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Timber Committee  
Forty-fifth session

European Forestry Commission  
Twenty-third session

REPORT OF THE JOINT SESSION  
(12 to 16 October 1987)

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1/ The text of the report is also being reproduced by FAO in document FO:EFC/87/REP., with appendices containing the agenda, list of participants, list of documents and the programme of work of the European Forestry Commission.

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## Introduction

1. The ECE Timber Committee held its forty-fifth session and the FAO European Forestry Commission its twenty-third session as a joint session at Geneva from 12 to 16 October 1987. The session was attended by representatives from the following countries: Austria; Belgium; Bulgaria; Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic; Canada; Czechoslovakia; Finland; France; German Democratic Republic; Germany, Federal Republic of; Greece; Hungary; Italy; Luxembourg; the Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic; Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United States of America; and Yugoslavia. 1/

2. The following United Nations and specialized agencies were represented: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); International Labour Organization (ILO); World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

3. The following intergovernmental organizations participated: European Economic Community (EEC); International Trade Centre (ITC); International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO).

4. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: European Confederation of Agriculture (CEA); International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU); International Organization for Standardization (ISO); International Technical Association for Tropical Timber (ATIBT); International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN); Organization of European Sawmilling Industries (OES).

5. The joint session paid homage to the memory of Mr. E. Kalkkinen, former Director of the ECE/FAO Agriculture and Timber Division; Mr. W. Strzelecki, delegate of Poland and immediate past chairman of the European Forestry Commission; and Marquis G. Proto, honorary president of the Italian Timber Trade Federation and delegate to the Timber Committee.

### Adoption of the agenda (Item 1 of the agenda)

6. The provisional agenda (ECE/TIM/35,FO:EFC/87/1) was adopted.

### Arrangements for chairing the joint session (Item 2 of the agenda)

7. The joint session agreed that the Chairman of the Timber Committee and the Vice-Chairmen of the European Forestry Commission (in the absence of the Chairman) be co-chairmen of the joint session.

### Timber Committee matters (Item 3 of the agenda)

#### (a) Election of officers

8. The Committee elected Mr. J. Säglitz (German Democratic Republic) Chairman and Mr. H. van der Meiden (Netherlands) Vice-Chairman. It expressed its deep appreciation to Mr. L. Strängh (Sweden), the outgoing Chairman, for his notable contribution to its work during his term of office.

1/ Further information about participation may be obtained from the secretariat: ECE/FAO Agriculture and Timber Division, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10.

(b) Matters arising from the forty-second session of the Commission (TIM/R.138)

9. The Committee was informed of the Commission's discussion of its work and the resolution and decisions of the Commission. It agreed to take account of these discussions, resolution and decisions, particularly with regard to its programme of work.

(c) Activities of teams of specialists

(i) Energy derived from wood (TIM/R.139)

10. The Committee was informed that members of the team of specialists had participated in a seminar on wood and energy held in conjunction with Bioenergy 86, organised by SVEBIO (the Swedish Bioenergy Association). It was hoped that SVEBIO would be able to produce the proceedings of the seminar. The Committee warmly thanked SVEBIO and the Swedish authorities for organising the meeting.

11. The Committee endorsed the team's suggestion that the team be kept in existence so that it is ready to respond to changed circumstances, as soon as the Committee deems it necessary, but that the level of its regular activities be reduced, e.g. by widening the interval between meetings.

12. The team should continue to work both on the exchange of technical information and on statistics and the analysis of trends, which would provide a necessary basis for decision making. The next meeting, which could be held in conjunction with the sixteenth session of the FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics should concentrate on improving the data base, possibly by updating the survey for 1980, and on the competition and co-operation in the use of wood for energy and as raw material.

13. The Committee took note of the proposals for new work by the USSR (TIM/R.139, annex III) and agreed to consider them when discussing its programme of work.

(ii) Stress grading and finger jointing of coniferous sawn timber (TIM/R.140)

14. The Committee was informed by Mr. W.E. Townsley (Canada), leader of the team of specialists, of the results of the inter-organization meeting held from 5-6 October 1987 to review activities at the national and international level and formulate recommendations for the Committee. (The report of the inter-organization meeting will be issued as TIM/R.140/Add.1).

15. The Committee endorsed the following conclusions and recommendations of the inter-organization meeting:

- (a) as regards visual stress grading, the concept of timber design codes based on strength classes, which would accept timber graded by any recognized and tested set of rules, made it unnecessary to devote resources to achieving universal agreement on a single international set of grading rules. Several countries and ISO TC 165 had used the ECE Recommended Standard as a basis for their work, thus furthering the international harmonization of practices, while the Recommended Standard would be one of the grading rules referred to by Eurocode 5. In the circumstances, the Timber Committee considered that it had

provided an essential impetus to the work on visual stress grading but that there was now no further need for it to be active in this field. It expressed the hope that the grading standards approved by CEN and ISO TC 165 would be identical, and urged countries to participate actively in the work of both these bodies;

- (b) on machine stress grading, the Committee agreed that an improved standard, or set of guidelines was necessary. As TC 165 was actively reviewing the possibilities of a machine stress grading standard, it was not appropriate for the Timber Committee to continue work in this field;
- (c) there was also a need for an improved standard or set of guidelines for finger-jointed timber. ISO TC 165 will take up this matter but the process would be much accelerated if work could be based on a proposal which had already had some form of international approval. The Timber Committee therefore agreed to undertake a project with a strictly limited duration of one year, to prepare a preliminary standard or guideline on finger-jointed timber, for submission to ISO TC 165 at its meeting at end June 1988. An informal meeting should be held to discuss a draft to be prepared by Mr. K. Mørkved (Norway).

16. After completing the project on finger-jointing, it would not be necessary for the Timber Committee to review standardization matters regularly. If circumstances warrant it, the Committee could always undertake an ad hoc review of the situation and carry out any activities it considered necessary.

17. The Timber Committee expressed its warm appreciation of Mr. Townsley's vital contribution as leader of the team of specialists.

(d) Activities of other Principal Subsidiary Bodies of concern to the Timber Committee (TIM/R.141)

18. The Committee was informed of activities of other Principal Subsidiary Bodies of ECE dealing with matters of concern to it. It took note of this information and agreed to take it into account when discussing its own programme of work.

(e) Programme of work for 1988-1992

(i) Enquiry on priorities in the programme of work (TIM/R.142 and Add.1)

19. The Committee was informed of the enquiry into the priorities attached by member Governments to the different projects of the work programme, carried out in accordance with the decision of the Committee at its forty-fourth session (ECE/TIM/33, para. 90).

20. Replies had been received from 22 countries, which had indicated the ten projects to which they attached the highest priority and the ten to which they attached the lowest priority, and made general comments on the structure and organization of the programme. The Committee noted that there was consensus on a few projects which received generally very high priority ratings, notably projects 14.1.1.1, 14.1.1.2, 14.1.2.1, 14.1.2.2, 14.2.1, 14.4.2, 14.5.3, 14.6.1, 14.6.2.2, 14.6.2.5 and 14.6.3. It was recognised that some projects were of interest only to a limited group of countries (e.g. southern European countries): if these projects were attributed a generally low priority, it did not follow that they should be removed from the work programme.

21. Many delegations stressed the importance of maintaining the balance which they felt existed in the Committee's programme.

22. Several countries supported the suggestion that the Timber Committee should hold a full session only every two years, with a more limited meeting in the intervening years which would concentrate on market questions. The Committee was informed that this question was under discussion in the framework of the review of the structure and functions of ECE as a whole, at present in progress. The results of this review would be communicated to the Committee at its next session.

23. The Committee was informed that there was a proposal being considered in the above-mentioned review to limit the number of meeting days with UN interpretation which were to be made available to seminars and ad hoc meetings. It considered that this strict limitation would discriminate against bodies, like the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers, which had adopted flexible working methods, notably seminars, as the main method of carrying out their programme.

24. The Joint Committee's system of organizing its work (three seminars a year) had proved its worth and should not be disrupted.

25. It was also suggested that in view of the wide range of subjects of common interest, and the continuing close co-operation with a joint secretariat, joint subsidiary bodies and joint projects, the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission should hold joint sessions more frequently than in the past.

26. The Committee urged all countries to reply to the enquiries which were approved by intergovernmental meetings and circulated. If it was likely that some countries would not reply, the enquiry should not be circulated.

27. One delegation considered that the interval between substantial activities in projects of interest to Mediterranean countries (projects 14.1.3 and 14.3.1.4) was too long. It suggested a seminar in 1990 or 1991. Attention was drawn to the active forestry programme being undertaken under the auspices of the AFC/EFC/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions "Silva Mediterranea".

28. The Committee considered it had been most useful to ascertain the priorities of countries and agreed to take them into account when discussing its programme of work.

(ii) Study tours in 1988 and later years (TIM/R.143 and Add. 1)

29. The Committee welcomed the invitation of the Government of Poland to hold a study tour from 22 to 29 May 1988 on the theme of "Techniques of industrial utilization of damaged and low quality wood". The programme of the tour had been distributed and delegations were invited to advertise it widely in their countries in order to ensure its success.

