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TIMBER COMMITTEE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS FORTY-NINTH SESSION
(27-30 January 1992)

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Introduction

1. The Timber Committee held its forty-ninth session at Geneva from 27 to 30 January 1992. The session was attended by representatives from the following countries: Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Yugoslavia.

2. The following intergovernmental organization participated: European Community (EC).

3. Japan was represented under article 11 of the Commission's terms of reference.

4. The following United Nations and specialized agencies were represented: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT); International Labour Organisation (ILO); Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

5. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: European Confederation of Agriculture (CEA); European Confederation of Woodworking Industries (CEI-BOIS); Organization of European Sawmilling Industries (OES); European Federation of Associations of Particle Board Manufacturers (FESYP); International Technical Association for Tropical Timber (ATIBT); International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA).

6. The Committee paid homage to the memory of Mr. P. Miettinen and Mr. P. Olivieri, for many years delegates of Finland and Italy respectively, to the Committee.

7. Mr. I. Ornatski, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECE, addressed the Committee. He drew attention to the Commission's decisions at its resumed forty-fifth session and at its forty-sixth session, and their impact on the future work of ECE. The Committee expressed warm appreciation to Mr. Ornatski for his valuable statement which provided an excellent basis for the discussion of the programme of work, particularly in the light of Commission decision O(45).

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

8. The provisional agenda (ECE/TIM/56/Rev.1) was adopted.

Election of officers (Item 2 of the agenda)

9. The Committee agreed to elect a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen at the end of its session. Mr. H. van der Meiden (the Netherlands), Chairman of the forty-eighth session, presided over the meeting. The Committee subsequently elected Mr. D. Darr (United States of America) Chairman, and Messrs. D. Lipman (Russian Federation) and P. Lavarde (France) Vice-Chairmen. It expressed its deep appreciation to Mr. H. van der Meiden and Mr. E. Moskov (Bulgaria), former Vice-Chairman, for their notable contribution to its work.

Matters arising from the resumed forty-fifth session and the forty-sixth of the Commission (Item 3 of the agenda) (TIM/R.191)

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

Sessions of subsidiary bodies, special meetings, teams of specialists and other activities since the forty-eighth session (Item 4 of the agenda) (TIM/R.192)

(a) Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics

(i) Eighteenth session, August 1991 (TIM/EFC/WP.2/21).

11. The Committee was informed of the results of the Working Party's session by its Chairman, Mr. N.A. Burdin (Russian Federation) and endorsed its report.

12. The Committee took note of the Working Party's recommendations on organization and periodicity of statistical data collection and dissemination. It emphasized the close connection between the statistical parts of its publications and the analyses which were based on them. It agreed to establish a small group of experts to formulate proposals on the improvement and development of its publications, which should also take into account the evaluation of ECE statistical publications being undertaken by the Conference of European Statisticians.

13. Concerning proposals for the revision of the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC) Harmonized System, the Committee stressed the importance of delegations ensuring that their national delegates to the CCC Harmonized Review Committee were informed on the proposal endorsed by the Committee at its forty-eighth session in October 1990 (contained in document TIM/R.190/Add.1) with the objective of restoring the basic subdivisions between sawlogs and veneer logs, pulpwood and other industrial roundwood.

14. In detailed discussion of the existing classification of wood in the rough, it became apparent that there are significant imperfections in terminology. These questions could usefully be raised in the forthcoming review by the CCC.

15. The Committee requested the secretariat to discuss the revision proposals with the CCC, and on the basis of that discussion to formulate a final submission to the CCC in time to meet the timetable for the review.

16. The Committee noted the need identified at the seminar on new technologies and applications in the wood-based panels sector (see paras. 22-24, below) for revised classification, definitions and updated terminology to take account of development of new products, including wood-based panels and wood composites.

(ii) Forest Resource Assessment (temperate-zone) 1990
(TIM/EFC/WP.2/AC.2/9)

17. The Committee was informed of the work on finalizing the temperate-zone part of the 1990 Assessment and its publication. It endorsed the recommendations by the Working Party and stressed the importance of this

database for analytical purposes, including the next European Timber Trends and Prospects Study (ETTS V). The results would also provide a valuable data source for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in June 1992 and the secretariat was urged to make a synthesis of the Assessment available for that Conference.

18. The Committee took note of the Working Party's proposal for analysis of long-term changes in temperate-zone forest resources, and emphasised the importance of this project.

