL

- SEE OVER -

- NOTES AU VERSO -

* = Estimated figure
 .. = Not available
 - = Nil or less than half a unit

* = Donnée estimée
 .. = Non disponible
 - = Néant ou moins d'une demi-unité

- a) Source: European Timber Statistics 1913-1950
- b) Includes some quantities of sawn hardwood
- c) Includes sawn hardwood
- d) Spain
- e) Austria-Finland-Norway-Poland-Rumania-Sweden-Yugoslavia-USSR
- f) Palestine within its 1937 frontiers; includes sleepers
- g) Column 3 and 4 are export figures from countries of Western Europe
- h) Iceland
- i) Austria-Norway-Sweden; and exporters' figures for Poland-Rumania-Bulgaria-USSR (imports from countries of Western Europe)
- k) Includes sleepers
- l) Excluding imports from countries of Eastern Europe
- m) Imports from Europe

- a) Source: Statistiques européennes du bois, 1913-1950
- b) Y compris certaines quantités de sciages feuillus
- c) Y compris les sciages feuillus
- d) Espagne
- e) Autriche-Finlande-Norvège-Pologne-Roumanie-Suède-Yougoslavie-URSS
- f) Palestine, frontière de 1937; y compris les traverses
- g) Colonnes 3 et 4, exportations indiquées par les pays d'Europe occidentale
- h) Islande
- i) Autriche-Norvège-Suède et chiffres tirés des données des pays exportateurs pour la Pologne-Roumanie-Bulgarie-URSS (importations en provenance des pays d'Europe occidentale)
- k) Y compris les traverses
- l) Non compris les importations en provenance des pays d'Europe orientale
- m) Importations en provenance d'Europe

NOTE:

Revised versions of certain tables will be circulated to member countries when, as agreed during the 13th Session of the Timber Committee, certain missing details have been supplied to the Secretariat. (See E/ECE/TIM/51, point 5, page 8, paragraph 4).

TABLE No. 2

EXPORTS OF SAWI SCFT COD
(Incl. Boxboards)

In thousands of standards

EXPORTATIONS DE SCIAGES RESINEUX
(Y compris les planches de caisserie)

En milliers de standards

E/ECE/TIM/51
TABLEAU No. 2

Principal Exporting Countries	1937 (a)	1954	January- June 1955 Janvier- juin 1955	Exports prospects for: - Prévisions d'exportations pour:								Principaux Pays Exportateurs
				1954		1955		1955		1956		
				Estimates revised in Nov. 1954 Estimations révisées en nov.1954		Estimates made in Nov. 1954 Estimations faites en nov.1954		Estimates revised in Sept. 1955 Estimations révisées en sept.1955		Estimates made in Sept. 1955 Estimations faites en sept.1955		
				Normal	Maximum	Normal	Maximum	Normal	Maximum	Normal	Maximum	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Austria	311	704	333	650	700	550	600	620	660	600	640	Autriche
Czechoslovakia (b)	108	73	57	93(j)	94(j)	70(j)	85(j)	110	115	90	95	Tchécoslovaquie (b)
Finland	1,020	729	238	710	710	650	700	700	750	650	700	Finlande
France	15(c)	101	78	105	110	107	115	107	125	105	110	France
Norway	40	24	12	20	25	20	25	25	25	30	35	Norvège
Poland(b)	316	77	37	80(j)	80(j)	70(j)	80(j)	75(j)	80(j)	65(j)	70(j)	Pologne (b)
Portugal	7	52	30	30*	40*	30*	40*	55*	60*	55*	60*	Portugal
Rumania (b)	292	77	110(m)	140(j)	140(j)	110(j)	115(j)	233	233	180(k)	200(k)	Roumanie (b)
Sweden	376	937	400	800	825	750	800	875	900	800	900	Suède
Yugoslavia	199	109	40	95	100	95	100	95	100	78	85	Yougoslavie
U.S.S.R. (b)	1,292(d)	276	39	350(j)	350(j)	400(j)	450(j)(k)	530	550	550	550	U.R.S.S. (b)
<u>SUB-TOTAL</u>	4,476	3,159	1,374	3,073	3,174	2,852	3,110	3,425	3,598	3,203	3,445	<u>SOUS-TOTAL</u>
Canada (e)	499(f)	454(h)	233(l)	415	425	400	500	425	450	400	500	Canada (e)
United States (e)	111(g)	44(i)	..	50	50	50	50	50	75	50	100	Etats-Unis (e)
Other sources (e)	..	..	..	80*	100*	50*	80*	60*	80*	65*	90*	Autres provenances (e)
<u>TOTAL</u>	5,086	3,657		3,618	3,749	3,352	3,740	3,960	4,203	3,718	4,135	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>IMPORTS</u>				3,487	3,602	3,355	3,555	3,714	3,962	3,703	4,033	<u>IMPORTATIONS</u>
<u>BALANCE</u>				+131	+147	-3	+185	+246	+241	+15	+102	<u>BALANCE</u>