30. The Committee also welcomed Hungary's offer to act as host for a study tour, in 1989 or 1990. The latter date was preferable, to avoid holding study tours in neighbouring countries in successive years. The Committee invited other member countries to consider acting as host to a study tour in 1989 or 1991.

(iii) Review and revision of the draft programme of work for 1988-1992  
(TIM/R.144)

31. The Committee considered its programme of work on the basis of the draft prepared by the secretariat which took into account the programme adopted at the Committee's forty-fourth session, the proposals referred to it by the forty-second session of the Commission, as well as the decision taken at that session and the results of the meetings of the Committee's subsidiary bodies.

32. The Committee also took into account its own discussion and decisions under other items of the agenda and the review of priorities. It approved its programme of work for 1988-1992 as set out in annexes I, II and III.

33. The joint session invited the next sessions of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers and the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics to take into consideration, when drawing up proposals for the updating of their respective programmes of work, the results of the Timber Committee's survey of project priorities (see paras. 19-28), as well as any decisions that the Economic Commission for Europe might take with regard to the structure and priorities of the Commission, including its Principal Subsidiary Bodies. In doing so, they should also bear in mind the interests of their parent body or bodies other than ECE.

34. The Committee reviewed the comments on the proposal by the delegation of France for a feasibility study on the use of modern methods of communication and information exchange between trading and industrial partners in the forest products sector (see ECE/TIM/33, paras. 91-93). Thirteen replies had been received. Many replies expressed interest but some expressed serious doubts about the desirability and feasibility of the project. The Committee agreed that the subject was important but considered it was premature for it to undertake a project in this field, at this stage. The possibility remained open of returning to the subject later.

35. Under project 14.2.1. - Review of production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products, the Committee examined the proposals of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) to undertake joint projects. It supported the proposal to update in 1988 its 1978 study on the European trade and utilization of tropical hardwoods. This would be directed by its secretariat, which would also contribute some resources, but the carrying out of the project would depend on the decision of the ITTO Council meeting in November 1987 on the allocation of the necessary funds for the project. The Committee repeated the invitation made at its forty-fourth session and expressed the wish that representatives of ITTO member countries take an active part in its forty-sixth session in October 1988, notably the discussion of markets for tropical hardwoods. The Committee felt that it would be premature to organize at this stage a joint session with the ITTO.

36. With regard to project 14.2.2.3. - Problems of classification and definitions, the Committee requested the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics to examine whether there was a need for this subject to be maintained in the programme of work, or whether it could be removed until such time as new problems needed to be dealt with.



37. Under project 14.4.1. - Development and introduction of new technologies in the wood-working industries, including furniture, the Committee agreed to retain the reference to furniture.

38. The Committee was informed that no recommendations on the proposed seminar in the field of rational use of wood biomass and the reduction of losses had been received from the team of specialists on wood energy questions. It agreed to invite the team of specialists to discuss, at its next meeting, the USSR suggestions concerning further activities in the field of energy (TIM/R.139, annex III), and to submit proposals for future work to the Committee's forty-sixth session.

European Forestry Commission matters (Item 4 of the agenda)

(a) Matters arising from the eighth session of the Committee on Forestry and to be referred to the ninth session (FO:EFC/87/2)

39. The Commission noted that the eighth session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) had been held at Rome in April 1986. The main issues were the role of forest industries and trade in socio-economic development, public and political awareness of the importance of forestry, conservation and the Tropical Forestry Action Plan (TFAP).

40. The ninth session of COFO will be held from 9 to 13 May 1988. The main agenda items include problems and potentials of forest based small-scale enterprises in development, forest conservation, the mobilizing of funds for world forestry development, and a review of progress made with the TFAP.

(b) AFC/EFC/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions "Silva Mediterranea" (FO:SCM/85/Rep.)

41. The Commission was informed that the AFC/EFC/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions "Silva Mediterranea" had held its twelfth and thirteenth sessions since the Commission's last session. The former was held at La Grande Motte, Montpellier (France) in December 1985; the latter at Saragoza (Spain) in September/October 1987.

42. The Committee had resumed its activities in 1985 after an interruption of 15 years. It had proved to be an excellent frame for catalyzing regional forestry cooperation in the Mediterranean basin. Within a two-year period the following were achieved:

- (i) Review of research priorities in the region;
- (ii) Establishment of an ad hoc group for the coordination of forestry research;
- (iii) Initiation of five priority research networks, nomination of their coordinators and elaboration of their work programmes;
- (iv) Stimulation of regional and national institutions' cooperation with FAO in forestry development in the region.

43. On the basis of progress achieved within two years, it was expected that more could be developed before the next session to be held in Greece in September/October 1989 by consolidating the work of the networks and strengthening the regional cooperation.

44. The Commission noted that some projects of Silva Mediterranea appeared to cover similar areas to those being dealt with by the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers (e.g. plantation techniques, forest fires) and by the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics (e.g. evaluation of social and ecological services of the forest, forest inventories, regional data bank). It requested each body to take into consideration the activities of the others in formulating its programme of work.

(c) Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds (FO:728/15)

45. The Commission was informed of the results of the fifteenth session of the EFC Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds which, together with a study tour, was held at Innsbruck (Austria) in September/October 1986.

46. The major items discussed were: definition of areas exposed to natural risks; management of flows and sediments by open dams; maintaining ecologically stable forest cover in watersheds; and application of mathematical models for a quantitative analysis of hydrological processes.

47. The sixteenth session will be held at Aix-en-Provence (France) on 13-24 June 1988. The main items on the agenda will be a FAO/IUFRO symposium on the effects of dying forests on watershed management and torrent control; legislation on areas exposed to natural risks; and the greater utilization of mountain areas for recreation purposes.

(d) Matters arising from the fifteenth FAO Regional Conference for Europe  
(FO:EFC/87/3)

48. The Commission was informed of the results of the Regional Conference held at Istanbul (Turkey) in September 1986. Considerable concern was expressed for the increasingly damaging effects of transboundary air pollution on European forest resources. FAO was called upon to intensify its activities in regard to research on the causes of forest damage and to coordinate the various national efforts in this field, together with ECE. Southern European countries drew the attention of the Regional Conference to the constant heavy losses caused by frequent forest fires.

49. The Regional Conference adopted a recommendation that these forestry matters be a major agenda item for its next session to be held at Krakow (Poland) in September 1988.

(e) Programme of work of the European Forestry Commission, 1988 to 1992  
(FO: EFC/87/4)

50. The Commission considered its programme of work for 1988 to 1992 on the basis of the draft prepared by the secretariat. It adopted its programme with the changes which have been incorporated in it as set out in Appendix D of its report (FO: EFC/87/REP.).

51. The Commission invited the Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds to consider the possibility of drawing up proposals for its programme of work in a form that would conform better to that of the Commission itself, that is to say, to adopt a somewhat longer programme horizon and to give details of proposed between-session activities.

52. The Commission supported the proposal of the Executive Committee that at future sessions of the Commission an item be included on the agenda to allow a particular aspect of the work of the Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds to be presented in detail. This would help to strengthen ties between the Commission and the Working Party. It therefore invited the sixteenth session of the Working Party to select a suitable topic and arrange for a speaker or speakers to introduce it to the Commission's twenty-fourth session in 1989. It agreed to consider at that session the possibility of other subsidiary bodies making similar presentations at later sessions.

(f) Election of Officers

53. The Commission elected Mr. E. Clicheroux (Belgium) Chairman. It re-elected Mr. B. Berdar (Hungary) and Mr. O. Aalde (Norway) and elected Mr. J.M.A. Soares (Portugal) Vice-Chairmen. It expressed its deep gratitude to Mr. F. Barrientos (Spain), the outgoing Chairman, for his services to the Commission during his term of office.

Joint subsidiary bodies and activities of common interest (Item 5 of the agenda)

(a) Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers (TIM/EFC/WP.1/AC.1/10)

54. The joint session was informed by Mr. E. Lammerts van Bueren (the Netherlands), Chairman of the Joint Committee, of its activities since the forty-fourth session of the Timber Committee, i.e. three seminars (on small-scale logging operations and machines, Sweden, June 1987; on the impact of acute forest damage on harvesting and silvicultural operations, Federal Republic of Germany, September 1987; and on extension activities for owners of small woodlands (woodlots), Canada, September/October 1987), the eighth session of the Joint Committee's Steering Committee, as well as its different special activities carried out under teams of specialists.

55. The joint session noted with appreciation the publication of a special issue of the Timber Bulletin (Vol. XXXIX, No. 3) outlining the development of forestry in post-war Europe and North America and the role played by the Joint Committee and warmly thanked its authors, Messrs. E.G. Richards (United Kingdom) and S-A. Axelsson (Sweden). The Joint Committee has been successful over the past thirty years in exchanging information and experience between countries at the practical and administrative levels. While the need for such exchanges may well continue in the future, the problem areas to be dealt with may be expected to change. Consequently, the joint session agreed that the Joint Committee must have the necessary flexibility to adjust its programme of work to new problem areas identified by its parent bodies.