(b) Study tour in Portugal (TIM/R.193)

19. The Chairman, Mr. H. van der Meiden, informed the Committee of the results of a most fruitful and interesting study tour in Portugal on the theme of "Forest resources and forest industries in Portugal". The Committee warmly thanked the Government of Portugal for organizing the tour and the generous hospitality extended to participants.

(c) Team of specialists on implications of air pollution and other damage to forests for wood supply and markets (TIM/R.194)

20. The Committee took note of the team's activities which had been reviewed by the meeting of the team of specialists, held jointly with the ad hoc Working Group "Impact of Air Pollution on Forests" of the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) in February 1991. The Committee expressed its thanks to the Government of Germany for having hosted this meeting in Freiburg-im-Breisgau.

21. The Committee considered that the team had fulfilled its mandate and should therefore be wound up. It expressed its deep appreciation to the team members, especially its leader, Mr. L. Schotte (Sweden). Recognizing the importance of continuing to monitor developments in this field, however, it agreed to invite Mr. Schotte to:

- (1) keep under review and report to the Committee whenever there appeared to be developments affecting wood supply and forest products markets;
- (2) together with a small number of experts, liaise with the team of specialists on long-term forecasting methodologies with a view to providing input on the impact of air pollution damage to forests on the wood supply outlook to be presented in ETTS V;
- (3) liaise with the ad hoc Working Group "Impact of Air Pollution on Forests" of the European Forestry Commission, especially in connection with the large scale experiment on the application of satellite sensing for forest damage assessment.

(d) Seminar on new technologies and applications in the wood-based panels sector (ECE/TIM/SEM.14/2 and TIM/R.192/Add.1)

22. The Committee was informed of the results of the above seminar held in Gdansk (Poland) in May 1991. It endorsed the report of the seminar, including its conclusions and recommendations.

23. The Committee took note of the proposal to undertake a feasibility study on the role of the wood industries in providing shelter for disaster relief, and the secretariat was asked to follow up an offer by the Timber Research and Development Association (TRADA, United Kingdom) to undertake this study. The representative of UNIDO expressed the views of his organization on the technicalities of the proposal and its willingness to take an active part in the project.

24. The Committee expressed its warm appreciation to the Polish Government and organizers for the excellent organization of the seminar and study visits and the generous hospitality extended to participants.

European timber trends and prospects study (ETTS V): progress report (Item 5 of the agenda) (TIM/R.195)

25. The Committee endorsed the proposals made by the eighteenth session of the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics: to include the outlook for countries in transition to market economies as a priority area for ETTS V; to develop the methodology for product supply projections; and to circulate a questionnaire on long-term roundwood supply. It took note that the "core members" of the team of specialists on methodology and data bases will meet from 31 January to 1 February 1992.

26. The Committee was also informed on the situation as regards the nomination of country correspondents and contributions offered by member countries for ETTS V. It expressed thanks to the Governments for these contributions which were essential to provide the necessary resources needed to carry out the tasks entrusted to the secretariat. It invited the member states to explore further their possibilities to make contributions to the work on ETTS V, which was one of its priority activities.

27. The Committee took note of a proposal by Italy that countries should nominate correspondents for non-wood benefits and other services of forests and agreed that this should be followed up by the ad hoc meeting on non-wood benefits that had been scheduled for November 1992.

Market developments in 1991 and prospects for 1992 (Item 6 of the Agenda)

28. The Committee's discussion on the forest products markets was based on national reports and statistics, countries' estimates for 1991 and 1992, and the secretariat's Annual Forest Products Market Review (Volume XLIV, No. 5 of the Timber Bulletin). The Committee approved a statement on the market for issue as a press release and for inclusion, together with estimates for 1991 and 1992 and other tabular material, in Forest Products Markets in 1991 and Prospects for 1992 (Volume XLIV, No. 8 of the Timber Bulletin).

29. The Committee commended delegations for the informative written statements which they had prepared on their forest products markets. It noted with concern, however, that some countries appeared to be experiencing difficulties in providing realistic short-term forecasts of production, trade and requirements, which could not be wholly attributed to the unusually difficult conditions for forecasting at the present time. For future sessions, it invited countries to consider what steps they could take to improve the quality of their forecasts, which might involve more consultation between the responsible government agencies and those actively engaged in the markets and,

where appropriate, the use of non-official sources. It also requested its office-holders to look into the problem, with a view to recommending changes in the way in which countries were asked to provide their forecasts.

