REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION
(9 to 13 October 1989)

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Introduction

1. The Timber Committee held its forty-seventh session at Geneva from 9 to 13 October 1989. 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; 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; Yugoslavia.

2. The following specialized agencies were represented: International Labour Organisation (ILO); Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

3. The following intergovernmental organizations participated: European Economic Community (EEC); 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 Forestry Students' Association (IFSA); International Organization for Standardization (ISO); International Technical Association for Tropical Timber (ATIBT); Organization of European Sawmilling Industries (OES); Union of Tropical Timber Traders (UCBT).

Adoption of the agenda (Item 1 of the agenda)

5. The provisional agenda (ECE/TIM/47) was adopted.

Election of officers (Item 2 of the agenda)

6. Mr. H. van der Meiden (the Netherlands) was elected Chairman and Mr. E. Moskov (Bulgaria) Vice-Chairman. The Committee expressed its deep appreciation to the out-going Chairman, Mr. J. Säglitz (German Democratic Republic) for his notable contribution to its work.

Matters arising from the forty-fourth session of the Commission (Item 3 of the agenda) (TIM/R.163)

7. 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, the resolution and decisions, particularly with regard to its programme of work.

Activities of other Principal Subsidiary Bodies of ECE of concern to the Timber Committee (Item 4 of the agenda) (TIM/R.164)

8. 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.
Activities of FAO and other international organizations of relevance to the Timber Committee (Item 5 of the agenda) (TIM/R.165)

9. Mr. A. Bozzini, FAO Regional Representative for Europe, expressed his satisfaction at the close collaboration between FAO and ECE, both at the level of the two bodies concerned, the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission, and of the secretariat. Mr. O. Aalde (Norway) Chairman of the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) also welcomed the excellent co-operation existing with the Timber Committee, notably by holding yearly joint meetings between the Committee's office holders and the EFC Executive Committee.

10. The Committee was informed that the European Forestry Commission had held its twenty-fourth session in June 1989 in Rome, at which it approved the proposal of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers to change its title to: "Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training". The Committee also agreed to the new title, including an amendment to the Russian version proposed by the USSR delegation.

11. The Committee also endorsed the proposal, made by the Chairman of the Joint Committee and adopted by the EFC, that the Joint Committee be invited to prepare a document for submission to its parent bodies containing those conclusions and recommendations of recent seminars that it deemed to be important and to merit their particular attention.

12. The Committee was informed that the EFC will hold its twenty-fifth session in Norway in 1991, and that its twenty-sixth session had been provisionally included in its programme of work as a joint session with the Timber Committee in 1993. The Committee expressed its appreciation of the continued close co-operation between ECE and FAO, notably through the joint secretariat.

13. Mr. M.-R. de Montalembert, the representative of the Forestry Department of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) informed the Committee of the main relevant activities of FAO, notably the meeting of the Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics held in September 1989. Among the major items discussed had been the Tropical Forestry Action Plan; within its framework more than 60 countries had now adopted national action plans for their tropical forests. The FAO Council had agreed that the Tenth World Forestry Congress be held in France in 1991. The Committee was also informed that FAO had started work on the tropical part of the 1990 World Forest Resource Assessment.

14. Mr. B. Strehlke, the representative of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) informed the Committee of its activities, notably the preparations for the Second Session of the ILO Forestry and Wood Industries Committee which was scheduled to take place in April 1991. Among the major items to be discussed were technological changes in the wood industries with special emphasis on training and employment, and on occupational safety and health in forestry. Delegations were invited to make available to ILO relevant information for the preparation of technical reports.

15. Mr. J. Aggrey-Orleans, the representative of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), informed the Committee that the agreement governing the ITTO had been extended for two years until 1992. He mentioned the co-operation between the Timber Committee and ITTO secretariats notably on studies of markets for tropical timbers; one for Europe had been successfully completed, one on China was under way and one proposed for North America.
16. Mr. G. Papuli, the representative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) informed the Committee about preparations for the second Consultation on the Wood and Wood Products Industry to be held during the 1990-1991 biennium.

17. Representatives of the International Forestry Students Association (IFSA), attending in accordance with the suggestion of the joint Timber Committee/EFC session in 1987, informed the Committee of the establishment of their association at the seventeenth International Forestry Students Symposium (IFSS) held in Poznan (Poland) earlier this year. The main objective of IFSA is to improve international co-operation between forestry students. They asked the help of delegations in achieving their goals. The Committee noted that one possible contribution would be to facilitate students' participation in the various seminars which are organized each year under its auspices. It asked its office-holders to consider ways of co-operating with IFSA.

18. The Committee also took note of statements by the European Confederation of Agriculture (CEA) and the International Federation of Building and Wood Workers of the ICFTU.

Subsidiary bodies, special meetings and teams of specialists (Item 6 of the agenda)

(a) Study tour in Spain, May-June 1989 (TIM/R.174)

19. Mr. H.W. Stinshoff (Federal Republic of Germany) informed the Committee of the results of the joint Timber Committee/European Forestry Commission study tour, which took place in Spain, with the theme "The forest resource and the forest industries in north-western Spain". At the initiative of the joint meeting of the Timber Committee office-holders and the Executive Committee of the European Forestry Commission in April 1989 the secretariat prepared a written report on the study tour. The Committee agreed that this practice should also be followed for future study tours.

20. The Committee warmly thanked the Spanish authorities for the excellent organization of the study tour as well as for the generous hospitality extended to participants.

(b) Informal meeting of experts on the consequences of the application of SITC Rev.3 and the Harmonized System in the forest sector, July 1989 (TIM/R.167 and TIM/EFC/WP.2/R.111)

21. The Committee was informed that one of the reasons for the decline in the quality of data reporting (see item 7 of the agenda) was the introduction of the Standard International Trade Classification, third revision (SITC Rev.3) and the Harmonized System. In addition to the inevitable problems of transition, some major problems had emerged which had been referred by the Committee's forty-sixth session to an informal meeting in July 1989. The meeting had considered it desirable to maintain the distinction between pulpwood and logs, which had been lost in SITC Rev.3 and the HS. The Committee endorsed the team's broad conclusions that work should be initiated to encourage the appropriate bodies to revise the SITC Rev.3 and the HS and that in the meantime the ECE/FAO definitions should be maintained and countries asked to provide the data in the same format as before. It requested the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics to discuss this question in depth and prepare recommendations.
22. The Committee was informed that the team had reviewed recent developments and a preliminary version of the enquiry into energy derived from wood in the 1980s and considered the scope and organization of a seminar on technical aspects of the use of wood for energy, as requested by the Committee (ECE/TIM/42, paras. 36-37).

23. The Committee endorsed the team's proposal that the main theme of the seminar should be: "Choice of technologies for combustion of wood and bark in the forest industries". Particular attention should be paid to the comparison of new combustion technologies, such as fluidised beds, with traditional technologies, from a technical and an economic point of view.