56. The delegate of Turkey confirmed his Government's invitation for a seminar on harvesting operations to be organized in 1989 and proposed to discuss the details with the secretariat during the present session.

57. The delegate of the United Kingdom informed the joint session that his Government was examining the possibility of hosting the proposed seminar on the use of chemicals in forestry in 1990 and that a decision would be taken in the course of 1988.

58. The joint session expressed its thanks to all the countries which had hosted or were going to host Joint Committee meetings.

(b) Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics (TIM/EFC/WP.2/16)

59. The joint session was informed by Mr. E. Clicheroux (Belgium), Chairman of the Working Party, of the preparations for its sixteenth session, to be held from 24 to 26 February 1988. The joint session requested the Working Party to consider whether the surveys on medium-term trends in the structure and capacity of the wood-based panels industries (programme element 14.1.2.1.) might be undertaken at longer intervals than at present (three years).

(c) Air pollution damage to forests

(i) Timber Committee's team of specialists on the implications of air pollution damage to forests for roundwood supply and forest products markets (TIM/R.145)

60. Mr. L. Schotte (Sweden), team leader, presenting the report of the team's meeting held at Krakow (Poland) in March 1987, informed the joint session that the team, after reviewing the situation, had concluded that there was still no significant market disruption due to air pollution damage, although local disturbances had occurred. The possibility of large volumes of sanitation fellings was seen rather as a potential threat hanging over the market. It was therefore important to be well prepared and continuously informed about the possible consequences of different developments.

61. The Committee endorsed the team's proposed mandate as set out in TIM/R.145, para. 11, with the proviso that activities of other international organizations, notably those under the auspices of the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution and its programme task force and the activities of the EFC ad hoc Working Group "Impact of Air Pollution on Forests" should be taken into account by the team in its work.

62. The joint session welcomed the fact that Mr. S. Nilsson's report on the extent of forest damage, submitted to the Timber Committee in 1986 as TIM/R.124, had been updated and would be issued shortly. The team and the secretariat should make every effort to ensure that this report continues to be updated annually.

63. The joint session expressed its gratitude to Mr. Schotte and the team members, to the Polish authorities and to the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) who had greatly contributed to the success of the meeting.

(ii) European Forestry Commission's ad hoc Working Group "Impact of Air Pollution on Forests" (FO:EFC/87/5)

64. The joint session was informed that in accordance with its mandate, the Working Group had met at Bonn-Röttgen (Federal Republic of Germany) on 14 and 15 September 1987, in conjunction with the Seminar on the impact of acute forest damage on harvesting and silvicultural operations, to discuss methods for the assessment of changes in the increment and standing volume in damaged forests. The joint session endorsed the Working Group's recommendation that member

countries should be urged to undertake large scale surveys on increment and standing volume at regular intervals, as well as more intensive analytical studies. A small group of experts would be convened to improve the comparability of the large-scale surveys. A second group of specialists would be convened later to review and evaluate progress and to draw up recommendations. The joint session requested that the reservation expressed by the United Kingdom delegation with regard to the harmonization of survey methodologies be taken into consideration by these groups.

65. The joint session agreed that remote sensing had great potential for assessing forest damage, and took note of the IIASA meeting on the subject. It agreed that the EFC ad hoc Working Group and the Timber Committee team of specialists should organize a joint meeting to examine present use of remote sensing in this field, including notably international projects, research being undertaken and the potential for a large-scale practical application of these techniques.

66. As to the effect of air pollution on human health, the joint session requested the secretariat to ascertain which international organizations were active in this field. Forests might be seen as an indicator of the health of the ecosystem as a whole and of potential threats to human health.

(iii) Seminar on the impact of acute forest damage on harvesting and silvicultural operations (TIM/EFC/WP.1/SEM.25/2)

67. The joint session was also informed of the results of the above seminar, held at Bonn-Röttgen (Federal Republic of Germany) from 7 to 11 September 1987, under the auspices of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers. The proceedings would be published by the host country.

68. The joint session thanked the authorities of the Federal Republic of Germany for providing host facilities for the seminar and the above-mentioned meeting of the ad hoc Working Group.

(d) Seminar on the valorization of temperate-zone secondary-quality hardwoods, Nancy (France), November 1987 (TIM/EFC/SEM.1/1)

69. The joint session was informed of preparations for the seminar, in particular of the basic and voluntary papers and the examples of imaginative use of hardwoods, which were most encouraging. Registrations, on the other hand, remained below the expected level as several major hardwood producing and exporting countries in Europe had not yet arranged representation at the seminar. The joint session urged them and other countries with problems relating to secondary-quality hardwoods to participate in the seminar.

(e) Seminar on the production and marketing of products from the forest of special interest to Mediterranean countries, Italy, 1988 (TIM/R.149)

70. The delegation of Italy, the host country to the seminar, informed the joint session of preliminary arrangements for the seminar which was to be held under the joint auspices of the two bodies, in close co-operation with the AFC/EFC/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions "Silva Mediterranea". The seminar and study tour, which would begin and end in Rome,

would have discussion sessions in Florence and a series of study visits in Tuscany, Umbria and the Marche regions. The main objective of the seminar would be to contribute to the more efficient production and marketing of the large variety of products of the Mediterranean forest and to an improved management of this type of forest. Several Mediterranean countries expressed their commitment to and active support of the seminar, notably Greece, Portugal, Turkey and Yugoslavia; Bulgaria also expressed its interest.

71. The joint session requested the Italian authorities to finalize plans for the seminar as soon as possible, so that the secretariat could circulate the necessary information to countries and arrange for the preparation of background documentation by national experts in good time.

Market developments in 1987 and prospects for 1988 (Item 6 of the agenda)

72. The joint session's discussion on the market for forest products was based on national reports, countries' estimates for 1987 and 1988 and the secretariat's Annual Forest Products Market Review (Timber Bulletin, Vol. XL, No. 6). The joint session approved a statement on the market for issue as a press release and for inclusion, together with the estimates for 1987 and 1988 and other tabular material, in Forest Products Markets in 1987 and Prospects for 1988 (Timber Bulletin, Vol. XL, No. 9).

73. Noting the importance of MDF in European and North American markets, the joint session suggested that the Timber Committee should invite countries to furnish separate forecasts for this product to its forty-sixth session on an experimental basis. It recognized however, that, because of problems with classification and definition, some countries might not be able to distinguish MDF separately.

74. The joint session considered that stress grading was an important way of increasing wood consumption, by making it easier for architects and designers to work with wood. Stress graded timber, like other timber, was already traded internationally on a significant scale and it was important that there should be no unnecessary obstacles to the expansion of this trade. In particular, it was desirable to encourage strongly the efforts in hand under Eurocode 5, CEN and ISO to arrange mutual acceptance of stress graded timber, notably by accepting approval and control agencies in the country of origin, and creating an international marking system for stress grades. The joint session urged countries to participate actively and constructively in the work on this subject. It requested the secretariat to discover the status of work in hand on transfrontier acceptance of stress graded timber and on accreditation and to communicate the results of this enquiry to the informal meeting on finger-jointing mentioned in para. 15 above and subsequently to the forty-sixth session of the Timber Committee.

European Timber Trends and Prospects to the Year 2000 and Beyond (ETTS IV) (Item 7 of the agenda)

(a) Policy implications (TIM/EFC/AC.3/3)

75. The joint session discussed the policy implications of ETTS IV on the basis of a draft declaration, prepared by the secretariat with the help of a small group of experts and of national response papers to the draft declaration. It appeared from the national papers that the policy issues considered to be of most importance were the following:

- protection of forests against damage due to fire, air pollution and other causes;
- the increasing relative importance of the non-wood benefits of the forest;
- development of products and markets;
- conversion of agricultural land to forestry.

76. The joint session adopted the declaration to be published with the symbol ECE/TIM/39 - FO: EFC/87/7. The joint session urged delegations and the secretariat to ensure that the declaration was widely disseminated to Governments, sector organizations and interested experts, as well as to the media.

(b) Follow-up activities (TIM/EFC/AC.3/4)

77. The joint session took note of the proposals put forward by the secretariat. Some projects were already underway: a report on productivity and profitability in the wood-processing industries, which was a new venture as earlier work had examined productivity in forestry only, would be presented to the sixteenth session of the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics. The same session would discuss the suggestions of a team of specialists, which would meet in December 1987 to review economic and statistical matters arising from the preparation of ETTS IV.

78. The delegations of Canada, the USSR and the USA informed the joint session that they were willing to prepare outlook studies for their countries which would be complementary to and comparable with ETTS IV, which covered only Europe. Canada and the USA would produce a joint study. It was hoped that the studies would be completed by end 1988. The joint session welcomed these offers, as it considered that the resulting studies would be of great interest and requested the authorities of the three countries to agree with the secretariat on the outlines and timetable of the studies.