30. The Committee discussed recent developments affecting the trade and utilization of timber produced from environmentally sensitive forest areas, both tropical and temperate zone. It took note of the position taken on this issue by the 10th World Forestry Congress in September 1991, in the light of which it considered that the statement which it had adopted at its forty-seventh session in October 1989 (ECE/TIM/49, annex IV) still accurately reflected its own position on this matter. In particular, it reiterated that "any unilateral measure to restrict the import and use of tropical timber would be counter-productive: taking away an important incentive for conserving the forest reduces its value and could lead to increased pressure for the transfer of such land to alternative uses". It agreed that this statement could equally well be applied to products from temperate-zone forests.

Special topic: The consequences of increased waste paper recycling for the forest and forest products sector (Item 7 of the agenda) (TIM/R.197 and Add.1)

31. Presentations were made by Mr. P.A. Wardle (FAO), Mr. D. Roberts (Canada), Mr. P. Ince (USA) and Mr. L. Karlsson (Sweden).

32. The speakers pointed out the continuous growth in production and consumption of pulp and paper in the ECE region and worldwide. Underlying this trend was a marked increase in input of "recovered fibre" material. This source of fibre material may account for as much as a 50% share of the total fibre input for paper production by the year 2010. This would have a considerable impact on future requirements of roundwood pulpwood. Technological progress and environmental requirements will be of major importance for the future path of developments.

33. The Committee warmly thanked the speakers for their excellent presentations and requested the secretariat to make written versions available for wider distribution.

Activities of other Principal Subsidiary Bodies of ECE of concern to the Timber Committee (Item 8 of the agenda) (TIM/R.198)

34. The Committee was informed of activities of other Principal Subsidiary Bodies of ECE. 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 9 of the agenda) (TIM/R.199)

35. The Committee took note of the written statements submitted by the international organizations on their activities. Representatives of these organizations took part in the Committee's discussion under other items of the agenda of interest to them.

36. The Committee was also informed of the FAO European Forestry Commission's (EFC) proposal to exchange experiences in public relations among forestry and forest industry organizations. The Committee stressed the importance of an accurate and objective presentation of forestry and forest industry activities to the public, including the policy-makers, the media and special interest groups, and strongly supported this initiative. The joint meeting of the Committee's office-holders and the Executive Committee of the EFC in April 1992 was invited to make proposals for further action.

Programme of work (Item 10 of the agenda)

(a) Activities in support of the economies of central and eastern Europe in transition (TIM/R.200)

37. The Committee was informed about the status of activities in support of the economies of central and eastern Europe in transition and approved the list of planned activities as set out in programme element 02(B).5.1, Programme of Work, annex I. It warmly thanked the Government of Hungary for hosting the workshop on the organization and management of forestry under market economy conditions, held in Budapest from 30 September to 4 October 1991 under the auspices of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training, and expressed appreciation for the contributions made to this workshop by Germany, Norway and the World Bank. A number of delegations expressed satisfaction about the usefulness of the workshop. The Committee invited member countries to explore further possibilities to support activities of assistance to countries in transition, as stipulated by decisions O(45) and B(46). It was noted that in addition to workshops, other assistance activities could be envisaged, including training courses and bilateral exchanges of specialists.

38. The Committee considered it most important to be informed about progress being achieved in countries in transition in the forestry and forest industry sector. It agreed to include an item to this effect on the agenda of its fiftieth session and invited the countries concerned to present national reports.

(b) Study tour in the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic in 1992 (TIM/R.201 and TIM/EFC/AC.7/1)

39. At the invitation of the Government of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic and under the joint auspices of the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission, this study tour (including a one-day workshop) with the theme "Forest regeneration in areas exposed to air pollution" will take place from 24 to 30 May 1992. The Committee was informed of the programme and itinerary. The representative of the host country stressed that contributions to the workshop from countries which had gained experience in solving problems related to the theme would be most welcome. Some of the most severe forest damage in Europe had occurred in countries of central and eastern Europe in transition, and there was a need for assistance to these economies in the field of management or regeneration of forests affected by environmental damage.

(c) Terms of reference, priorities, structure and methods of work in the light of Commission decision 0(45) (TIM/R.202)

40. In response to the Commission's invitation to its Principal Subsidiary Bodies in decision 0(45) to re-examine their structure and mandates and the work of their subsidiary bodies and to redefine them to take account of the priorities identified by the Commission, the Committee:

- (1) revised its terms of reference to submit to the Commission for its approval, as set out in annex III;
- (2) approved its existing structure, including that of its subsidiary bodies;
- (3) fully supported the recommendation of the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics that it should meet at 2-yearly intervals (instead of the minimum provided for in decision 0(45) of 18 months), but that it should be allocated 5 half-day formal sessions with interpretation (instead of 4). It requested the Commission to grant this exemption, which it considered to be more cost-effective for countries sending delegates to the session.