24. The Committee agreed that this theme would be of interest both to those who had to choose between technologies and to experts in the particular technologies, notably the equipment manufacturers. The participation of equipment manufacturers was very desirable as in many cases they disposed of the most detailed and up-to-date information and experience on the technologies.

25. The Committee invited member countries to consider whether they could host such a seminar, which should take place in 1992 in order to leave sufficient time for thorough preparation.

26. The Committee agreed that wood energy remained an important field and merited special attention. The team had achieved useful results in the past and should continue its activities. The team's next meeting should be in spring 1991. The main items on the agenda should be a review of recent developments and the preparation of the above-mentioned seminar.

27. The Committee was also informed of the results of the USSR symposium on ecological, commercial and technical aspects of the fuller use of wood biomass, including its use for energy, which had been co-sponsored by the Timber Committee. The symposium and the team meeting had been held in conjunction with LESDREVMASSH 89, a major exhibition of equipment for the forest and wood processing sector.

28. The Committee expressed its warm thanks to the USSR authorities for providing host facilities for the team meeting and for organizing the symposium.

29. The Committee was informed of the results of the team's meeting, which had taken place in September 1989, by the team leader, Mr. L. Schotte (Sweden). Team members had "noted that in several countries, the forest damage situation had stabilized in 1988, at least in part because of weather conditions. As in previous years there had been no widespread disruption of roundwood markets attributable to the marketing of trees from damaged stands. The team noted however that Sweden, and some other countries, were importing significant quantities of pulpwood, in part from some central and eastern European countries which had significant forest damage. Some of this wood certainly came from damaged stands. The team noted, once again, that the absence of data on sanitation fellings made it extremely difficult to carry out an objective, quantified analysis of the market effects of forest damage".
30. The Committee was informed that the team had reviewed in detail a consultant report by Mr. S. Nilsson (Sweden) on forest damage in Europe in 1988, in particular the report’s conclusions. The Committee authorized the secretariat to publish the report, with the changes proposed by the team.

31. The Committee agreed with the team that there is a clear need for an international forum devoted to monitoring and analysis of the market effects of forest damage and requested the team to continue its valuable work, although it should concentrate more in the future on long-term aspects and specific problem areas.

32. The Committee welcomed the team’s continuing close co-operation with other international organizations and avoidance of unnecessary duplication. It endorsed the proposal that the team’s next meeting should be held in 1990 in conjunction with the FAO ad hoc Working Group: Impact of Air Pollution on Forests, in the Federal Republic of Germany, and took note of the proposals for subjects of discussion.

33. The Committee agreed that the team’s name should be changed to “team of specialists on the implications of air pollution and other damage to forests for wood supply and markets”, as most damage appeared to have multiple causes, including pollution. Sudden damage, however, notably that due to fire or windblow, was fundamentally different in nature and should not be covered by the team. The team’s mandate should be adapted accordingly.

34. The Committee thanked Mr. Schotte and the other team members for their valuable contribution.

(e) Ad hoc meeting of experts on the practical application of satellite sensing for forest damage assessment (TIM/R.170)

35. The Committee was informed orally of the results of the meeting in September 1989 by Mr. Schotte, the meeting chairman. The meeting had made significant progress towards defining criteria for the establishment of a network of test areas to develop the use of satellite imagery for forest damage assessment and setting up procedures for finding test areas that meet the relevant criteria and that could be used in an international project. The delegation of Czechoslovakia provided information on satellite imagery in Czechoslovakia.

36. In accordance with the ad hoc meeting’s proposal, the Committee agreed:

1. to ask member countries whether there are projects (research or operational) involving satellite sensing for forest damage monitoring. If so, what system is being used (Landsat-TM, SPOT, COSMOS, etc.) and what was the objective of the project;

2. to ask those member countries with projects whether they would, in principle and without commitment at this stage, be interested in offering one or more of them for inclusion in an international programme;

3. to invite all member countries, in particular those which were experiencing forest damage or decline but which have not yet started research involving satellite sensing of forest damage, to consider establishing research projects with a view to bringing them into an international programme at a later date.
37. Mr. Aalde (Norway), Chairman of the European Forestry Commission, the other parent body of the ad hoc meeting, agreed that para. 36 should be implemented straight away in order to avoid the excessive delay involved in seeking formal approval by the EFC at its next session in 1991.

38. The ad hoc meeting should be reconvened in spring/summer 1990 to prepare final proposals for submission to the Committee in October 1990 and the EFC in 1991.

Market developments in 1989 and prospects for 1990 (Item 7 of the agenda)


40. The discussion of tropical hardwoods markets led to the proposal that the Timber Committee should make a statement on its position with regard to the import and utilization of tropical hardwoods in the region. The statement as set out in annex IV was approved by the Committee for dissemination in a press release.

Statistical reporting (TIM/R.171)

41. The Committee was informed by the secretariat that incomplete and greatly delayed returns of the FAO/ECE Forest Products Questionnaires by countries are increasingly affecting the quality of the Committee's publications. Indeed, the secretariat felt that its ability adequately to fulfil the mandate that is entrusted to it, was being jeopardized.

42. The Committee expressed serious concern at this development, and

(a) reaffirmed that it attaches high priority to its work on the collection, dissemination and analysis of statistics of forest products production and trade, under programme elements 14.2.1 and 14.6.1;

(b) urged all countries to ensure that replies to the regular official FAO/ECE questionnaires are completed and received by the secretariat by the agreed deadline;

(c) requested countries to nominate a contact point at an appropriately high level (probably, in many countries, a delegate to the Committee), who would be responsible for ensuring that satisfactory replies to regular FAO/ECE questionnaires are sent to the secretariat in good time and for liaison with the secretariat if any problems were to arise;

(d) requested the Joint Working Party to discuss these questions in depth at its next session in December 1989. Countries are invited to review before the Working Party session their own situations with regard to the comprehensiveness and timeliness of their responses to the FAO/ECE Forest Products Questionnaires.
43. The Committee noted how important it was that those responsible for filling in the questionnaire were aware of the uses to which the data were put. The secretariat should prepare a note describing these uses. The contact points should also feed back information on this aspect.

44. It was pointed out that the same data were the input for the ECE countries to the world-wide FAO data base as published in the FAO Yearbook of Forest Products.

Medium-term survey of trends for wood raw material, notably pulpwood, and wood for energy (Item 8 of the agenda)

45. The Committee was informed that it had unfortunately not been possible to prepare the survey in time for the Committee session, because of lack of secretariat resources; nevertheless, a member of the secretariat was able to present the broad lines of the survey. The Committee regretted the delay and requested the secretariat to complete and issue the study as soon as possible.