- SEE OVER -

- NOTES AU VERSO -

* = Estimated figure
.. = Not available
- = Nil or less than half a unit

* = Donnée estimée
.. = Non disponible
- = Neant ou moins d'une demi-unité

TABLE 2 (continued)

- a) Source: European Timber Statistics 1913 - 1950.
- b) Column 3 and 4 are import figures from countries of Western Europe, Egypt, Israel and Turkey.
- c) Includes some quantities of sawn hardwood.
- d) Includes the Baltic States.
- e) To Europe only.
- f) Excludes boxboards.
- g) Includes sleepers.
- h) Total exports: 2102
- i) Total exports: 283
- j) Excluding exports to countries of Eastern Europe.
- k) Secretariat estimate.
- l) Total exports: 1178
- m) Total exports.

TABLEAU 2 (suite)

- a) Source: Statistiques européennes du bois 1913 - 1950.
- b) Colonnes 3 et 4, importations indiquées par les pays d'Europe occidentale, l'Egypte, Israël et la Turquie
- c) Y compris certaines quantités de sciages feuillus.
- d) Y compris les Etats Baltes.
- e) Vers l'Europe seulement.
- f) Non compris les planches de caisserie.
- g) Y compris les traverses.
- h) Exportations totales: 2102
- i) Exportations totales: 283
- j) Non compris les exportations vers les pays d'Europe orientale.
- k) Estimation du Secrétariat.
- l) Exportations totales: 1178
- m) Exportations totales.

NOTE:

Revised versions of certain tables will be circulated to member countries when, as agreed during the 13th Session of the Timber Committee, certain missing details have been supplied to the Secretariat. (See E/ECE/TIM/51, point 5, page 8, paragraph 4).