41. The Committee rank-ordered the priority of the elements in its programme of work for submission to the forty-seventh session of the Commission (annex IV). It considered that the first five items on the list of priorities constituted the core of the Committee's activities; the remainder were generally speaking of an ad hoc or specific nature and were to a greater or lesser extent linked to the core activities.

42. The Committee noted that priorities could change over time and that urgent new tasks could emerge. It was important, therefore, that the priorities of programme elements were reviewed at each session to take account of new developments.

43. With regard to methods of work, the Committee considered that it was conforming to the principles laid down in decision 0(45).

44. The Committee took note of the expected availability of secretariat resources for accomplishing its programme of work. It recognized with appreciation the considerable input made by member countries themselves, as well as that of FAO. It also drew attention to the fact that a number of its activities, including most of the highest priority ones and the work of the joint subsidiary bodies, were undertaken jointly with the FAO European Forestry Commission and figured in that body's programme of work. Proposed changes to those activities by one body needed, therefore, to be referred to the other for approval.

(d) Review and revision of the draft programme of work for 1992-1996 (TIM/R.203)

45. The Committee considered its draft programme of work 1992-1996, prepared by the secretariat on the basis of the relevant decisions of the Commission at its resumed forty-fifth and forty-sixth sessions. The draft programme also takes into account the proposed programmes of work of the subsidiary bodies of the Committee, the European Forestry Commission of the FAO as well as recommendations of seminars and teams of specialists. The Committee approved its programme of work for 1992 to 1996 as set out in annexes I and II.

46. The Committee noted that the proposed programme had been restructured in order to bring it in line with its proposed terms of reference and to reflect the main priority areas of the Commission.

47. The Committee endorsed the proposal that a number of programme elements be deleted (14.4.1 and 14.6.2.6) and others be merged (14.6.2.2 with 14.6.2.1 and 14.6.2.5 with 14.1.1) or be redrafted (02(B).1.4 and 02(B).2.3) to make the objectives of the work clearer.

48. The Committee warmly welcomed the offer of the Netherlands and Belgium to organize a study tour in 1993 with the provisional theme: "Forest management and forest industries in a densely populated region". The Committee also accepted with gratitude the United States' offer to act as host for a study tour in 1994 with the proposed theme : "Hardwood resources and their utilization".

49. With regard to programme element 02(B).1.5 Trends, prospects and policies in forestry and forest products in southern Europe, the Committee at its forty-eighth session in October 1990, had invited the countries concerned, to consider which activities could be undertaken. Turkey had offered to host seminars, workshops or study tours on the following themes:

- (a) "social forestry", "forests and public relations" and "income-generating activities for people living in remote forest areas";
- (b) issues to be considered under market economy conditions such as
 - organization and management of forestry
 - commercial and economic aspects of wood raw material supply
 - questions related to forest labour force and social benefits from forests;
- (c) other aspects such as cost and pricing of forest products, market research, market development, and marketing and distribution of forest products.

The Committee agreed that topics under (a) and (b) above should be referred to the European Forestry Commission and to the Joint Committee, respectively. As regards topic (c), the Committee agreed to include it provisionally in its programme of work and to consider at its fiftieth session which activities it will undertake, on the basis of further proposals to be submitted by Turkey.

50. The Committee was informed that Italy had made a formal invitation to host the nineteenth session of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training from 29 September to 1 October 1992. It warmly welcomed this invitation.

51. With regard to programme element 02(B).6.1, Problems in the forestry and forest industry sector arising from radiation contamination, particularly from the Chernobyl disaster, the Committee was informed that the first meeting of the team of specialists will take place from 9 to 16 March 1992 in Belarus, to prepare proposals for further action to be presented to the fiftieth session of the Committee.

Other business (Item 11 of the agenda)

52. Some delegations to the Timber Committee attended demonstrations of the AXIS system of dissemination of statistical data which is being implemented in ECE. There are two versions of AXIS: AXIS-mainframe which allows users outside the secretariat direct access - via a modem - to the ECE data base which includes the ECE/FAO data base on forest and forest products; and PC-AXIS, whereby the user receives the software and data on diskettes. The AXIS system enables the selection and extraction of data for immediate use or further processing by other standard PC softwares. Delegations were impressed by the usefulness of the system.

Adoption of the report of the Committee's session (Item 12 of the agenda)

53. The Committee adopted the present report of its forty-ninth session.

Date of next session

54. The Committee agreed that its next session should be held from 19-22 October 1992, subject to the availability of conference services.