Plans for the next European timber trends and prospects study (ETTS V) (Item 9 of the agenda) (TIM/R.172)

46. The Committee considered this question on the basis of proposals by the team of specialists on methodologies and data bases for long-term studies, reviewed by the joint meeting of the Committee's office-holders and the Executive Committee of the European Forestry Commission (EFC) and by the EFC itself in June 1989.

47. The Committee approved the following terms of reference for the study, based on the results of an enquiry on the objectives and users of long-term outlook studies.

Terms of reference for the fifth study of the outlook for the forest and forest products sector in Europe (ETTS V)

48. The major objectives are as follows:

(a) to present the outlook for European demand for forest products;
(b) to present the outlook for supply of roundwood from European forests;
(c) to present the outlook for the balance between supply and demand taking into account all parts of the sector, including trade, use of industrial residues and waste paper, and the forest products industry.

49. In addition to achieving these major objectives the study (or connected documentation) should also aim to achieve, to the extent possible, the following linked objectives:

(d) to provide a data base for the use of analysts;
(e) to present long-term past trends, especially of a structural nature;
(f) to present the outlook for prices of roundwood and forest products;
(g) to present the outlook for international trade in roundwood and forest products;
(h) to improve the quality of the data base for long-term outlook studies.
50. The study should take into account the possible effects of present and likely future policies for other sectors which could affect forestry, notably for agriculture, the environment and regional development as well as forest policy itself. Major issues for policy in the forest and forest products sector should also be identified and discussed.

51. The study should cover supply and demand for cork as well as for wood-based forest products.

52. The study should also examine the effect of the demand for non-wood benefits of the forest on wood supply, as well as other interactions between the supply of wood and non-wood benefits of the forest.

53. The study will cover Europe, with other regions being considered as influences on the European situation, notably as suppliers of forest products to Europe.

54. The study will be published in the mid-1990s, with a time-horizon to around 2040, but with more detailed examination of the period to 2010.

55. Wherever possible, past data and projections will be supplied on a country-by-country basis.

56. The Committee noted that among the present and likely future policies for other sectors which could affect the forest and forest products sector were policies for increased regional economic integration. The possible effects of these policies should be analysed and integrated into ETTS V.

57. The Committee also noted that the objectives identified in the terms of reference were complementary. Not only were the three major objectives closely interrelated, success in achieving any of the subsidiary objectives would further the work on the major objectives. It recognized that it might be necessary at some later stage to assign priorities to the different objectives, for instance because of resource constraints or methodological problems, but for the moment this was not necessary and the authors of the study should be left to respond flexibly to developments.

58. The Committee, in accordance with a recommendation of the EFC, requested countries to nominate one or more correspondents to help the secretariat in the preparation of ETTS V. Their main functions would be as follows:

   (a) to provide data (e.g. on prices) and to check the data referring to their country already in the possession of the secretariat, making estimates where necessary;

   (b) to reply to any questions raised by the secretariat, or to arrange for replies to these enquiries to be prepared;

   (c) to provide information, based on their knowledge of local conditions, of the background and significance of particular developments, if this should prove necessary;

   (d) to comment on review drafts of the study.

59. The Committee authorized the secretariat to start activities on the supply of roundwood and of processed products.
60. The Committee noted that there was little reliable information available in most countries on the end-uses of sawnwood and panels and that this had lowered the quality of the demand side analysis of previous outlook studies. It urged countries which had not yet done so to carry out studies on the end-uses of sawnwood and panels and to transmit the results of any such studies to the secretariat for use in ETTS V.

61. The Committee noted that the secretariat had estimated the level of resources necessary to apply the same methodology in ETTS V as in ETTS IV and the extra resources which would be necessary to put into effect the improvements identified by the team (see TIM/R.172, annex II). It reiterated the high priority it attached to its programme of long-term outlook studies and to achieving the best possible quality of the studies, and recognized that resources could be the major limiting factor for the quality and coverage of ETTS V. It urged the United Nations and FAO to make available supplementary resources to the ETTS V team, but recognized that it was unlikely that these organizations could find sufficient resources to achieve the desired goals. It therefore urged countries to contribute directly to the preparation of the study, either by contributing funds or equipment or by the loan of experts. A number of delegations made preliminary offers of contributions, which were warmly welcomed by the Committee. It invited the secretariat to contact member Governments in order to ascertain the nature of the contribution they could make to ETTS V. It also authorized the secretariat to explore other sources of funding, for instance contributions from industry.

62. The Committee approved the timetable proposed in TIM/R.172 but recognized that it might be necessary to modify it, notably in the light of resource availability.

Special topic: Timber trends and prospects in the USSR (Item 10 of the agenda) (TIM/R.173 and Add.1)

63. Mr. V.P. Nemtsov (USSR) presented the study on the outlook for the forest and forest products sector of the USSR, which would be issued shortly as ECE/TTM/48. The study analyses past trends and the outlook for the forest resource, the forest industries, consumption and export of forest products and the use of secondary wood resources and waste paper. One section covers the recent improvements in the system of economic management in forest industry enterprises. The presentation was followed by a discussion.

64. The Committee warmly thanked the USSR authorities, Mr. N. Burdin, the principal author of the study, and Mr. Nemtsov for a very interesting study.

65. The Committee was also informed by Mr. D. Boulter (Canada) and Mr. D. Darr (USA) of progress on the companion study, of the outlook for forestry and forest products in North America. A first draft had been prepared and it was hoped to publish the study by mid-1990. In view of the interest of this subject, the special topic at the Committee's forty-eighth session should be the outlook for forestry and forest products in North America.

Programme of work (Item 11 of the agenda)

(a) Study tour in Hungary, May 1990 (TIM/R.174)

66. The study tour in Hungary will be held under the joint auspices of the Timber Committee and of the European Forestry Commission from 20-26 May 1990. The theme of the tour will be silvicultural and manufacturing aspects of the utilization of fast growing species in Hungary, mainly black locust (Robinia pseudoacacia) and poplar. The Committee approved the programme of the study.
tour which will include the holding of a half-day seminar. Two countries in the region should be invited to present their own experiences relating to black locust and poplar to the seminar. The delegation of France offered to prepare a contribution on poplar. The study tour would also provide an opportunity for discussions on the proposal made to the European Forestry Commission for the organization of a seminar on the introduction and management of exotic species.

67. Noting the serious problems that had arisen for the organizers of study tours and seminars because of delays in receiving applications from participants, the Committee strongly urged governments to ensure that deadlines for registration were respected. It was suggested that host governments consider offering a discount for punctual registration.