TABLE No. 3

FORECAST OF PRODUCTION, EXPORTS & IMPORTS OF PITPROPS
FOR 1955 and 1956

In thousands of cubic metres

PREVISIONS DE LA PRODUCTION, DES EXPORTATIONS ET DES
IMPORTATIONS DE BOIS DE MINE POUR LES ANNEES 1955 ET 1956

En milliers de mètres cubes

E/ECE/TIM/51
TABLEAU No. 3

Countries	1 9 5 4			Jan.-June Janv.-juin 1955		1 9 5 5								1 9 5 6				Pays
	PRODUCTION (a)	IMPORTS IMPORTATIONS	EXPORTS EXPORTATIONS	IMPORTS IMPORTATIONS	EXPORTS EXPORTATIONS	Normal requirements Besoins normaux		Indigenous production Production nationale		Imports requirements Besoins d'importations		Exports possibilities Possibilités d'exportations		Normal require- ments Besoins normaux	Indi- genous produc- tion Produc- tion nationale	Imports require- ments Besoins d'import- ations	Exports possi- bilities Possi- bilités d'expor- tations	
						A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Estimated in Sept.1955 Estimés en sept. 1955		18	19
Austria	291	-	210	-	42	235	282	415	422	-	-	170	140	282	422	-	140	Autriche
Belgium)	850																	Belgique)
Luxembourg)	53	64	33	100	23	950	950	950	850	50	150	50	50	900	850	100	50	Luxembourg)
Bulgaria c)	..	-	-	-	-	..	..	..	..	-	..	-	-	..	..	..	..	Bulgarie c)
Czechoslovakia c)	..	-	50	-	22	..	..	30*	..	..	-	30(e)	36	..	..	-	30 - 40	Tchécoslovaquie (c)
Finland	980(b)	-	966	-	264	-	-	1000*	1500	-	-	1000*	1500	-	1000	-	1000	Finland
France	1910	52	248	26	141	2000	2000	2050	2050	50	50	300	280	2000	2120	50	170	France
Germany Western	2860	854	53	422	23	3000	3400	2300	2400	1000	1100	50	50	3200	2150	1000	50	Allemagne occidentale
Germany East (c	..	33	57	..	25	..	..	100*	..	..	..	100*(e	50	..	..	-	-	Allemagne orient.(c
Hungary (c	..	250	-	123	-	..	..	..	..	280(f	380	-	-	..	..	420	-	Hongrie (c
Ireland	15*	-	7	-	3	2*	2*	17*	10*	-	-	15*	8*	2*	10*	-	8*	Irlande
Italy	115	29	-	16	-	150	150	120	120	30	30	-	-	150	150	-	-	Italie
Netherlands	144	5	32	8	14	190	190	140	150	70	65	20	30	185	150	60	30	Pays-Bas
Norway	68	-	68	-	39	-	-	50	60	-	-	50	60	-	40	-	40	Norvège
Poland (c	2000	-	124	-	-	2300	2000(h	2300	2000(h	-	-	-	-	2000(h	2000(h	-	-	Pologne (c
Portugal	140	-	132	-	68	40*	40*	190*	320*	-	-	150*	280*	40*	360*	-	260*	Portugal
Rumania (c	..	-	73	-	15	..	..	..	..	-	-	55(e	35	..	..	-	-	Roumanie (c
Sweden	370	-	330	-	147	25	25	325	425	-	-	300	400	25	425	-	400	Suède
Turkey	50	116	-	95	-	250*	250*	75*	75*	175*	175*	-	-	250*	75*	175*	-	Turquie
United Kingdom	1170	1489	-	257	-	2662	2670	1049	1155	1626	1515	-	-	2650	1175	1475	-	Royaume-Uni
USSR (c	..	-	586	-	114	..	..	400*(g	700(g	-	-	400*(e	700	..	700(g	-	700	URSS (c
Yugoslavia	410	-	1	-	-	475	480	480	480	-	-	5	-	500	500	-	-	Yougoslavie
TOTAL EUROPE		2892	2970	1047	940	..	..	..	..	3281	3465	2695	3619	..	..	3280	2888	TOTAL EUROPE
Canada	591	-	241(d	-	33(d	-	-	370	320	-	-	370	320	-	360	-	360	Canada
United States	..	..	-	..	..	3100	2550	3100	2550	-	-	-	-	2550	2550	-	-	Etats-Unis
Other countries	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	75*	60*	-	-	75*	60*	..	60*	-	60*	Autres pays
TOTAL	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3281	3465	3140	3999	..	..	3280	3308	TOTAL

- SEE OVER -

- NOTES AU VERSO -

TABLE 3 (continued)

A = Estimates made in November 1954.
B = Estimates revised in September 1955.

* = Estimated figure.
.. = Not available.
- = Nil or less than half a unit.

- a) Production in countries of eastern Europe estimated on the basis of official figures for planned production or on the basis of official figures available for earlier years.
- b) Production equals exports.
- c) Column 3, 4, 5, 6 are import/export figures from countries of Western Europe.
- d) Total exports to Europe.
- e) Excluding exports to countries of Eastern Europe.
- f) Excluding imports from countries of Eastern Europe.
- g) Excluding production for domestic requirements.
- h) Secretariat estimate.

NOTE:

Revised versions of certain tables will be circulated to member countries when, as agreed during the 13th Session of the Timber Committee, certain missing details have been supplied to the Secretariat. (See E/ECE/TIM/51, point 5, page 8, paragraph 4).

TABLEAU 3 (suite)

A = Estimations faites en novembre 1954.
B = Estimations révisées en septembre 1955.

* = Donnée estimée.
.. = Non disponible.
- = Néant ou moins d'une demi-unité.

- a) La production des pays d'Europe orientale est estimée sur la base de chiffres officiels de production prévue ou sur la base de chiffres officiels disponibles pour des années précédentes.
- b) Production = exportation.
- c) Colonnes 3, 4, 5, 6 importations/exportations indiquées par les pays d'Europe occidentale.
- d) Exportations totales vers l'Europe.
- e) Non compris les exportations vers les pays d'Europe orientale.
- f) Non compris les importations en provenance des pays d'Europe orientale.
- g) Non compris la production pour les besoins nationaux.
- h) Estimation du Secrétariat.