79. The joint session requested those subsidiary bodies of the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission which had not already done so to examine their work programmes in the light of ETTS IV and to consider whether any modifications were necessary. The bodies concerned were:

- Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers;
- Working Party on Mountain Watersheds;
- Silva Mediterranea.

80. The joint session took note of the suggestions in TIM/EFC/AC.3/4, for new projects on changes in rural land-use patterns, marketing and product development and non-wood benefits of the forest. It agreed to consider them again in the discussion on the programme of work, in the light of general resource availability.

Fortieth anniversary of the two bodies (Item 8 of the agenda)

(a) Keynote address (TIM/R.146)

81. Mr. G. Hinteregger, Executive Secretary of ECE, and Mr. M. Flores Rodas, Assistant Director General, responsible for the FAO Forestry Department, presented keynote addresses to the joint session to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the two bodies.

82. Both Mr. Hinteregger and Mr Flores Rodas stressed the valuable contribution made by the European Forestry Commission and the Timber Committee to the development of forestry and the forest industries, not only in countries of the ECE region but also in other regions. They welcomed the fruitful cooperation between their two organizations over the last 40 years and expressed confidence that satisfactory cooperation would continue in the future.

83. Mr. Hinteregger affirmed that the forest and forest industries sector should continue to play a fundamental role in the economy in the future. To this effect efforts should continue to be made to improve the sector's understanding of the markets, to develop and market new products, increase its productivity and develop technical innovations and management skills. He also stressed the necessity of intensive international work, often multi-disciplinary in nature, to reduce pollution emissions and their harmful effects, notably on forests.

84. Mr. Flores Rodas stressed the interdependence in the field of forestry and forest products of developed and developing countries, not only through trade, but also by the common interest in the gene pool of the tropical forest. The North and the South could cooperate by transfer of know-how and methodologies, through investment and through development assistance. The Tropical Forestry Action Plan, co-ordinated by FAO, aimed to slow down and reverse tropical deforestation and to mobilize fully the productive potential of tropical forest resources.

85. He also stressed the necessity of adapting policies to changing circumstances, such as the high level of agricultural surpluses and the resulting pressure to convert agricultural to forestry land. He urged increased effort on the question of forest damage attributed to air pollution, both to reduce emissions and to prepare contingency plans if the problem persisted.

86. The joint session expressed warm appreciation to Mr. Hinteregger and Mr. Flores Rodas for their valuable statements, which provided an excellent basis for the discussions on the policy implications of ETTS IV (see paras. 75-76).

(b) Forestry and forest industry achievements since 1947: the lessons for the future (TIM/R.147)

87. Among the activities to mark the fortieth anniversary of the two bodies was the publication of a book containing reports from countries on the theme "Major developments in forestry and the forest industries over the 40 years since 1947: the lessons they may offer for the next 40 years". A total of 26 national reports were received in time for publication. The reports contain a wealth of information, and reflect the diversity that exists in the forest and forest industry sector in the countries of the ECE region.

88. The joint session warmly thanked the editor of the book, Mr. E.G. Richards (United Kingdom), for the excellent work accomplished in a short period of time, as well as the authors of the national reports.



(c) National essay competitions for young people (TIM/R.148)

89. At the invitation of the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission, eleven countries had organized essay competitions on the general theme of the contribution that forestry and forest industries can make to the material and social well-being of people in the next century. The winners from nine countries attended part of the joint session, and held a separate meeting.

90. Three of the competition winners addressed the joint session on behalf of the other winners. Mr. J. Haataja (Finland), Mr. M. Marsch (German Democratic Republic) and Mr. J. Townend (United Kingdom) stressed the necessity of halting deforestation and degradation of forests, whether by overcutting, shifting cultivation or air-borne pollution, in the interests of all mankind, as forests were vital for the preservation of human life. They also presented some possible solutions and underlined the importance of a coherent international forest policy. They also suggested that the essay competition be repeated in future, as it had been a most valuable exercise, and that further opportunities be provided for international contacts between young people interested in forestry and the forest industries.

91. The joint session warmly thanked those Governments which had organised national essay competitions and the essay winners for their stimulating contributions.

(d) FAO survey of forest policies in Europe: progress report (FO: EFC/87/6)

92. The joint session was informed that the survey was being carried out by FAO with the support of the Forestry Division of the European Economic Community (EEC) as a follow-up to the deliberations at the twenty-second session of the European Forestry Commission concerning the need to keep forestry policy matters under review. A proposal to carry out a survey of forest policies had been agreed upon by the forty-sixth meeting of the Forestry Commission of the EEC. A progress report on the survey was presented to the joint session.

93. FAO intends to publish a summary of the reports in March 1988. A more detailed analysis will be published, probably by the end of 1988.

Date and place of next sessions (Item 9 of the agenda)

(a) Timber Committee

94. The Timber Committee agreed that its next session should be held in the week of 10 to 14 October 1988, subject to the availability of conference services for that period.

(b) European Forestry Commission

95. The Commission agreed that its twenty-fourth session should take place in Rome in the second half of 1989. It requested the Director-General, in consultation with the Executive Committee, to settle the dates and to draw up proposals for the programme of the session.

Other business (Item 10 of the agenda)

96. At the invitation of the Government of France, delegates to the joint session took part in a study visit in Haute-Savoie on 15 October 1987. The joint session warmly thanked the French authorities for the excellent organization of the study visit, as well as for the hospitality extended to participants.

97. The joint session also thanked the Government of Switzerland for the extremely interesting exhibition on "100 Years of the Swiss Federal Institute of Forestry Research", shown during the session.

Adoption of the report of the joint session (Item 11 of the agenda)

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

Annex I

TIMBER COMMITTEE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1988-1992:

PROGRAMME 14 - TIMBER

This programme is carried out by the Timber Committee and its subsidiary bodies. The Committee meets annually, usually in October. In addition to the activities specified under the individual programme elements or sub-elements, the Committee also furthers the dissemination and exchange of information and experience by organizing study tours at the invitation of the Governments concerned: in Poland in 1988; in Hungary in 1990 (subject to confirmation).

SUB-PROGRAMME 14.1: MEDIUM- AND LONG-TERM TRENDS, PROSPECTS AND POLICIES FOR FORESTRY AND FOREST PRODUCTS

14.1.1. Appraisal of medium- and long-term timber trends and prospects

14.1.1.1. Appraisal of long-term timber trends and prospects

Description: The Committee will keep under review and up-date projections and forecasts of long-term trends in production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products, comparing them with projections made in previous long-term studies. The studies will provide Governments with the latest projections and forecasts of long-term prospects at the regional and sub-regional level as a framework for national studies and as a basis for drawing up national policies for the forest and forest products sector. Amongst other factors, the Committee's analyses will take into account the impact of air pollution on the forestry and forest products sector, including the prospects for future wood supply.

Work to be undertaken: The Declaration on the policy implications of European Timber Trends and Prospects to the Year 2000 and Beyond (ETTS IV) will be given wide distribution. The authorities of Canada, the USSR and the USA, in cooperation with the secretariat, will prepare studies of the outlook for the forest and forest products sector in their countries. The target date for completion of the drafting of these studies is end-1988.

Duration: Continuing.

14.1.1.2. Medium-term trends in the markets for specific forest products

Description: The Committee will review medium-term (3-5 years) trends in the production, consumption, trade and prices of major forest products so that governments may be continuously informed of structural trends in the forest products markets of the ECE region. The medium-term surveys will allow recent trends to be compared with the projections made in the long-term studies (project 14.1.1.1.) and provide early warning to Governments of deviations from expected developments.

Work to be undertaken: Medium-term surveys will be carried out on a 3-year rotation of the following sectors: pulpwood, wood for energy and miscellaneous roundwood (1988); wood based panels (1989); and sawnwood and sawlogs (1990).

Duration: Continuing.

14.1.2. Medium-term trends in the structure and capacity of the wood-processing industries

14.1.2.1. The wood-based panels industries

Description: The Committee will keep the structure and capacity of the wood-based panels industries under review to enable Governments to form their own industrial policies for the wood-based panels sector in the light of information on international conditions.

Work to be undertaken: The next enquiry will be circulated in 1988. The survey will be completed for publication in 1989.

Duration: Continuing.

14.1.2.2. The sawmilling industry

Description: The Committee will keep the structure and capacity of the sawmilling industry under review to enable Governments to form their policies for the sawmilling industry in the light of information on international conditions.

Work to be undertaken: The next enquiry on the structure of the sawmilling industry will relate to the year 1988, and be circulated in 1989. The survey will be completed for publication in 1990. With assistance from members of the team of specialists on the sawmilling industry, the enquiry form will be revised and submitted for approval to the sixteenth session of the Working Party.

Duration: Five years 1986-1990.

14.1.3. Trends, prospects and policies in forestry and forest products in southern Europe

Description: The forest and forest industry policy and environmental problems facing countries in the Mediterranean area will be reviewed in the light of the long-term outlook for their forest economies (see 14.1.1.1.)