(b) Proposal for activities concerning consequences of increased regional economic integration for the forest and forest products sector (TIM/R.175)

68. The delegation of France, speaking on behalf of the European Economic Community and its member states, requested further information on how this item had been placed on the provisional agenda, apparently in contradiction of the Rules of Procedure of the ECE. It expressed its surprise that TIM/R.175 concentrated on the completion of the EC internal market in 1993 and only gave broad coverage to other regional economic integration processes. It expressed its willingness to answer questions which might be asked on the consequences of the Single Market after each stage in the process had been completed. Studying the future consequences of the Single Market was highly speculative and neither possible nor desirable at ECE. This question should not be the subject of a specific item of the agenda at the Timber Committee's next session: the Committee's traditional agenda items already make possible the exchange of views in which the Community and its member states intended to participate. It considered that there should be no follow-up to item 11(b) in the form of discussions at the present session or in the Committee's work programme.

69. Some countries stated that the consequences of regional integration processes did provide interesting prospects for future studies.

70. The Chairman informed the Committee that this item had been placed on the provisional agenda by the secretariat, after consultation with himself and the other office-holders. He pointed out that it was established practice for the secretariat to draw the attention of the Committee to issues which it considers to be of importance for the forest and forest products sector as a whole.

71. The Committee was informed that the Rules of Procedure of the Economic Commission for Europe, which applied, mutatis mutandis, also to its subsidiary bodies, laid down in Rule 5 that "the provisional agenda for each session shall be drawn up by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman" and in Rule 6(e) that "the provisional agenda for any session shall include any other items which the Chairman or the Executive Secretary sees fit to include."

72. The Committee agreed that, as in previous years, the provisional agenda for its forty-eighth session, should in accordance with the Rules of Procedure and practice of ECE be prepared bearing in mind the views expressed by member states.
73. The Committee considered its programme of work on the basis of the draft prepared by the secretariat, which took into account the programme adopted by the Committee's forty-sixth session, and the resolution and decisions of the Commission at its forty-fourth session. It also took into account the results of activities since its last session, notably the meeting of the Joint Committee's Steering Committee and the recommendations of seminars and teams of specialists, as well as its own discussions and decisions under other items of the agenda. The Committee approved its programme of work as set out in annexes I and II.

74. The Committee asked the secretariat to assign high priority to the implementation of Commission decision H(43), and to review the work programme in the light of ETTS IV in order to identify any new activities which should be undertaken and existing activities which may be less relevant than before taking into account the suggestions of the Committee's subsidiary bodies. The Committee agreed on the following course of action: preliminary consideration of proposals (without the Joint Committee's comments) by the office-holders' meeting in April 1990, and review by the Committee's forty-eighth session in October 1990.

75. The Committee took note of the decision adopted at the Special Session of the Commission in November 1987 that "every three years each subsidiary body shall establish within its sphere of competence priorities among its programme elements" (E/ECE/1150/Rev.1, para. 133). It asked the secretariat to initiate the necessary actions, and to submit its proposals to the office-holders' meeting in April 1990, so that the Committee should establish the priorities in October 1990.

76. The Committee accepted with gratitude Portugal's offer to act as host to a study tour in 1991.

77. With reference to programme element 14.1.2. Medium-term trends in industry structure and markets in specific forest products sectors, the Committee noted that the subject matter of the medium-term survey of trends for wood raw material, notably pulpwod and wood for energy, had become rather heterogeneous. It agreed to consider at a later session whether it might be desirable to redistribute its contents between two separate surveys, and if so, to review the periodicity of medium-term surveys (e.g. a 4-year instead of a 3-year cycle of subjects).

78. With regard to programme element 14.1.3. Trends, prospects and policies in forestry and forest products in southern Europe, the Committee asked its office-holders to formulate proposals for future action, to its forty-eighth session, taking into account the recommendations of the seminar on the products from the Mediterranean forest (Italy, September 1988) and the outcome of the fourteenth session of the AFC/EFC/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions "Silva Mediterranea", which was taking place at the same time as the Timber Committee.

79. In relation to programme element 14.3.2.1. Development and use of harvesting machinery and systems, the delegation of the USSR confirmed its offer to organize in 1992 a seminar on multi-functional machines in logging operations.
80. The delegation of Poland informed the Committee that the seminar it will host under programme element 14.4.1, on new technologies in the wood-based panels sector will be held from 20-24 May 1991. The preparatory meeting of experts to draw up the programme of the seminar should be convened in early 1990.

81. With regard to programme element 14.4.2. Development of new products, markets and applications for forest products, the Committee noted that one of the recommendations of the seminar on the valorisation of secondary-quality temperate-zone hardwoods (Nancy, France, November 1987) was that a seminar on pallets and packaging materials (raw materials, processing technologies, markets, pallet pools, etc.) be organized. The Committee asked the secretariat to explore with the United States' authorities the possibility of holding the seminar.

82. Mr. J. Aggrey-Orleans (ITTO) informed the Committee that ITTO was considering sponsoring the participation of experts from developing countries in activities under the Committee's auspices, under the provisions of programme elements 14.3.3.3. and 14.6.4.

83. It was suggested that forest fire statistics, collected on a biennial basis under programme element 14.6.2.4., be collected on an annual basis. The Committee requested the FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics to examine the implications of this suggestion at its next session in December 1989.

Other business (Item 12 of the agenda)

84. The delegation of Poland presented the film "There was a forest". The Committee thanked the delegation warmly for this interesting film.

Adoption of the report of the Committee's session (Item 13 of the agenda)

85. The Committee adopted the present report of its forty-seventh session.

Date of next session

86. The Committee agreed that its next session should be held from 8 to 12 October 1990, subject to the availability of conference services for that period.
ANNEX I

TIMBER COMMITTEE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1990–1994

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 furthers the dissemination and exchange of information and experience by organizing study tours at the invitation of the Governments concerned: in Hungary in 1990 (jointly with the FAO European Forestry Commission) and in Portugal in 1991.

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

14.1.1. Appraisal of long-term timber trends and prospects

Description: The Committee keeps under review and up-dates 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 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 take into account the impact of air pollution on the forestry and forest products sector, including the prospects for future wood supply.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The USSR authorities prepared a study on the trends and outlook for the forestry and forest products sector in their country; it will be issued in 1989. The authorities in Canada and the USA are completing the draft of the study on their region for publication in 1990. The next major study of long-term trends and prospects in Europe will be prepared in the early 1990s. The methodology and data base for this study are being prepared by a team of specialists (see programme element 14.6.2.5).

Duration: Continuing.

14.1.2. Medium-term trends in industry structure and markets in specific forest products sectors

Description: The Committee reviews medium-term (3–5 years) trends in the production, consumption, trade and prices of major forest products and the structure and capacity of the sawmilling and wood-based panels industries so that governments may be continuously informed of structural trends in the forest products sectors of the ECE region. The medium-term surveys allow recent trends to be compared with the projections made in the long-term studies (project 14.1.1) and provide early warning to Governments of deviations from expected developments.
Work accomplished and to be undertaken: Medium-term surveys are carried out on a 3-year rotation of the following sectors: wood-based panels (1992); sawnwood and sawlogs (1990, 1993); wood raw material, notably pulpwood, and wood for energy (1991, 1994). The Committee will determine whether this rotation should be modified, e.g. to a 4-year cycle. The surveys of the wood-based panels sector will include the results of the regular triennial surveys of the structure and capacity of these industries. The 1990 survey of the sawnwood and sawlog sector will include the results of the survey of the sawmilling industry. The Committee will decide whether the sawmilling survey should continue to be carried out on a 6-year cycle.