TABLE No. 4

FORECAST OF PRODUCTION, EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF PULPWOOD

FOR 1955 and 1956

In thousands of cubic metres

PREVISIONS DE LA PRODUCTION, DES EXPORTATIONS ET DES IMPORTATIONS

DE BOIS A PATE POUR LES ANNEES 1955 et 1956

En milliers de mètres cubes

E/ECE/TIM/51
TABLEAU No. 4

Countries	1954			Jan.-June Janv.-Juin 1955		1955								1956				Pays
	(a) PRODUCTION	IMPORTS IMPORTATIONS	EXPORTS EXPORTATIONS	IMPORTS IMPORTATIONS	EXPORTS EXPORTATIONS	Normal requirements		Indigenous production		Imports requirements		Exports possibilities		Normal require- ments Besoins normaux	Indi- genous Produc- tion Produ- ction nationale	Imports require- ments Besoins d'impor- tations	Exports possi- bilities Possi- bilités d'expor- tations	
						Besoins normaux		Production nationale		Besoins d'importations		Possibilités d'exportations						
						A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B						Estimated in September 1955 Estimés en Septembre 1955
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Austria	1680	22	-	52	-	2600	2850	2300	1980(1	-	100	-	-	2850	1930	150	-	Autriche
Belgium)	200	120	19	73	4	300	325	220	180	100	150	20	5	325	175	150	-	Belgique)
Luxembourg)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Luxembourg)
Bulgaria (b	..	-	-	-	-	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Bulgarie (b
Czechoslovakia (b	..	-	122	-	72	..	..	100*(1	..	..	-	100(j	120(2	..	..	-	80-100(2	Tchécoslovaquie (b
Denmark	-	6	-	1	-	15*	15*	15*	15*	-	-	-	-	15*	15*	-	-	Danemark
Finland	12500	-	2146	-	832	11000	11000	13000	13500	-	-	2300	3100	11000	13000	-	2000	Finlande
France	1670	347	3	77	2	2100	2100	1500	1500(3	600	600	-	-	2500	1750(3	750	-	France
Germany Western	1400	1457	-	588	-	5400	5500	3900	4000(4	1500	1500	-	-	5400	4000(4	1400	-	Allemagne occid.
Germany East. (b	..	28	-	86	-	..	..	..	..	..	180	..	-	..	..	200	-	Allemagne orient.(b
Hungary (b	..	60	-	133	-	..	..	..	..	70(k	150	-	-	..	..	170	-	Hongrie (b
Ireland	15*	1	-	1	-	5*	5*	- *	- *	5*	5*	-	-	5*	- *	5*	-	Irlande
Italy	700*	822	-	299	-	1500	1500	600	600(3	900	900(2	-	-	1500	600(3	900(2	-	Italie
Netherlands	20	320	-	36	-	325	350	30	20(5	320	385	-	-	390	30(6	350	-	Pays-Bas
Norway	3780	562	253	259	20	4000	4460	3800	4000	475	750	275	290	4720	4500	500	280	Norvège
Poland (b	..	-	151	-	18	1800	..	2000	..	-	-	200(j	300(j	..	..	-	250(j	Pologne (b
Portugal	180	-	-	-	-	45*	180*	55*	180*	-	-	10*	-	200*	200*	-	-	Portugal
Rumania (b	..	-	3	-	1	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	-	..	..	-	-	Roumanie (b
Sweden	16400	293	581	20	402	14000	16000	14400	16400	100	100	500	800	16000	16400	100	500	Suède
Switzerland	380	174	-	61	1	560	560	420	300	250	240	-	-	580	350	350	-	Suisse
Turkey	46	81	-	9	-	80*	130*	30*	50*	50*	80*	-	-	130*	50*	80*	-	Turquie
United Kingdom	140	369	-	94	-	480	500	130	160	360	370	-	-	550	170	410	-	Royaume-Uni
U.S.S.R. (b	..	273	1	164	17	..	..	..	..	300(k	300	-	500	..	..	300	500	U.R.S.S. (b
Yugoslavia	800	-	501	-	369	360	360	680	810(7	-	-	320	450(8	360	840(7	-	480(8	Yougoslavie
TOTAL EUROPE	...	4935	3780	1953	1738	..	..	..	..	5030	5810	3725	5565	..	..	5815	4110	TOTAL EUROPE
Canada	..	- (c	582(e	- (g	107(h	..	..	4060*(1	..	-	-	4060*(m	570(n	..	..	-	570(n	Canada
United States	74000	- (d	- (f	..	..	74000	84000	70000	76500	3400	..	-	-	88000	80500	-	-	Etats-Unis
Other countries	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Autres pays
TOTAL	..	..	..	..	..						5810		6135			5815	4680	TOTAL

- SEE OVER -

- NOTES AU VERSO -

TABLE 4 (continued)

A = Estimates made in November 1954.

B = Estimates revised in September 1955.

* = Estimated figure.