ANNEX I

TIMBER COMMITTEE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1992-1996

PROGRAMME 02(B) - TIMBER

This programme is carried out by the Timber Committee and its subsidiary bodies. The Committee meets annually, usually in October. In 1993, it will hold a joint session with the FAO European Forestry Commission. 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 the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic in 1992 (jointly with the FAO European Forestry Commission), in Belgium and the Netherlands in 1993, and in the United States in 1994.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02(B).1. ANALYSIS OF DEVELOPMENTS FOR FORESTRY AND FOREST PRODUCTS IN THE LONG-, MEDIUM- AND SHORT-TERM

02(B).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: Work continues on preparation of the next major study of long-term trends and prospects in Europe (ETTS V), scheduled for completion in the mid-1990s. The methodology and data base for this study are being prepared by a team of specialists. An ad hoc meeting on the policy background, on the basis of which forestry and timber trends and prospects will be analysed in ETTS V, will be convened in 1992 or early 1993. This programme element is carried out jointly with the FAO European Forestry Commission.

Duration: Continuing.

02(B).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 (programme element 02(B).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; sawnwood and sawlogs; wood raw material, notably pulpwood, and wood for energy. These surveys incorporate the results of surveys of the structure and capacity of major sectors. The surveys of the structure and capacity of the wood-based panels industries are carried out on a 3-year cycle (1993, 1996, etc.) and of the structure of the sawmilling industry on a 6-year cycle (next in 1997). The next survey of trends in sawnwood and sawlogs will be published in 1992 and that on wood-based panels in 1993.

Duration: Continuing.

02(B).1.3. Review of short-term forest products market developments and prospects

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 an issue of the Timber Bulletin (see 02(B).2.1). The Annual Forest Products Market Review prepared by the secretariat is also published as an issue of the Timber Bulletin. A study, in co-operation with ITTO, on North American tropical timber markets will be undertaken when the necessary funds are allocated by ITTO and the Committee secretariat is fully staffed.

Duration: Continuing.

02(B).1.4. Quantification and evaluation of the environmental and other non-wood 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 1990 forest resource assessment (see 02(B).2.3.) contains a section covering the environmental and other non-wood benefits. An ad hoc meeting on non-wood benefits of forests will:

- (a) examine the feasibility of carrying out a study on the outlook for these benefits; and
- (b) consider what work might be undertaken by ECE/FAO on the valuation of non-wood goods and services.

The results of the ad hoc meeting will be presented to the Working Party's nineteenth session and to the joint session of the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission in 1993.

Duration: Three years 1991-1994.

02(B).1.5. 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.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: Further activities will be considered by the Committee at its fiftieth session, on the basis of proposals to be presented by Turkey.

Duration: To be determined.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02(B).2. COLLECTION, DISSEMINATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF FOREST AND FOREST PRODUCTS STATISTICS

This programme activity is carried out under the auspices of the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics which meets biennially (in 1993, in 1995, etc.). In doing so, it cooperates with the Conference of European Statisticians. The Working Party is also responsible for some programme elements under other (Timber Committee) programme activities.

02(B).2.1. Collection of forest products statistics and 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. This programme element is associated with some of the activities in programme element 02(B).2.2.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The Timber Bulletin consists of one volume per year with seven issues. Four of these contain forest products statistics (two with annual and quarterly statistics on production and trade, collected from Governments by means of half-yearly questionnaires, and other relevant information; one with annual data on trade flows collected from the same sources; and one with monthly and annual prices and price indices of forest products and related data extracted from official national publications or provided by national correspondents). Of the other issues, two are market reviews (see 02(B).1.3.) and one is a special issue, the contents of which are decided on a year-to-year basis. Country forest and forest products profiles are prepared by the secretariat, in collaboration with the Governments of the countries concerned, and published.

Duration: Continuing.