Duration: Continuing.

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 are reviewed in the light of the long-term outlook for their forest economies (see 14.1.1.)

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: A seminar was held on the products from the Mediterranean forest (Italy, September 1988) co-sponsored by the FAO European Forestry Commission and with the cooperation of the AFC/EFC/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions "Silva Mediterranea". The Committee's office-holders will review in 1990, with the EFC Executive Committee, the programme of work of Silva Mediterranea 'in the light of the seminar's recommendations and formulate proposals for future action for consideration by the Committee's forty-eighth session.

Duration: To be determined.

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

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

Description: The Committee analyses, 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 accomplished and 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. The study on the European trade and utilization of tropical hardwoods, undertaken in 1988, in cooperation with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) was completed and submitted to ITTO for publication. The forty-eighth session of the Committee will consider possible further co-operation with ITTO, notably on the ITTO study on North American tropical timber markets.

Duration: Continuing.
SUB-COMMISSION 14.3: FOREST TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING

This sub-programme covers the activities of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training, which normally meets biennially (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 methods and equipment for silvicultural operations, including stand establishment and multiple use forestry

Description: The Joint Committee promotes the exchange of information and furthers silvicultural methods and techniques which do not damage the forest ecosystem and which take account of the multiple use of forests by regularly reviewing machines and techniques applied in silviculture, including afforestation and reforestation, with a view to assisting Governments in these fields.

Work accomplished:

(a) The proceedings of the seminars on the impact of acute forest damage on harvesting and silvicultural operations (Federal Republic of Germany, September 1987) and on reforestation methods after harvesting (German Democratic Republic, May 1988), were published.

(b) A seminar on the impact of the mechanization of forest operations on the soil was held in Belgium in 1989.

(c) A team of specialists on a Model Forest Damage Manual was established and held its first meeting in September 1989.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Seminars will be held at intervals on selected items: in 1990 in the Federal Republic of Germany on the protection and improvement of the site as a basis for sustained forestry; in 1992 in France (subject to confirmation) on forest seed collection, treatment and storage; in 1994 on afforestation techniques on abandoned agricultural land; in 1995 on techniques for safeguarding the survival and recovery of forests threatened by air pollution.

(b) The team of specialists on a Model Forest Damage Manual will submit a progress report on its work to the eighteenth session of the Joint Committee, and will prepare a framework for national reporting on experience in dealing with catastrophes.

(c) The study on afforestation techniques in Spain, supplemented by material from other Mediterranean countries, will be published.
(d) A team of specialists will be established to draw up a proposal for a seminar in 1994 on afforestation techniques on abandoned agricultural land.

(e) Environmental aspects of forestry will be a special topic at the eighteenth session of the Joint Committee.

Duration: (a) Continuing; (b) to be decided by the eighteenth session of the Joint Committee; (c) 1990; (d) 1994; (e) 1990.

14.3.1.2. Forest fire prevention and control

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

Work accomplished: The team of specialists on forest fires held its first meeting in 1988 and established its work programme, including the programme for a seminar to be held in Greece in 1991. The first (trial) Forest Fire Newsletter was issued and a plan established for future issues.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) The team of specialists will be enlarged for an ad hoc meeting on forest fire detection equipment Italy or Poland in 1990.

(b) A seminar on forest fire prevention: land use and people will be held in Greece (subject to confirmation) in co-operation with FAO Silva Mediterranea in 1991.

(c) The Forest Fire Newsletter (in future called: International Forest Fire News) will be issued on a regular basis (twice yearly).

Duration: (a) and (b): 1991; (c) continuing.

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

Description: The Joint Committee surveys practical methods and procedures for the preparation and implementation of 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 accomplished: The proceedings of the seminar on the preparation and implementation of forest management plans (Netherlands, May 1986) were published;

Work to be undertaken: A seminar on a topic related to management questions will be organized in 1993.

Duration: Future activity to be considered by the eighteenth session of the Joint Committee.

14.3.2. Wood harvesting and transport

14.3.2.1. Development and use of harvesting machinery and systems

Description: The Joint Committee keeps under review trends and prospects in the development and use of harvesting machinery and systems, taking into account specific conditions and cost/price relationships so as to encourage rational harvesting methods in flat, hilly and mountainous regions from the economic, ergonomic and environmental points of view.
Work accomplished: A seminar was held in Turkey in 1989 on the mechanization of harvesting operations in mountainous terrain.

Work to be undertaken: Seminars on selected items will be held at intervals: in 1991 in Denmark on thinning operations; in 1992 in the USSR on multi-functional machinery in logging operations; in 1992 or 1993 on forest operations necessary and admissible in protected areas; in 1994 and 1995 on topics related to wood harvesting and transport.

Duration: Continuing.

14.3.2.2. Forest roads and transport of wood raw material

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

Work to be undertaken and duration: The Joint Committee will make proposals at its eighteenth session.

14.3.2.3. Harvesting of wood for energy purposes

Description: The Joint Committee reviews 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 the Joint Committee's eighteenth session on relevant activities of IUFRO, IEA and the FAO Cooperative Networks on Rural Energy.

(b) Wood energy as a possible solution to Europe's energy and environmental problems will be a special topic at the eighteenth session of the Joint Committee; it will also serve as a step towards a seminar on a related topic, planned for 1993, in collaboration with the Timber Committee and FAO Cooperative Networks on Rural Energy (subject to confirmation)

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

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

14.3.3.1. Vocational training in forestry

Description: By keeping under review developments and trends in vocational training in forestry, the Joint Committee assists Governments in planning their national vocational training policies, in raising the efficiency of forest operations and in improving working practices with regard to safety and health.
Work accomplished: A seminar on the training of professional forest workers was held in Finland in 1989 and the proceedings were prepared.

Work to be undertaken: Seminars will be organized at intervals (in 1991 and 1993) on topics related to vocational training in forestry.

Duration: Continuing.

14.3.3.2. Applied ergonomics, safety and health in forest operations

Description: The Joint Committee helps 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 improving working methods and recommending safety standards in various operations, preventing occupational injuries and diseases, increasing work performance and forest workers’ satisfaction with their job.

Work accomplished: The proceedings of the seminar on the employment of contractors in forest work (France, 1988) were prepared.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Seminars will be organized at intervals on selected problems: in 1990 in the United Kingdom on the use of chemicals in forestry; in 1992 and in 1994 on topics related to ergonomics, safety and health.