Work to be undertaken: A seminar on the products from the Mediterranean forest will be held in 1988 in Italy, co-sponsored by the FAO European Forestry Commission and with the cooperation of the AFC/EFC/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions "Silva Mediterranea".

Duration: Two years 1987-1988.

SUB-PROGRAMME 14.2: CURRENT FOREST PRODUCTS MARKET DEVELOPMENTS AND SHORT-TERM PROSPECTS, INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL TRADE

14.2.1. Review of production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products

Description: The Committee will analyse, on a continuous basis, short-term trends in the production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products and forecast short-term prospects, with a view to providing Governments and the forest products sector with accurate and up-to-date information and assessments, necessary for an orderly development of the supply/demand mechanism.

Work to be undertaken: The annual session of the Timber Committee reviews short-term trends and prospects in the production, trade and consumption of coniferous and non-coniferous (including tropical) logs and sawnwood, wood-based panels and pulpwood, on the basis of estimates and other market information prepared by delegations for the year in progress and the forthcoming year. An analysis of market trends, based on the Committee's discussions is published after the session, as well as an Annual Forest Products Market Review based on data supplied by Governments in connection with project 14.6.1. A study on the European trade and utilization of tropical hardwoods will be undertaken in 1988, in cooperation with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) (subject to the approval of the ITTO Council).

Duration: Continuing.

14.2.2. Standardization in the forest products sector

14.2.2.1. Standardization of stress grading and finger-jointing of coniferous sawn timber

Description: The Committee will prepare a draft standard, or set of guidelines, on finger-jointed structural sawn timber to be submitted to ISO TC 165.

Work to be undertaken: An informal meeting in 1988 will prepare a draft standard, or set of guidelines, taking as a starting point a draft to be provided by Mr. K. Mørkved (Norway).

Duration: One year ending in 1988.

14.2.2.2. Problems of classification and definitions

Description: The Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, in cooperation with the Conference of European Statisticians, will keep under review and cooperate in the work of harmonizing multi-sector classifications and definitions (e.g. the CCC Harmonized System, ICGS, SITC, ISIC), with a view to ensuring that they follow developments in technology and in industrial and trade practice, and that the appearance of new products and changes in organizational structures are taken into account.

Work to be undertaken: Comments and suggestions by countries for the revision of the ILO International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO), will be analysed and incorporated by a team of specialists into a unified submission to the ILO on behalf of the Working Party.

Duration: One year ending in 1988.

SUB-PROGRAMME 14.3: FOREST WORKING TECHNIQUES AND TRAINING OF FOREST WORKERS

This sub-programme covers the activities of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers, which normally meets biennially (1988, 1990, 1992, etc.), with meetings of its Steering Committee in the intervening years. Its task is to foster international collaboration on technical, economic and organizational aspects of forest working techniques and training of forest workers in logging and forest operations. Special attention is given to the development and implementation of forest use planning and general management aspects; increasing the efficiency of labour, the reduction of the physical efforts of the worker and prevention of accidents; the reduction of waste; and the establishment of an adequate balance between technical, social and economic requirements and protection of the environment.

14.3.1. Silvicultural operations and general management aspects

14.3.1.1. Development and use of machinery and methods for stand establishment, including planting stock and equipment

Description: The Joint Committee will promote the exchange of information and further rational regeneration methods which do not damage the forest ecosystem, by regularly reviewing machines, techniques and planting stock applied in afforestation and reforestation, with emphasis on site clearing, soil preparation and planting.

Work to be undertaken: Seminars on selected items will be held at intervals. In 1988 a seminar will be held in the German Democratic Republic on reforestation methods after harvesting, in particular artificial regeneration. The seventeenth session will examine the proposals of the Steering Committee for a seminar in 1989 on seed collection and storage; and in 1990 on soil protection.

Duration: Continuing.

14.3.1.2. Forest fire prevention and control

Description: The Joint Committee will examine techniques and equipment used in forest fire control, as well as preventive measures, with a view to assisting Governments in these fields.

Work to be undertaken: The seventeenth session will examine the Steering Committee's proposals to reactivate the team of specialists and to organize a seminar on forest fire prevention in 1991.

Duration: To be decided by the seventeenth session of the Joint Committee.

14.3.1.3. Methods and procedures for the preparation and implementation of working forest management plans

Description: The Joint Committee will survey practical methods and procedures for the preparation and implementation of working forest management plans, with special emphasis on the determination, collection and processing of relevant data with a view to assisting forest managers in the execution of their tasks.

Work to be undertaken: Seminars on advanced planning and control techniques will be organized at intervals after 1988, in collaboration with IUFRO; the dates will be decided by the Joint Committee at its seventeenth session.

Duration: To be decided by the seventeenth session of the Joint Committee.

14.3.1.4. Development of methods and equipment for silvicultural operations and multiple use forestry under Mediterranean conditions

Description: The Joint Committee will promote the exchange of information and further the development of methods and techniques applicable to silvicultural operations and multiple use forestry under the particular conditions found in countries in the Mediterranean area, with a view to assisting the countries concerned in these fields.

Work to be undertaken: The draft report on afforestation techniques in Spain, supplemented by material from other Mediterranean countries, will be presented to the seventeenth session of the Joint Committee and the final report published in late 1988 or 1989.

Duration: To be decided by the seventeenth session of the Joint Committee.

14.3.1.5. Standardization activities in the field of forestry, including standardization of concepts and terms used by the Joint Committee

Description: The Joint Committee will keep under review standardization activities in the field of forestry, notably for forest machinery, with a view to assisting countries in the development, and safety in use, of equipment and methods; and will establish definitions of currently used technical and economic concepts and terms, in order to facilitate exchange of information during meetings and on other occasions.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) The Joint Committee keeps close contact with ISO technical committees relevant to its work; and reviews, at each of its sessions, ISO standardization activities carried out over the past two years;

(b) The host countries of seminars and the authors of basic papers are invited, as and when appropriate, to prepare short lists of basic terms and concepts. These are reviewed by an informal group established during the seminar, and a revised glossary in the three working languages is subsequently prepared after the seminar, for incorporation in the proceedings.

Duration: Continuing.

14.3.2. Wood harvesting and transport

14.3.2.1. Development and use of logging machinery

Description: The Joint Committee will keep under review trends and prospects in the development and use of logging machinery, taking into account specific conditions and cost/price relationships so as to encourage rational logging methods in flat, hilly and mountainous regions from the economic, ergonomic and environmental points of view.

Work to be undertaken: Seminars on selected items will be held at intervals: in Turkey in 1989 on machines and methods of logging in mountainous terrain. The seventeenth session will examine the possibility of organizing, in 1990 or 1991, a seminar related to the use of multi-functional machines in logging operations.

Duration: Continuing.

14.3.2.2. Forest roads and transport of wood raw material

Description: The Joint Committee will promote the exchange of information on methods of construction of forest roads and on the transport by road or other means of wood raw material, with a view to assisting countries to rationalize their transport systems and reduce costs.

Work to be undertaken: A study tour on methods and techniques of forest road construction will be held in Switzerland in 1988 in conjunction with the seventeenth session of the Joint Committee. The seventeenth session will decide on possible further activity.

Duration: To be decided by the seventeenth session of the Joint Committee.

14.3.2.3. Guidelines for the collection and presentation of data on harvesting and other forest operations

Description: The Joint Committee will prepare internationally acceptable guidelines for the collection and presentation of data on harvesting and other forest operations, with a view to providing Governments and those working in the field with information and management tools, including electronic data processing (EDP), for the assessment and selection of appropriate operational methods and equipment for given site and working conditions.

Work to be undertaken and duration: To be decided by the seventeenth session of the Joint Committee.



#### 14.3.2.4. Harvesting of wood for energy purposes

Description: The Joint Committee will review methods and equipment suitable for the production and harvesting of wood specifically destined for energy production, so as to determine the potential of the forest or special plantations to contribute economically to total energy supply.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) A report will be presented to each session of the Joint Committee on activities in the field of wood harvesting for energy purposes being undertaken by other international organizations, notably the International Energy Agency and the FAO Co-operative Network on Rural Energy;

(b) The secretariat will explore the possibilities of organizing a seminar in conjunction with the eighteenth session of the Joint Committee in 1990 in co-operation with IEA and possibly IUFRO (host country to be decided).

Duration: (a) Continuing; (b) To be decided by the seventeenth session of the Joint Committee.

#### 14.3.3. Vocational training, applied ergonomics, occupational safety and health

##### 14.3.3.1. General questions of vocational training in forestry

Description: By keeping under review developments and trends in vocational training in forestry, the Joint Committee will assist Governments in planning their national vocational training policies and raising the efficiency of forest operations and in improving working practices with regard to safety and health.

Work to be undertaken: Seminars will be organized at intervals on selected problems: in 1988 in France on the employment of contractors in forest operations. The seventeenth session will examine the Steering Committee's proposals for the organization of a seminar on vocational training in Finland in 1989 possibly concerned with training problems of professional forest workers in normal forest operations.