02(B).2.2. Improvement of the quality of forest and forest products statistics (including their collection and dissemination systems)

Description: The Working Party periodically reviews the quality of the forest and forest products data collected under ECE and FAO auspices and the Committee's programme for the collection and dissemination of statistical data, to ensure that it corresponds with the needs of Governments, and makes recommendations as appropriate. The dissemination system makes available statistical data to Governments and experts by means of ECE/FAO publications, including the Timber Bulletin (see programme element 02(B).2.1.), and by electronic media such as computer diskettes and direct access to the ECE data base through the AXIS system.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken:

(a) Regular review of collection and data systems: 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) Meeting of those responsible for filling in FAO/ECE questionnaires: An informal meeting will be held of those responsible for filling in FAO/ECE questionnaires, to discuss problems and propose solutions and inform them of the uses to which the data they provide are put;

(c) Classification and definitions: 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; an ad hoc meeting, probably in 1993, with the participation of experts from developing countries, will prepare proposals for a revision of the FAO/ECE Classification and Definitions of Forest Products;

(d) International multi-sector classifications: The secretariat in collaboration with FAO has transmitted to the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC) the Timber Committee's position on revisions to the Harmonized System, namely to reinstate the division of industrial wood in the rough into "sawlogs and veneer logs", "pulpwood" and "other". The secretariat will submit a final proposal for revision on the basis of discussions with the CCC, and will participate in meetings of the Harmonized Review Committee. The secretariat will hold consultations with the bodies responsible for other international classifications (e.g. PRODCOM and CPC) in order to ensure that the interests of the wood products sector are recognized;

(e) Cooperation with other international organizations: The ECE/FAO secretariat will explore with other organizations that are collecting or planning to collect statistics and managing data bases, notably the Commission of the European Communities and EUROSTAT, the possibilities for cooperation to avoid duplication and reduce the workload of reporting agencies and to ensure comparability of the information. Proposals will be submitted to the Working Party's nineteenth session;

(f) Conversion factors: The Working Party reviews at four-yearly intervals (1993, 1997, etc.) conversion factors (raw material input/product output) communicated by Governments in reply to a questionnaire. The results of the 1989 enquiry were published in 1990;

(g) An informal group of experts, established by the Committee, will formulate proposals on the improvement and development of ECE/FAO publications, taking into account the evaluation of ECE statistical publications being undertaken by the Conference of European Statisticians.

Duration: Continuing.

02(B).2.3. Forest resource assessment

Description: The Working Party will collect and publish data on the forest resources of the ECE region, including both (a) general forest inventory data (e.g. area, growing stock, increment and drain) and (b) the supply of environmental and other non-wood benefits of the forest. This information is an essential basis for policy-making, planning and analysis at the national and international levels. The work will be carried out in close cooperation with FAO and the results integrated into FAO's global assessments. Developed countries outside the region are also covered in the temperate-zone assessments, which will be repeated at approximately 10 yearly intervals.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The results of the Forest Resource Assessment (temperate-zone) 1990 will be published in 1992. A team of specialists will be established in 1992 with the task of formulating proposals for the scope and contents of the temperate-zone part of the Forest Resource Assessment 2000. These proposals will be discussed in an FAO/ECE ad hoc meeting of experts on Global Forest Resource Assessment to be held in 1993. A study on the long-term historical changes of the forest resource in the developed temperate-zone countries will be undertaken in cooperation (subject to confirmation) with the North American Forestry Commission and IUFRO, the preliminary results of which will be presented to the joint session of the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission in 1993.

Duration: Continuing.

02(B).2.4. Forest fire statistics

Description: The Working Party engages in the exchange of information on forest fires, their causes and methods of prevention and protection and the costs involved. Cooperation is maintained with the Commission of the European Communities on matters related to forest fire statistics.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: Annual enquiries on forest fires are circulated and the results are published.

Duration: Continuing.

02(B).2.5. Productivity in the forest sector

Description: The Working Party collects statistics on and analyses 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, to Governments and other decision-makers to assist 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 team of specialists reviewed the question of productivity and profitability in the forest industries and formulated recommendations which were approved by the eighteenth session of the Working Party in 1991. A first draft study on productivity and profitability in the forest industries will be prepared for a review meeting in late 1992. A revised, draft study would be submitted to the Working Party in 1993 along with pilot studies on productivity in forestry. A study on productivity in forestry, prepared with the cooperation of the Confédération européenne de l'agriculture (CEA), will be presented to the Working Party at its nineteenth session.

Duration: Two years 1992-1993.

02(B).2.6. 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, for example in programme element 02(B).2.2.(c), (Classification and definitions). An ad hoc meeting on non-wood benefits of forests will be held, subject to a country offering the necessary facilities (linked with projects 02(B).1.4. and 02(B).2.3.). Arrangements are provided for interested experts in developing countries to receive Working Party documentation.

Duration: Continuing.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02(B).3 FOREST TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING

This programme activity covers the activities of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training, which normally meets biennially (1992, 1994, 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.

The Joint Committee also contributes to programme element 02(B).5.1. Programme of assistance to the economies in transition in central and eastern Europe.