(b) A short questionnaire on the use of pesticides in forestry will be prepared and circulated to the correspondents in member countries, and the results presented at the seminar in the United Kingdom.

Duration: (a) Continuing; (b) 1990.

14.3.3.3. Transfer of technical information and experience

Description: The Joint Committee promotes 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 Joint Committee's role in the transfer of forest technology in the ECE region will be a special topic at the eighteenth session of the Joint Committee.

(d) A task force will be established to assist developing countries in the event of forest catastrophes.

Duration: (a) and (b): Continuing; (c): 1990; (d): continuing.
SUB-PROGRAMME 14.4: ECONOMIC, TECHNOLOGICAL AND MANAGERIAL ISSUES FOR THE WOOD-WORKING INDUSTRIES

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

Description: The Committee furthers 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.), and on management techniques, particularly at the senior and middle-management levels 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 1991. A preparatory meeting of experts to draw up the programme for the seminar will be convened in early 1990.


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

Description: The Committee furthers 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 accomplished and to be undertaken: A seminar on the valorisation of secondary quality temperate zone hardwoods was held (France, November 1987). The secretariat will explore with the United States' authorities the possibility of holding a seminar related to the markets and utilization of hardwoods.

Duration: To be determined.

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

Description: The Committee encourages 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 accomplished and to be undertaken: The Committee co-sponsored the symposium on ecological, economic and technological aspects of the fuller use of wood biomass, including its use for energy purposes, organized by the USSR (Moscow, September 1989). The team of specialists meets every 1-2 years, most recently in September 1989 on the occasion of the USSR symposium. The team will work both on the exchange of technical information and on statistics and analysis of trends. An enquiry on the trends in the use of wood for energy was circulated in 1988 and the results are included in the medium-term survey of trends for wood raw material, notably pulpwood and wood for energy. A seminar on choice of technologies for combustion of wood and bark in the forest industries will be held, probably in 1992 (host country to be decided). At its next meeting in spring 1991 the team will prepare the seminar.

Duration: Continuing.
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 and Water 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 examines 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 accomplished and to be undertaken: The enquiry and definitions for the forest resource assessment 1990, to be prepared according to the timetable given in 14.6.3 will contain a section covering the environmental and other non-wood benefits of forests. A draft enquiry with definitions and guidelines was submitted to the second FAO/ECE ad hoc meeting of experts on global forest resource assessment for review and revision and will be submitted to the Joint Working Party for final approval before circulation to countries for completion in 1990.


14.5.2. Economic, silvicultural, ecological and technical problems of the rational use of forest biomass

Description: The team of specialists collects information on woody biomass on the basis of existing data in the ECE member countries and analysis of current situation and trends in the main directions of rational use of woody biomass. Special attention should be given to economic, silvicultural, ecological and technical aspects. The main objective of the work is to help Governments and other institutions to choose the most effective ways of using forest resources in order to meet the requirements of the country for all assortments of forests products.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: A report by the rapporteur was submitted to the sixteenth session of the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics. A team of specialists will be set up to carry out further work. Collection of all statistical data, analysis and preparation of the report will be carried out by the specialists of the USSR. The team will make a progress report to the seventeenth session of the Working Party.

14.5.3. Implications of air pollution and other damage to forests for wood supply and markets

Description: The Committee examines the implications of air pollution and other damage to forests for wood supply and markets, 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, ITASA and IUFRO.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The team of specialists monitors and analyses developments in forest damage, notably that attributed to air pollution, and its consequences, notably economic, and policy options. It normally holds an informal meeting once a year, prepares an annual review of developments for the Committee, and works to improve the flow of information. The team will hold its next meeting in 1990 in the Federal Republic of Germany in conjunction with the ad hoc Working Group "Impact of Air Pollution on Forests" of the FAO European Forestry Commission. The team and the ad hoc Working Group both contribute to the ad hoc meeting of experts on the practical application of satellite sensing for forest damage assessment, which will hold its third meeting in 1990.

Duration: Continuing.

14.5.4. Information exchange on occurrences of sudden and severe damage to forests

Description: The Committee promotes the rapid international dissemination of reliable information on sudden and severe damage to forests in ECE countries, notably that caused by fire, windblow, snow and insect infestation, in order to reduce disruption of roundwood markets.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The mechanism set up by the Committee to disseminate information in this field is put into operation as and when necessary.

Duration: Continuing.

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

14.6.1. Publication of the Timber Bulletin

Description: The Committee collects 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 accomplished and to be undertaken: The secretariat publishes 9 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 half-yearly questionnaires, and other relevant information, one contains annual data on trade flows collected from the same sources, and two 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 1991, in 1993, etc.). In doing so, it co-operates with the Conference of European Statisticians.

14.6.2.1. Organization and periodicity of data collection and dissemination

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

Work accomplished and to be undertaken:

(a) 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;

(b) The Working Party will make recommendations as appropriate, as regards the classification and definitions in the field of forest products, to improve the comparability of data and the usefulness of the statistical system as a whole;

(c) At its seventeenth session the Working Party will consider the possible consequences of the introduction of SITC Rev. 3 and the Harmonized System, and if necessary make recommendations on the basis of a report by a small group of experts, who met in 1989.

Duration: (a) and (b) continuing, (c) To be decided.

14.6.2.2. Conversion factors

Description: The Working Party reviews 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.


Duration: Continuing.
14.6.2.3. **Productivity in the forest sector**

**Description:** The Working Party collects statistics on and analyse trends in productivity in the forest sector. The purpose is to provide information on the inputs of labour, capital, raw materials and energy in relation to outputs in member countries to 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 accomplished and to be undertaken:** A study on productivity, profitability and relative prices in the forest industries of the ECE region was reviewed by the Working Party, revised and published. The Working Party will decide at its seventeenth session whether to undertake further work on productivity questions (e.g. the updating of the study on productivity in logging, TIM/EFC/WP.2/R.76.).

**Duration:** To be determined by the Working Party at its seventeenth session.

14.6.2.4. **Forest fire statistics**

**Description:** The Working Party seeks to facilitate the exchange of information on forest fires, their causes and methods of prevention and protection and the costs involved.

**Work accomplished and to be undertaken:** Biennial enquiries on forest fires are circulated and the results are published. The Working Party will consider at its seventeenth session whether some or all of these data should be collected on an annual basis.

**Duration:** Continuing.

14.6.2.5. **Methodologies, including projection and modelling techniques, and data bases for long-term outlook studies for the forest and forest products sector**

**Description:** Methodologies, including projection and modelling techniques, and the databases needed for the analysis of long-term trends and prospects, will be refined and strengthened 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 the next long-term study. This will 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 accomplished and to be undertaken:** A team of specialists held its second meeting in December 1988, at which it prepared recommendations for the seventeenth session of the Working Party on methodology for the next outlook study, and on necessary action to improve the data base. The team will continue to advise the secretariat during the preparation of the study. A workshop on wood supply forecasting methodology will be held in Sweden in 1990.