Duration: Continuing.

##### 14.3.3.2. Specific problems of vocational training in forestry

Description: The Joint Committee will provide Governments with guidance in connection with their services dealing with specific problems of vocational training.

Work to be undertaken and duration: To be decided by the seventeenth session of the Joint Committee.

14.3.3.3. General questions of applied ergonomics, safety and health in forest operations

Description: The Joint Committee will help Governments in their national health and employment planning by keeping under review developments and trends in ergonomics applied to forestry, occupational safety and health, with a view to promoting safer working habits, preventing occupational injuries and diseases, increasing work performance and forest workers' satisfaction with their job.

Work to be undertaken: The seminar on the employment of contractors in forest operations to be held in 1988 (project 14.3.3.1.), will deal with both training and safety and health aspects. The seventeenth session will examine the Steering Committee's proposal for a seminar related to applied ergonomics in forestry operations in 1991.

Duration: Continuing.

14.3.3.4. Specific problems of applied ergonomics, safety and health in forest operations

Description: The Joint Committee will study specific problems related to ergonomics, safety and health in forest operations with a view to improving working methods and recommending safety standards in various operations.

Work to be undertaken: An ad hoc group will be formed at the seventeenth session of the Joint Committee which will prepare an outline for a seminar on all aspects of the use of chemicals in forestry. Proposals for the organization of the seminar in 1990 will be considered by the seventeenth session.

Duration: To be decided by the seventeenth session of the Joint Committee.

14.3.3.5. Transfer of technical information and experience

Description: The Joint Committee will promote the transfer of technical information and experience by the countries of the ECE region to those in other regions, with a view to assisting the latter to develop their forestry capabilities.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Wherever possible, the proceedings of Joint Committee seminars will be published by the host country or by other means;

(b) Wherever possible, host countries of Joint Committee seminars and other countries will offer fellowships to assist participants from developing countries to attend the seminars of special interest for them;

(c) The enquiry on the transfer of experience, information and know-how from the ECE region to other regions, presented to the fifteenth session, will be updated and completed with the inclusion also of information on teaching aids and training materials, and the results will be submitted to the seventeenth session;

Duration: (a) and (b): Continuing; (c): Two years 1987-1988.

SUB-PROGRAMME 14.4: ECONOMIC, TECHNOLOGICAL AND MANAGERIAL ISSUES FOR THE  
WOOD-WORKING INDUSTRIES

14.4.1. Development and introduction of new technologies in the  
wood-working industries, including furniture

Description: The Committee will further the exchange of information and experience on technological developments in the wood-working industries including the use of process- and quality-control equipment (electronics, robotics, lasers, etc.), with a view to helping countries to improve efficiency in the production of forest products, including furniture, to the benefit of the national economy and of the users of those products.

Work to be undertaken: A seminar will be held on new technologies in the wood-based panels sector, in Poland in 1990. The secretariat, in co-operation with the Polish authorities, will present proposals for the scope, programme, date and organization of the seminar to the Committee's forty-sixth session.

Duration: Three years 1988-1990.

14.4.2. Development of new products, markets and applications for forest  
products

Description: The Committee will further the exchange of information and experience on new products, markets and applications for forest products, with a view to helping countries to improve efficiency in the use of raw materials and products, and provide technologically and economically better products to the consumer.

Work to be undertaken: A seminar on the valorisation of secondary quality temperate zone hardwoods will be held in France in November 1987. Further activities, including the organization of a workshop in the USA on a topic related to hardwoods, will be decided in the light of the results of the Seminar.

Duration: Two years 1987-1988.

14.4.3. Energy conservation and self-sufficiency in the mechanical  
wood-processing industries

Description: The Committee will encourage the exchange of information in this field, with a view to furthering the conservation of energy and, where appropriate, the increase of energy self-sufficiency in the mechanical wood-processing industries.

Work to be undertaken: The team of specialists will meet every 1-2 years. The next meeting will be in conjunction with the sixteenth session of the Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics (February 1988). It will examine means of improving the data base, e.g. by updating the 1980 survey, as well as competition and cooperation in the use of wood for energy and as raw material. The team will work both on the exchange of technical information and on statistics and analysis of trends.

Duration: Continuing.

14.4.4. Management techniques in the wood-working industries

Description: The Committee will assist countries to introduce improved management techniques in the wood-working industries, with a view to raising efficiency and productivity through improved performance at the senior and middle-management levels.

Work to be undertaken: The Committee will decide on possible further activities at its forty-sixth session, in the light of the outcome of the ECE Symposium on management training programmes and methods: implications of new technologies, to be held in November 1987.

Duration: Two years 1987-1988.

SUB-PROGRAMME 14.5: ENVIRONMENTAL AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION ISSUES

(All the Committee's activities in this work area will be carried out in cooperation with the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental Problems).

14.5.1. Quantification and evaluation of the environmental benefits of forests

Description: The Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics will examine methods of quantifying and evaluating the environmental benefits of forests with a view to assessing forests' contribution to society, to calculating compensation for the environmental services of forests and to facilitating comparisons between countries.

Work to be undertaken: A team of specialists will meet in Finland in October 1987 and will draw up proposals for follow-up action to the publication of The Forest Resources of the ECE Region (Europe, the USSR, North America) for submission to the sixteenth session of the Working Party. This project is linked with projects 14.6.3. and 14.6.4.

Duration: Five years 1987-1991.

14.5.2. Rational use of wood biomass and the reduction of losses

Description: The Committee will further the exchange of information and experience on the rational use of wood biomass and the reduction of losses, with a view to helping countries to optimize, subject to ecological restrictions, the use of available wood resources, including forest and industry residues and reduce losses, thereby contributing to the conservation of the forest resource. The project will include the use of wood as a feedstock for the production of chemicals.

Work to be undertaken: The team of specialists on wood energy questions (see project 14.4.3) will make recommendations for future work to the Committee's forty-sixth session, on the basis of proposals by the USSR (TIM/R.139, annex III).

Duration: To be decided.

14.5.3. Implications of air pollution damage to forests for the forestry and forest products sector

Description: The Committee will examine the implications of air pollution damage to forests for the forestry and forest products sector, taking into account the work being carried out by other competent bodies, notably the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, the FAO European Forestry Commission, the European Economic Community, IIASA and IUFRO.

Work to be undertaken: The team of specialists will continue to monitor and analyse developments in forest damage, notably that attributed to air pollution, and its consequences, notably economic, and policy options. A seminar on economic consequences and policy options will be held in 1989. The team will also prepare material setting out the main issues involved. It will also continue to improve the flow of relevant information.

Duration: Continuing.

14.5.4. Measures to be taken in the event of sudden and severe damage to forests

Description: The Committee will assist ECE countries faced by sudden and severe damage to their forests, notably that caused by fire, windblow, snow, and insect infestation, by bringing together accounts of relevant experience in other countries and a list of institutions which might be able to provide help and advice. In addition, it will promote the rapid international dissemination of reliable information on these events, in order to reduce disruption of roundwood markets.

Work to be undertaken: The mechanism set up by the Committee to exchange information in this field will be put into operation as and when necessary. The Committee will review progress at its forty-sixth session.

Duration: Continuing.

SUB-PROGRAMME 14.6: FOREST AND FOREST PRODUCTS ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS

14.6.1. Publication of the Timber Bulletin

Description: The Committee will collect statistics on production, trade and prices of forest products, with a view to providing Governments and the forest products sector with data on the basis of which to formulate policies and make decisions.

Work to be undertaken: The secretariat publishes 10 issues a year of the Timber Bulletin. Of these, two contain annual and quarterly statistics on production and trade of forest products, collected from Governments by means of quarterly questionnaires, and other relevant information, one contains annual data on trade flows collected from the same sources, and three contain monthly and annual prices and price indices of forest products and related data extracted from official national publications. Country forest and forest products profiles are prepared by the secretariat, in collaboration with the Governments of the countries concerned, and published.

Duration: Continuing.

14.6.2. Selected problems of economics and statistics of forestry and forest products

This programme element, together with programme elements 14.6.3. and 14.6.4., is carried out by the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics which normally meets biennially (in 1988, postponed from 1987, in 1989, etc.). In doing so, it cooperates with the Conference of European Statisticians.

14.6.2.1. Organization and periodicity of statistical data collection and dissemination

Description: The Working Party will review periodically the Committee's programme for the collection and dissemination of statistical data, to ensure that it corresponds with the needs of Governments.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party formulates proposals for improving the Committee's programme of collection and dissemination of statistical data, with regard to its organization, method of collection, periodicity, and the improvement of the accuracy and comparability of data obtained from and used by Governments. Countries will review the procedures for filling in and returning the FAO/ECE Forest Products Questionnaires with a view to improving, where necessary, the punctuality and completeness of their replies.

Duration: Continuing.

14.6.2.2. Conversion factors

Description: The Working Party will review the conversion factors (raw material input/product output) for forest products applicable to individual countries, in order to facilitate international comparison of yields and to ensure that the conversion factors used by the secretariat in its analyses reflect current technology.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party will continue to review at four-yearly intervals (the next in 1989) conversion factors communicated by Governments in reply to a questionnaire.