02(B).3.1. Silvicultural operations and general management aspects

02(B).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 and to be undertaken:

(a) Seminars are held at intervals on selected items: in 1993 (country to be decided) on forest seed collection, treatment and storage; in 1994 in Poland (subject to confirmation) 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 held its third meeting in February 1991 and will complete the preparation of the Manual, for submission to the nineteenth session of the Joint Committee and publication. In addition, the team will prepare a framework for national reporting on experience in dealing with catastrophes for submission to the nineteenth session for approval.

(c) A team of specialists on afforestation techniques on agricultural land has been established to draw up a proposal for a seminar in 1994 for submission to the nineteenth session.

(d) A team of specialists on site damage risks has been established to draw up proposals on activities to implement the recommendations of the seminars held in Belgium in 1989 and in the Federal Republic of Germany in 1990 for submission to the nineteenth session of the Joint Committee.

Duration: (a) Continuing; (b) three years 1990-1992; (c) four years 1991-1994; (d) to be decided by the nineteenth session of the Joint Committee.

02(B).3.1.2. Forest fire prevention and control

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

Work accomplished and to be undertaken:

(a) The enlarged team of specialists will hold an ad hoc meeting on forest fire detection equipment in Italy or Poland (subject to confirmation).

(b) A seminar on forest fire prevention: land use and people was held in Greece in cooperation with the FAO Silva Mediterranea in October/November 1991.

(c) International Forest Fire News is issued on a regular basis (twice yearly).

Duration: (a): to be decided by the nineteenth session of the Joint Committee; (b): 2 years 1990-1991; (c) continuing.

02(B).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 to be undertaken: A seminar on the use of information systems in forest management will be held in Sweden in 1992.

Duration: Two years 1991-1992.

02(B).3.2. Wood harvesting and transport

02(B).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: The proceedings of the Seminar on the mechanization of harvesting operations in mountainous terrain, held in Turkey in 1989, were prepared for publication. A seminar on thinning operations was held in Denmark in 1991.

Work to be undertaken: Seminars on selected items will be held at intervals: in 1993 in the Russian Federation on the use of multifunctional machinery and equipment in logging operations; in 1994 on forest operations necessary and admissible in protected areas. The proceedings of the seminar on thinning operations will be published in 1992.

Duration: Continuing.

02(B).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: (a) A team of specialists will prepare proposals for an activity on forest roads as a basis for integrated forest management to submit to the nineteenth session of the Joint Committee, which will decide on further activities; (b) a study will be undertaken on the impact of road transport legislation on forest road construction, transport equipment and log transport for submission to the Joint Committee's nineteenth session, which will decide on possible follow-up; (c) a seminar will be held in Romania in 1993 (subject to confirmation) on forest roads (construction and maintenance) and raw material transport.

Duration: (a) and (b) to be decided by the nineteenth session of the Joint Committee; (c) two years 1992-1993.

02(B).3.3. Vocational training, applied ergonomics, occupational safety and health of forest workers

02(B).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: The proceedings of the Seminar on the training of professional forest workers, held in Finland in 1989, were published.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Seminars will be organized at intervals: in 1992 in the USA on the future of the forestry workforce; in 1995 or 1996 in Switzerland (subject to confirmation) on a topic related to vocational training in forestry.

(b) The ILO secretariat will prepare a study for the nineteenth session of the Joint Committee on the comparability of forest worker certificates of accreditation in different countries.

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

02(B).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: A seminar was held in 1990 in the United Kingdom on the use of pesticides in forestry. The proceedings were published in 1991.

Work to be undertaken: Seminars will be organized at intervals on selected problems: in 1993 on personal protective equipment and in 1994 on a topic related to ergonomics, safety and health.

Duration: Continuing.

02(B).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 accomplished: The Joint Committee's role in the transfer of forest technology in the ECE region was a special topic at the eighteenth session of the Joint Committee.

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 and to forestry students to attend the seminars of special interest for them.

(c) A task force will be established to assist developing countries in the event of forest catastrophes (linked with 02(B).3.1.1(b)).

Duration: Continuing.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02(B).4. ISSUES RELATED TO A SOUND AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOREST AND FOREST PRODUCTS
SECTOR

02(B).4.1. 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: Activities in this field are carried out by a team of specialists on wood energy, which works both on the exchange of technical information and on statistics and analysis of trends. A seminar on choice of technologies for combustion of wood and bark in the forest industries will be held, provided a host country is found. At its next meeting the team will prepare the seminar.

Duration: Continuing.