**Duration:** Three years 1989-1991.
14.6.2.6. Roundwood price statistics and specification

Description: The Working Party improves the coverage of roundwood prices and the comparability of series in the Timber Bulletin and other international publications, 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 accomplished and to be undertaken: A team of specialists made preliminary proposals to the Working Party's sixteenth session. The team will prepare proposals for the seventeenth session on the basis of the results of an enquiry into the objectives of collecting and publishing roundwood price statistics at an international level.


14.6.3. Forest resource analysis

Description: The Working Party reviews 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 accomplished and to be undertaken: A second ad hoc FAO/ECE meeting of experts took place (September 1989) on global forest resource assessment at which proposals were considered for the enquiry and definitions for the 1990 world forest resource assessment. After submission for final approval by the seventeenth session of the Working Party, the enquiry relating to temperate-zone forest resources will be circulated for completion in 1990. This project is linked with projects 14.5.1 and 14.6.4.


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

Description: The Working Party contributes 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 accomplished and to be undertaken: Participation of experts from other regions in Working Party activities is encouraged. An ad hoc meeting on assessment of the different functions of the forest will be held, subject to a country offering the necessary facilities (linked with projects 14.5.1 and 14.6.3).

Duration: Continuing.
## ANNEX II

**TABULAR PRESENTATION OF TIMBER COMMITTEE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1990-1994**

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<td>48th session of Timber Committee</td>
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<td>50th session of Timber Committee</td>
<td>51st session of Timber Committee</td>
<td>52nd session of Timber Committee</td>
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<td>Study tour in Hungary (jointly with FAO European Forestry Commission)</td>
<td>Study tour in Portugal</td>
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### SUB-PROGRAMME 14.1: MEDIUM- AND LONG-TERM TRENDS, PROSPECTS AND POLICIES FOR FORESTRY AND FOREST PRODUCTS

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study published on</th>
<th>Preparatory phase of fifth study of European timber trends and prospects (ETTS V)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Canada and USA</td>
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#### 14.1.2. Medium-term trends in industry structure and markets in specific forest products sectors

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sawmilling industry</th>
<th>Wood raw material, notably pulpwood, and wood for energy</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sawmilling industry</td>
<td>Wood-based panels, including survey of the structure of these industries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sawmilling industry</td>
<td>Wood raw material, notably pulpwood, and wood for energy</td>
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#### 14.1.3. Trends, prospects and policies in forestry and forest products in southern Europe

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<th>As determined by the Committee</th>
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### 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Continuing: annual review by Committee of short-term prospects; preparation of Annual Forest Products Market Review</th>
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### SUB-PROGRAMME 14.3: FOREST TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>(Covers the activities of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILC Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18th session of Joint Committee</td>
<td>19th session of Joint Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>in the Federal Republic of Germany</td>
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1/ Host country to be decided.
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<td>14.3.1 Silvicultural operations and general management aspects</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.3.1.1 Development and use of methods and equipment for silvicultural operations, including stand establishment and multiple use forestry</td>
<td>Seminar in conjunction with 18th session in the Federal Republic of Germany on the protection and improvement of the site as a basis for sustained forestry</td>
<td>Seminar in France 2/ on forest seed collection, treatment and storage</td>
<td>Seminar in ... 1/ on afforestation techniques on abandoned agricultural land</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Team of specialists on Model Forest Damage Manual to submit progress report to 18th session</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.3.1.2 Forest fire prevention and control</td>
<td>Enlarged meeting of team of specialists in Poland 2/ on forest fire detection equipment</td>
<td>Seminar in Greece 2/, in collaboration with FAO Silva Mediterranea, on forest fire prevention: land use and people</td>
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<td>Biannual publication of International Forest Fire News</td>
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<td>14.3.1.3 Methods and procedures for the preparation and implementation of forest management plans</td>
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<td>14.3.2 Wood harvesting and transport</td>
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<td>Seminar in ... 1/ on topic to be decided</td>
<td>Seminar in ... 1/ on topic to be decided</td>
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1/ Most country to be decided
2/ Subject to confirmation.
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14.3.2.1 Development and use of harvesting machinery and systems</td>
<td></td>
<td>Seminar in Denmark on thinning operations</td>
<td>Seminar in the USSR on multi-functional machinery in logging</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.3.2.2 Forest roads &amp; transport\footnote{Further activities as proposed by 18th session of Joint Committee}</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.3.2.3 Harvesting of wood for energy purposes</td>
<td>Special topic at 18th session: Wood energy – a solution to Europe’s energy and environmental problems?</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.3.3 Vocational training, applied ergonomics, occupational safety and health</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.3.3.1 Vocational training in forestry</td>
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<td>Seminar in ... \footnote{1/ on topic to be decided}</td>
<td>Seminar in ... \footnote{1/ on topic to be decided}</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.3.3.2 Applied ergonomics, safety and health in forest operations</td>
<td>Seminar in the United Kingdom on the use of chemicals in forestry</td>
<td>Seminar in ... \footnote{1/ on topic to be decided}</td>
<td>Seminar in ... \footnote{1/ on topic to be decided}</td>
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\footnote{1/ Host country to be decided.}
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14.3.3.3 Transfer of technical information and experience</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sub-programme 14.4: Economic, Technological and Managerial Issues for the Wood-working Industries</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.4.1 Development and introduction of new technologies and management methods in the wood-working industries, including furniture</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.4.2 Development of new products, markets and applications for forest products</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.4.3 Energy conservation and self-sufficiency in the wood-processing industries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sub-programme 14.5: Environmental and Resource Conservation Issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.5.1 Quantification and evaluation of the environmental benefits of forests</td>
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Notes:
- Special topic at 18th Session: Joint Committee's role in the transfer of forestry technology in the ECE region.
- Establishment of task force to assist developing countries in the event of forest catastrophes.
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14.5.2. Economic, silvicultural ecological and technical problems of the rational use of forest biomass</td>
<td>Further work as decided by 17th session of Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.5.3. Implications of air pollution and other damage to forests for wood supply and markets</td>
<td>Annual reviews by teams of specialists (1990 meeting in the Federal Republic of Germany in conjunction with FAO ad hoc Working Group: Impact of Air Pollution on Forests)</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.5.4. Information exchange on occurrences of sudden and severe damage to forests</td>
<td>Countries where sudden and severe damage to forests occur should send an assessment of such damage to the secretariat for rapid circulation</td>
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**SUB-PROGRAMME 14.6: FOREST AND FOREST PRODUCTS ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS**