.. = Not available.

- = Nil or less than half a unit.

Production: includes only roundwood prepared as pulpwood but excludes other categories of roundwood finally utilized as pulping material, excludes also wood waste utilized for pulping.

a) Production in countries of eastern Europe estimated on the basis of official figures for planned production or on the basis of official figures available for earlier years.

b) Columns 3, 4, 5, 6 are import/export figures from countries of Western Europe.

c) From Europe only. Total imports: 268

d) From Europe only. Total imports: 4087

e) To Europe only. Total exports: 4536

f) To Europe only. Total exports: 105

g) From Europe only. Total imports: 188

h) To Europe only. Total exports: 1768

i) Production equals exports.

j) Excluding exports to countries of Eastern Europe.

k) Excluding imports from countries of Eastern Europe.

l) Excluding production for domestic requirements.

m) Including exports to the United States.

n) To Europe only.

1) Of which 180,000 cu.m. hardwood (beech)

2) Of which 30% hardwood.

3) Of which 400,000 cu.m. hardwood.

4) Of which 700,000 cu.m. hardwood.

5) Of which 3,000 cu.m. hardwood.

6) Of which 5,000 cu.m. hardwood.

7) Of which 60% hardwood.

8) 100% hardwood.

NOTE:

Revised versions of certain tables will be circulated to member countries when, as agreed during the 13th Session of the Timber Committee, certain missing details have been supplied to the Secretariat. (See E/ECE/TIM/51, point 5, page 8, paragraph 4).

TABLEAU 4 (suite)

A = Estimations faites en novembre 1954.

B = Estimations révisées en septembre 1955.

* = Donée estimée.

.. = Non disponible.

- = Néant ou moins d'une demi-unité.

Production: comprend seulement les bois ronds préparés comme bois à pâte. Ne comprend pas les autres catégories de bois ronds et les déchets de bois, utilisés pour la fabrication de la pâte.

a) La production des pays d'Europe orientale est estimée sur la base de chiffres officiels de production prévue ou sur la base de chiffres officiels disponibles pour des années précédentes.

b) Colonnes 3, 4, 5, 6 importations/exportations indiquées par les pays d'Europe occidentale.

c) En provenance d'Europe seulement. Importations totales: 268

d) En provenance d'Europe seulement. Importations totales: 4087

e) Vers l'Europe seulement. Exportations totales: 4536

f) Vers l'Europe seulement. Exportations totales: 105

g) En provenance d'Europe seulement. Importations totales: 188

h) Vers l'Europe seulement. Exportations totales: 1768

i) Production = exportations.

j) Non compris les exportations vers l'Europe orientale.

k) Non compris les importations en provenance d'Europe orientale.

l) Non compris la production pour les besoins nationaux.

m) Y compris les exportations vers les Etats-Unis.

n) Vers l'Europe seulement.

1) Dont 180.000 m3 de feuillus (hêtre)

2) Dont 30% de feuillus.

3) Dont 400.000 m3 de feuillus.

4) Dont 700.000 m3 de feuillus.

5) Dont 3.000 m3 de feuillus.

6) Dont 5.000 m3 de feuillus.

7) Dont 60% de feuillus.

8) 100% de feuillus.

SPECIAL IMPORT/EXPORT PROBLEMS

In connexion with the above item 9 of the agenda the following meetings between delegations took place on 16 September 1955:

Italy	-	Yugoslavia
Italy	-	Rumania
Italy	-	Czechoslovakia
Italy	-	USSR
Hungary	-	Austria and Western Zones of Germany
Eastern Zone of Germany	-	Sweden
Eastern Zone of Germany	-	Austria

PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE TIMBER COMMITTEE FOR 1956/1957

09. - Timber

(Note: The Work Programme of the ECE in the field of timber is developed and carried out jointly with the FAO, the latter organization providing the professional staff engaged in the work. Below are listed the projects, primarily the responsibility of the ECE Timber Committee, to be undertaken during the period 1956/1957. In addition to the annual session of the Timber Committee, joint FAO/ECE bodies will deal with the projects where appropriate. The joint projects for which FAO is primarily responsible do not figure in this list).