Duration: Continuing.

14.6.2.3. Productivity in the forest sector

Description: The Working Party will collect statistics on and analyse trends in productivity in the forest sector. The purpose will be to provide information on the inputs of labour, capital, raw materials and energy in relation to outputs in member countries. This will assist Governments and other decision-makers in their policies towards the forest sector and in finding the appropriate solutions to technical and economic problems.

Work to be undertaken and duration: As decided by the Working Party, in the light of a report on productivity in the forest industries and proposals by a team of specialists.

#### 14.6.2.4. Statistics on forest health and forest damage

Description: The Working Party will assist countries to develop methodologies for the appraisal of forest health and forest damage; and will collect statistics on and analyse these questions. The purpose will be to provide reliable information on the vitality of forests and the extent of damage from such causes as fire, air pollution, storms, game, insects, diseases and so on. This information will assist Governments and other decision-makers in their policies towards forest management and conservation.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Biennial enquiries on forest fires are circulated and the results are published after review by the Working Party;

(b) A team of specialists will review the methodologies for evaluating forest fire losses in different countries and advise the sixteenth session on the possibility of adopting internationally acceptable guidelines on this question;

(c) Comments by countries on document TIM/EFC/WP.2/R.85 on forest damage statistics will be analysed by Polish specialists, in co-operation with other interested experts, who will submit a report to the sixteenth session.

Duration: (a) and (b): Continuing; (c): Two years 1987-1988.

#### 14.6.2.5. Methodologies and data base for long-term outlook studies for the forest and forest products sector

Description: Methodologies and the data base needed for the analysis of long-term trends and prospects will be refined and strengthened. The purpose will be to prepare for future work that may be undertaken by the European Forestry Commission and the Timber Committee on monitoring developments in relation to forecasts in the latest study and to prepare for an eventual new long-term study. This will help to improve the reliability of information available to Governments and other decision-makers needed for the formulation of policies towards the forest and forest industries sector.

Work to be undertaken: A team of specialists will meet in December 1987 and make recommendations to the Working Party's sixteenth session, taking TIM/EFC/WP.2/R.84 as a starting point and taking into account problem areas identified by the FAO/ECE ad hoc meeting to review the draft of the study.

Duration: Two years 1987-1988.

#### 14.6.2.6. Economic aspects of the fuller use of forest biomass

Description: The Working Party will study the economic aspects of the fuller use of the forest biomass with a view to determining the potential for the forest resource to meet the demand for raw material from the different wood-using industries and consumption sectors.

Work to be undertaken: Further analysis of the issues will be carried out by specialists from the USSR on the basis of material provided by countries.

Duration: Two years 1987-1988.

14.6.2.7. Application of advanced methods of projection and modelling in the forest and forest products sector

Description: The Working Party will review advanced methods of projection and modelling, notably those developed in the context of the IIASA Forest Sector Project, and make recommendations as to methods which should be used in the work programme of the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission, notably in the long-term outlook studies. The purpose is to improve further the quality and reliability of such studies used as a decision-making tool by Governments and other policy-makers.

Work to be undertaken: The team of specialists established for project 14.6.2.5. will make recommendations to the Working Party's sixteenth session in 1988. The work will be carried out in co-operation with IUFRO.

Duration: Two years 1987-1988.

14.6.2.8. Roundwood price statistics and specification

Description: The Working Party will improve the coverage of roundwood prices in the Timber Bulletin and other international publications and improve the comparability of series, notably by providing precise specifications for them. The objective is to improve the accuracy of studies by international agencies, Governments or research institutes which use roundwood price series.

Work to be undertaken and duration: As decided by the Working Party, in the light of recommendations by a team of specialists.

14.6.3 Forest resource analysis

Description: The Working Party will review methods of forest inventory used by Governments and by the secretariat to ensure that all parameters relevant to measuring actual productive potential of the forest, as well as parameters measuring change, both for wood and non-wood benefits, are taken into account and that the methods adopted correspond as closely as possible to the needs of all users.

Work to be undertaken: The sixteenth session of the Working Party will decide on further activities on the basis of the recommendations of the team of specialists on forest resource assessment, which will meet in October 1987 with the participation of specialists from other regions, to prepare proposals for a global forest resource assessment in 1990. This project is linked with projects 14.5.1 and 14.6.4.

Duration: Five years 1987-1991.



14.6.4. Transfer of economic and statistical methods and experience in the forest and forest products sector

Description: The Working Party will contribute to the building up of statistical services in countries inside and outside the ECE region through the transfer of know-how and experience in methods of data collection, assembly and dissemination in the forest and forest products sector.

Work to be undertaken: Participation of experts from other regions will be encouraged in further work by the Working Party on classification and definitions (14.2.2.2.); and on forest resource assessment (14.5.1. and 14.6.3.). Countries will be invited to furnish information on their technical assistance programmes which are directed to assisting developing countries in the area of economics and statistics on the forest and forest industries sector. Member countries will be requested to prepare descriptions of standard practices in the production of forestry statistics along the lines of the report on the Scandinavian countries (ref. TIM/EFC/WP.2/14, para. 74).

Duration: Continuing.

Annex II  
TABULAR PRESENTATION OF TIMBER COMMITTEE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1988-1992

Programme element	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
<u>PROGRAMME 14: TIMBER</u>	46th session of the Timber Committee	47th session of the Timber Committee	48th session of the Timber Committee	49th session of the Timber Committee	50th session of the Timber Committee
	Study tour in Poland	Study tour in .....1/ Study tour in Hungary 1/ (subject to confirmation)	Study tour in .....1/ Study tour in Hungary 1/ (subject to confirmation)	Study tour in .....1/ Study tour in Hungary 1/ (subject to confirmation)	Study tour in .....1/ Study tour in Hungary 1/ (subject to confirmation)
<u>SUBPROGRAMME 14.1: MEDIUM- AND LONG-TERM TRENDS, PROSPECTS AND POLICIES FOR FORESTRY AND FOREST PRODUCTS</u>					
14.1.1. Appraisal of medium- and long-term timber trends and prospects					
14.1.1.1. Appraisal of long-term timber trends and prospects	Dissemination of Policy Declaration.	Studies on Canada, USSR and USA			
14.1.1.2. Medium-term trends in the markets for specific forest products	Pulpwood, wood for energy and miscellaneous roundwood	Wood-based panels	Sawnwood and sawlogs	Pulpwood, wood for energy and miscellaneous roundwood	Wood-based panels
14.1.2. Medium-term trends in the structure and capacity of the wood-processing industries					
14.1.2.1. The wood-based panels industries		Survey of the wood-based panels industries			Survey of the wood-based panels industries
14.1.2.2. The sawmilling industry	Revised survey form submitted to Working Party		Survey of the saw-milling industry		
14.1.3. Trends, prospects and policies in forestry and forest products in southern Europe	Seminar in Italy on the products from the Mediterranean forest				
<u>SUB-PROGRAMME 14.2: CURRENT FOREST PRODUCTS MARKET DEVELOPMENTS AND SHORT-TERM PROSPECTS, INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL TRADE</u>					
14.2.1. Review of production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products	Continuing: annual review by Committee of short-term prospects; Study on trade and utilization of tropical hardwoods (subject to approval by ITTO (council))				preparation of Annual Forest Products Market Review
14.2.2. Standardization in the forest products sector					
14.2.2.1. Standardization of stress grading and finger-jointing of coniferous sawn timber	Informal meeting on finger-jointing				
14.2.2.2. Problems of classification and definitions	Preparation and submission of comments on ISCO				

1/ Host country to be decided.

TABULAR PRESENTATION OF TIMBER COMMITTEE DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1988-1992 (cont.)

Programme element	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
<b>SUB-PROGRAMME 14.3: FOREST WORKING TECHNIQUES AND TRAINING OF FOREST WORKERS</b>					
14.3.1. Silvicultural operations and general management aspects	17th session of the Joint Committee at Geneva (Switzerland)	9th session of the Steering Committee	18th session of the Joint Committee in .....	10th session of the Steering Committee	19th session of the Joint Committee in .....
14.3.1.1. Development and use of machinery and methods for stand establishment, including planting stock and equipment	Seminar in the German Dem. Rep. on reforestation methods after harvesting, in particular artificial regeneration	Seminar in ..... <sup>1/</sup> on seed collection and storage	Seminar in ..... <sup>1/</sup> on soil protection		Seminar in ..... <sup>1/</sup> on topic within programme element 14.3.1.
14.3.1.2. Forest fire prevention and control	17th session to decide on future activities			Seminar in ..... <sup>1/</sup> on forest fire prevention	
14.3.1.3. Methods and procedures for the preparation and implementation of working forest management plans	Further activities as proposed by 17th session of Joint Committee				
14.3.1.4. Development of methods and equipment for silvicultural operations and multiple use forestry under Mediterranean conditions	Submission of updated study "Técnicas de Forestación" to the 17th session				
14.3.1.5. Standardization activities in the field of forestry, including standardization of concepts and terms used by the Joint Committee	Review by the Joint Committee on basis of report from ISO		Review by the Joint Committee on basis of report from ISO		Review by the Joint Committee on basis of report from ISO
14.3.2. Wood harvesting and transport				Seminar in ..... <sup>1/</sup> on topic within programme element 14.3.2.	Seminar in ..... <sup>1/</sup> on topic within programme element 14.3.2.
14.3.2.1. Development and use of logging machinery		Seminar in Turkey on machines and methods of logging in mountainous terrain	Seminar in ..... <sup>1/</sup> on the use of multi-functional machines in logging operations (1990 or 1991)		
14.3.2.2. Forest roads and transport of wood raw material	Study tour in Switzerland on methods and techniques of forest road construction in conjunction with 17th session				

<sup>1/</sup> Host country to be decided.