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Includes the main activities of the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18th session of Working Party</td>
<td>19th session of Working Party</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nine issues a year, two containing annual and quarterly statistics on production and trade, one containing trade flow data, two containing price data, two containing market reviews, one the Timber Committee Yearbook and one special issue</td>
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<p>| 14.6.2. Selected problems of economics and statistics of forestry and forest products | | | | | |
| 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 | Publication of results of 1989 survey | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Four-yearly survey at 19th session and publication in 1994</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14.6.2.3. Productivity in the</td>
<td>Further work as decided by 17th session of</td>
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<td>forest sector</td>
<td>Working Party</td>
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<td>14.6.2.4. Forest fire</td>
<td>Publication of results</td>
<td>Publication of results</td>
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<td>statistics</td>
<td>of biennial survey</td>
<td>of biennial survey</td>
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<td>14.6.2.5. Methodologies, including</td>
<td>Workshop in Sweden on</td>
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<td>projection and</td>
<td>wood supply forecasting</td>
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<td>modelling techniques,</td>
<td>methodology</td>
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<td>and data bases for long-</td>
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<td>term outlook studies for</td>
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<td>the forest and forest</td>
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<td>products sector</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.6.2.6. Roundwood price statistic</td>
<td>As decided by 17th session of Working Party on the basis of</td>
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<tr>
<td>s and specification</td>
<td>recommendations of team of specialists</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.6.3. Forest resource analysis</td>
<td>Carrying out of the 1990 forest resource assessment (temperate zone), in co-operation with FAO</td>
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<td>and national correspondents with the following timetable:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Circulation of enquiry,</td>
<td>Preparation and issue</td>
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<td>replies by countries</td>
<td>of results</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.6.4. Transfer of economic and</td>
<td>Participation of experts from other regions, notably in projects 14.5.1 and 14.6.3, will be encouraged.</td>
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<tr>
<td>statistical methods and</td>
<td>An ad hoc meeting on assessment of the different functions of the forest will be held, subject to availability</td>
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<td>experience in the forest</td>
<td>of host facilities</td>
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<td>and forest products</td>
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<td>sector</td>
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ANNEX III

PROVISIONAL LIST OF MEETINGS IN 1990 AND 1991 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.

1990

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12-15 March</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Workshop on wood supply forecasting methodology (B)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April (dates to be confirmed)</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
<td>Timber Committee office-holders (B) (jointly with Executive Committee of FAO European Forestry Commission)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-26 May</td>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>Timber Committee / FAO European Forestry Commission study tour (A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-30 June</td>
<td>Munich (Germany, Fed. Rep. of)</td>
<td>Seminar and study tour on the protection and improvement of the site as a basis for sustained forestry (A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-4 July</td>
<td>Munich (Germany, Fed. Rep. of)</td>
<td>Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training (18th session) (A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-14 September</td>
<td>Sparsholt (United Kingdom)</td>
<td>Seminar on the use of chemicals in forestry (A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-12 October</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
<td>ECE TIMBER COMMITTEE (48th session) (A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Undecided)</td>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>Enlarged meeting of team of specialists on forest fire detection equipment (B)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Undecided)</td>
<td>Germany, Fed. Rep. of</td>
<td>Team of specialists on implications of air pollution and other damage to forests for wood supply and markets in conjunction with the FAO ad hoc Working Group: Impact of air pollution on forests (B)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late spring/early summer</td>
<td>Poland (to be confirmed)</td>
<td>Ad hoc meeting of experts on the practical application of satellite sensing for forest damage assessment (B)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Title</td>
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<tr>
<td>April (dates to be confirmed)</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
<td>Timber Committee office-holders (B)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-24 May</td>
<td>Gdansk (Poland)</td>
<td>Seminar on new technologies in the wood-based panels sector (A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>26-30 June</td>
<td>Hillerod (Denmark)</td>
<td>Seminar on thinning operations (A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-11 October (dates to be confirmed)</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
<td>ECE TIMBER COMMITTEE (49th session) (A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Undecided)</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>Timber Committee study tour (A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Undecided)</td>
<td>(Undecided)</td>
<td>Steering Committee of the Joint FAO/ECE/TLO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training (10th session) (B)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Undecided)</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
<td>Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics (18th session) (A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Undecided)</td>
<td>Greece (to be confirmed)</td>
<td>Seminar on forest fire prevention: land use and people (A)</td>
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<td>(Undecided)</td>
<td>(Undecided)</td>
<td>Seminar on a topic related to vocational training in forestry (A)</td>
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ANNEX IV

TIMBER COMMITTEE STATEMENT
ON THE TRADE AND UTILIZATION OF TROPICAL TIMBER

The Timber Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe at its forty-seventh session in Geneva in October 1989, having carried out its annual review of the markets for tropical hardwoods, approved the following statement.

The Timber Committee shares the widespread concern about deforestation and degradation of the forest resource in the tropics and their effect on the environment. These processes are not only ecologically and economically damaging to the countries where the forests are situated but could have serious consequences for mankind as a whole.

The causes of deforestation are many and complex and are mainly linked to social and economic factors. The relatively minor role of commercial exploitation has to be seen in this broad context. The first need is for promoting a deeper understanding of the real nature of the problem. In this context, the Timber Committee can play a valuable role in improving the transparency of the international timber trade and assisting in an harmonious development of trade for the benefit of both producers and consumers.

Successful solutions can only be found in the broader context of the development of the countries concerned, which bear the responsibility for the management of their own forest resource. International co-operation, however, involving also the members of the ECE Timber Committee, can contribute to the conservation and sustainable management of the tropical forests.

The Committee is convinced that any unilateral measure to restrict the import and use of tropical timber would be counter-productive: taking away an important economic incentive for conserving the forest reduces its value and could lead to increased pressure for the transfer of such land to alternative uses. A ban on tropical timber imports would furthermore be inconsistent with the movement towards freer international trade, notably within the context of the GATT Uruguay Round negotiations.

The debate on appropriate measures to conserve the tropical forest has to be conducted, firstly taking into account national socio-economic development objectives and their relation to environmental protection; and secondly, on the basis of a full understanding of the complex issues involved. To make progress, the debate needs to be conducted in a constructive spirit by all the parties concerned, not only governments but also non-governmental organizations, scientists, and the private sector, who could contribute significantly to effective solutions, including investment and technical support to sound management of tropical forests.

The Committee welcomes the new efforts to address these problems at the international level, notably the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, being carried out under the leadership of FAO. It also welcomes the activities of ITTO which is seeking to further the management of tropical timber resources with a long-term perspective through a broad dialogue between producers and consumers and with the active participation of the private sector and non-governmental organizations.

The Committee appeals to all its members to consider appropriate measures to support the developing countries and the international organizations concerned in their efforts to combine conservation and wise utilization of tropical forests and for harmonious development of the trade in tropical timber.