09.1 - Priority projects of a continuous nature

09.1.1. - Review of Timber Market for Europe including Timber Statistics

- Authority: Timber Committee (E/ECE/TIM/46, Annex III, section VII; E/ECE/TIM/48, para. 5; E/ECE/TIM/51, para. 3).
- Description: The Timber Committee reviews periodically the situation in the sawn softwood, pitprops and pulpwood markets. For the Autumn 1956 session, the Secretariat will also prepare a review of the situation in the market for certain categories of sawn hardwood. In addition the Secretariat publishes quarterly market reports for sawn softwood, pitprops and pulpwood, together with statistics relating to production, trade and prices in the main forest products in European countries and North America. The market reports are based on information collected from official and other sources and publications which is analyzed by the ECE Secretariat. The Timber Committee recommended the inclusion of graphs on the price indices of timber and other material. (E/ECE/TIM/51, para. 9).

09.1.2. - Special Import/Export Problems

Opportunity is provided to interested countries in connexion with sessions of the Committee to discuss special problems affecting the timber trade of two or more countries. (E/ECE/TIM/51, para. 10).

09.1.3. - Establishment of Timber Price Series

- Authority: Timber Committee (E/ECE/TIM/46, Annex III, section VII; E/ECE/TIM/48, para. 5).
- Description: The price series will be continued and supplemented by graphs. Further consideration will be given to comparisons between timber prices and substitute materials as well as other economic indicators (including cost-of-living index). See also 09.1.1.

09.1.4. - Long-term Timber Trends, Forecasts and Trade Arrangements

- Authority: Committee on the Development of Trade (E/ECE/TRADE/8, para. 6A); Timber Committee (E/ECE/TIM/48, para. 6).
- Description: Investigations are to be continued into long-term trends of timber requirements and import and export trade, and eventually into the possibilities of medium- and long-term trade arrangements.

09.1.5. - Increased Efficiency in Forestry Operations

- Authority: Timber Committee (E/ECE/TIM/46, Annex III, section VI; E/ECE/TIM/48, para. 8; E/ECE/TIM/51, para. 8).
- Description: This project aims at increasing efficiency in forestry operations by improving methods of work, by mechanization and by better training of forest workers and prevention of accidents. This project is dealt with by the joint FAO/ECE Committee on Forestry Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers, in co-operation with the ILO, by means of Study Groups and with the collaboration of experts.

09.1.6. - Study on Trends in the Utilization of Wood and its Products

- Authority: Timber Committee (E/ECE/TIM/46, Annex III, section IX; E/ECE/TIM/48, para. 8; E/ECE/TIM/51, para. 7).
- Description: The aim of this Study is to examine to what extent other materials are used as substitutes for timber for construction; packaging and other end uses in European countries, and the impact of this substitution on Europe's timber requirements. The Study is undertaken in conjunction with similar studies of the Secretariat covering other commodities.

- 09.2. - Priority Projects of an Ad hoc Nature
- 09.2.1. - Long-term Programme for European Forestry and Forest Products Statistics
 - Authority: Timber Committee (E/ECE/TIM/46, Annex III, section VII; E/ECE/TIM/48, para. 5).
 - Description: This project aims at setting up an overall minimum programme for forestry and timber statistics covering the whole field. This programme will be examined by the joint FAO/ECE Working Party of Experts on European Forestry and Forest Products Statistics.
- 09.2.2. - General Conditions of Sale of Timber
 - Authority: Committee on the Development of Trade (E/ECE/TRADE/8, para. 11); Timber Committee (E/ECE/TIM/48, para. 11; E/ECE/TIM/51, para. 6).
 - Description: Investigations will be continued into the possibility of drawing up contract forms setting out general conditions for international sales of timber. This project is dealt with by an ad hoc working party composed of specialists from interested countries.
- 09.2.3. - Timber Grading
 - Authority: Timber Committee (E/ECE/TIM/46, Annex III, section VI; E/ECE/TIM/48, para. 9).
 - Description: This project will be further explored in the course of the Secretariat's normal consultations with those countries which have expressed interest. Subsequently it will be dealt with by regional working parties consisting of grading specialists.
- 09.3. - Other Projects
- 09.3.1. - Studies on the More Rational Utilization of Wood
 - Authority: Timber Committee (E/ECE/TIM/39, para. 6; E/ECE/TIM/46, Annex III, section VI).
 - Description: These studies, the aim of which is to improve the utilization of wood, include:-

- reducing waste in the forest and ensuring the fuller use of by-products in the wood-using industries;
- improving the quality of sawn timber and other forest products;
- the use by industry of types and sizes of wood not hitherto normally used;
- the study of problems in connexion with the use of wood in packaging, including performance tests; and
- increased research and better public information concerning the utilization of lower grades of timber.

This project will be dealt with by joint FAO/ECE working parties of experts.