TABULAR PRESENTATION OF TIMBER COMMITTEE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1988-1992 (cont.)

Programme element	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
14.3.2.3. Guidelines for the collection and presentation of data on harvesting and other forest operations	17th session to decide on future activities				
14.3.2.4. Harvesting of wood for energy purposes	Report on new developments to each session of the Joint Committee	Seminar in conjunction with 18th session in <sup>1/</sup>	Seminar in conjunction with 18th session in <sup>1/</sup>		
14.3.3. Vocational training, applied ergonomics, occupational safety and health			Seminar in <sup>1/</sup> on topic within programme element 14.3.3.	Seminar in <sup>1/</sup> on topic within programme element 14.3.3.	Seminar in <sup>1/</sup> on topic to be decided within programme element 14.3.3.
14.3.3.1. General questions of vocational training in forestry	Seminar in France on the employment of contractors in forest operations	Seminar in Finland on vocational training <sup>2/</sup>			
14.3.3.2. Specific problems of vocational training in forestry	17th session to decide on future activities				
14.3.3.3. General questions of applied ergonomics, safety and health in forest operations					
14.3.3.4. Specific problems of applied ergonomics, safety and health in forest operations	Discussion at 17th session on use of chemicals in forestry and preparation of guidelines on their use	Further activities on the use of chemicals in forestry as decided by 17th session			
14.3.3.5. Transfer of technical information and experience	Publication of seminar proceedings; provision of information on transfer of experience for submission to 17th session				

SUB-PROGRAMME 14.4: ECONOMIC, TECHNOLOGICAL AND MANAGERIAL ISSUES FOR THE WOOD-WORKING INDUSTRIES

14.4.1. Development and introduction of new technologies in the wood-working industries, including furniture			Seminar in Poland on new technologies in the wood-based panels sector		
14.4.2. Development of new products, markets and applications for forest products		Workshop in the USA <sup>2/</sup> on hardwood questions, as decided by Committee			

<sup>1/</sup> Host country to be decided.

<sup>2/</sup> Topic to be defined.

TABULAR PRESENTATION OF TIMBER COMMITTEE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1988-1992 (cont.)

Programme element	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
14.4.3. Energy conservation and self-sufficiency in the mechanical wood-processing industries	Meeting of team of specialists				
14.4.4. Management techniques in the wood-working industries	Further activities as decided by Committee				
<b>SUB-PROGRAMME 14.5: ENVIRONMENTAL AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION ISSUES</b>					
14.5.1. Quantification and evaluation of the environmental benefits of forests	Follow-up to publication of session of Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics (linked with 14.6.3.)				
14.5.2. Rational use of wood biomass and the reduction of losses	As decided by Committee on basis of recommendation by team of specialists on wood energy questions				
14.5.3. Implications of air pollution damage to forests for the forestry and forest products sector	Meeting of team of specialists (jointly with European Forestry Commission ad hoc Working Group "Impact of Air Pollution on Forests")	Seminar in ..... 1/			
14.5.4. Measures to be taken in the event of sudden and severe damage to forests	Countries where sudden and severe damage to forests occur should send an assessment of such damage to the secretariat for rapid circulation				
<b>SUB-PROGRAMME 14.6: FOREST AND FOREST PRODUCTS ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS</b>					
14.6.1. Publication of the Timber Bulletin	Sixteenth session of the Working Party	Seventeenth session of the Working Party	Volume XLII	Volume XLIII	Volume XLIV
	Volume XLI	Volume XLII	Volume XLIII	Volume XLIV	Volume XLV
	Ten issues a year, two containing annual and quarterly statistics on production and trade, three containing price data, two containing market reviews, one the Timber Committee Yearbook and one special issue				
14.6.2. Selected problems of economics and statistics of forestry and forest products	Together with the programme of forestry and forest products	Economics and Statistics			
14.6.2.1. Organization and periodicity of data collection and dissemination	Continuing review at each session of the Working Party				
14.6.2.2. Conversion factors	Four-yearly survey at	seventeenth session and publication			

1/ Host country to be decided.

TABULAR PRESENTATION OF TIMBER COMMITTEE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1988-1992 (cont.)

Programme element	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
14.6.2.3. Productivity in the forest sector	As decided by Working Party in light of consultant study and proposals by specialists				
14.6.2.4. Statistics on forest health and forest damage	Biennial survey of forest fire statistics for review at sixteenth session and publication	Biennial survey of forest fire statistics for review at seventeenth session and publication		Biennial survey of forest fire statistics for review at eighteenth session and publication	
	Report by team of specialists on evaluating forest fire losses				
	Report by Polish experts on forest damage statistics				
14.6.2.5. Methodologies and data base for long-term outlook studies for the forest and forest products sector	Proposals by team of specialists to sixteenth session (linked with 14.6.2.7.)				
14.6.2.6. Economic aspects of the fuller use of forest biomass	Further analysis by USSR experts on basis of material by countries				
14.6.2.7. Application of advanced methods of projection and modelling in the forest and forest products sector	Submission of proposals by team of specialists (linked with 14.6.2.5.)				
14.6.2.8. Roundwood price statistics and specification	Report by team of specialists with recommendations				
14.6.3. Forest resource analysis	Follow-up to the publication of The Forest Resources of the ECE Region (Europe, the USSR, North America) to be agreed by the sixteenth session of the Working Party (linked with 14.5.1.)				
14.6.4. Transfer of economic and statistical methods and experience in the forest and forest products sector	Participation of experts from other regions, notably in projects 14.2.2.2, 14.5.1 and 14.6.3, will be encouraged. Countries will be invited to furnish information on technical assistance programmes in the area of economics and statistics. Member countries will be invited to prepare descriptions of standard practices in the production of forestry statistics.				

Annex IIIPROVISIONAL LIST OF MEETINGS IN 1988 AND 1989 FALLING WITHIN  
THE TIMBER COMMITTEE PROGRAMME OF WORK

Note: The meetings are sub-divided into two categories: meetings marked (A) are open to delegates or approved representatives from all member countries of ECE as well as from other countries that are members of the United Nations and organizations accredited to ECE (or to FAO and ILO, in the case of meetings co-sponsored by them), while 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.

1988

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Title</u>
22-23 February	Geneva	Team of specialists on wood energy (B)
24-26 February	Geneva	Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics (16th session) (A)
March (Dates to be confirmed)	Geneva	Joint meeting of the Timber Committee's team of specialists on the implications of air pollution damage to forests and the European Forestry Commission's <u>ad hoc</u> Working Group "Impact of air pollution on forests" to examine present use of remote sensing in this field (B)
13-14 April (To be confirmed)	Geneva	Timber Committee office-holders (B)
9-14 May	Eberswalde (German Democratic Republic)	Seminar on reforestation methods after harvesting, in particular artificial regeneration (A)
22-29 May	Poland	Timber Committee study tour on industrial techniques of utilization of damaged and low-quality wood (A)
June (Dates to be confirmed)	Geneva	Informal meeting to prepare a draft standard, or set of guidelines, on finger-jointed structural sawn timber to be submitted to ISO TC 165 (B)

29-31 August	Geneva	Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers (17th session) (A)
31 August - 2 September	Martigny (Switzerland)	Joint Committee study tour on methods and techniques of forest road construction (A)
19-24 September (Dates to be confirmed)	Florence (Italy)	Seminar on the products from the Mediterranean forest (A)
26-30 September (France)	Loubières	Seminar on the employment of contractors in forest operations (A)
10-14 October	Geneva	ECE TIMBER COMMITTEE (46th session) (A)

1989

April (Dates to be confirmed)	Geneva	Timber Committee office-holders (B)
(Undecided)	(Undecided)	Steering Committee (9th session) of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers (B)
(Undecided)	(Undecided)	Seminar on forest seed collection and storage (A)
(Undecided)	Turkey	Seminar on machines and methods of logging in mountainous terrain (A)
(Undecided)	Finland (To be confirmed)	Seminar on planning vocational training (A)
9-13 October	Geneva	ECE TIMBER COMMITTEE (47th session) (A)
(Undecided)	Geneva	Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics (17th session) (A)