02(B).4.2. 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 Community, IIASA and IUFRO.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The team of specialists, having accomplished its work, was disbanded. The former team leader and a small group of experts will keep under review possible impacts of air pollution damage to forests on wood supply and forest product markets; liaise with the team of specialists on long-term forecasting methodologies (ETTS V); liaise with the ad hoc Working Group of the European Forestry Commission (large scale experiment on satellite sensing for forest damage assessment) and report to the Timber Committee on developments, as and when necessary.

Duration: Continuing.

02(B).4.3. Economic, silvicultural, ecological and technical problems of the rational use of forest biomass

Description: The Committee collects information on woody biomass on the basis of existing data in the ECE member countries and analyses the current situation and trends in the rational use of woody biomass. Special attention is 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 suitable ways of using forest resources in order to meet the requirements of their countries for all assortments of forests products, also taking into account environmental considerations and the sustainability of production.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The work has been carried out by a team of specialists led by the USSR, which made a progress report to the seventeenth session of the Working Party in 1989. The report was finalised in 1990. The Timber Committee will decide on further work at its fiftieth session.

Duration: To be determined.

02(B).4.4. Competitiveness of sawnwood

Description: A seminar will be held on competitiveness of sawnwood: it will identify the main factors affecting the competitiveness of sawnwood compared to other materials (e.g. cost factors, marketing, industry structure, innovation, impact on the environment, promotion) and, if possible, examine past trends and the outlook for the future. This exchange of information and experience will be useful to Governments developing policies for their sawmill sector, to industries wishing to make sawnwood more competitive, and as input to ETTS V (02(B).1.1).

Work to be undertaken: A preparatory meeting will be held when a host country has been identified. The seminar would take place in 1993, depending on an offer to act as host being received.

Duration: Three years to 1993.

02(B).4.5. 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, environmentally and economically better products to the consumer.

Work to be undertaken: A study tour related to the hardwood resource and its utilization will be held in the United States in 1994.

Duration: 1 year, 1994.

02(B).4.6. 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 wood 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. Information on storm damage in twelve countries in early 1990 was collected and disseminated.

Duration: Continuing.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02(B).5. ASSISTANCE TO THE ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

02(B).5.1. Programme of assistance to the economies in transition in central and eastern Europe

Description: The Committee will provide assistance to the economies in transition with respect to their forest and forest industries sector, notably by facilitating their access to the relevant experience of the market economies, and by help in training.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The Committee has ascertained which topics are of most interest to the transition countries and initiated a wide range of activities. Activities, notably workshops, are being organized in a flexible manner. At its annual sessions, the Committee is informed of results and invited to comment and decide on the direction of activities and the methods used. The status of activities carried out and planned in this programme element at present is as follows:

<u>THEME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
A. ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN 1991			
1. New technologies in the wood-based panels sector (ECE/TIM/SEM.14/2, Annex)	Gdansk (Poland)	20-24 May 1991	Recommendations summarized in TIM/R.192
2. Informal meeting on economies in transition in ETTS V (TIM/EFC/WP.2/R.20)	Geneva	13-14 May 1991	Recommended country profiles; pilot project on cross-impact simulation
3. Workshop on the organization and management of forestry under market economy conditions	Budapest (Hungary)	30 Sept. 4 Oct. 1991	Report available; proceedings under preparation
B. ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNDER TIMBER COMMITTEE AUSPICES			
4. Workshop on market research, market development, marketing and distribution of panel products (TIM/R.200)	To be determined	1992	Contribution of Finland to be determined).
5. Workshop on privatisation in the forest and forest industry sector	Germany	15-18 June 1992	Programme under preparation

6. Problems of transition of the countries of eastern Europe to market oriented economy (workshops) to be hosted by the Russian Federation) Moscow 1992
- C. ACTIVITIES UNDER JOINT TIMBER COMMITTEE/EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION (EFC) AUSPICES
7. Restoration of damaged forests (1-day workshop during study tour in CSFR) (TIM/R.201) CSFR 24-30 May 1992 Special discussion on this issue, which is of major importance for some transition countries
8. Informal FAO/ECE meeting to discuss strategies and coordination activities for transition in the forest and forest industries sector (EFC report (FO:EFC/91/Rep)) Austria 1992 (subject to confirmation) Suggested by EFC that it be held under joint auspices with Timber Committee
- D. ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE JOINT FAO/ECE/ILO COMMITTEE ON FOREST TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING
9. Workshop on commercial and economic aspects of wood raw material supply under market economy conditions Sweden 1993 Proposed that it be held under joint auspices of Joint Committee & Timber Committee
10. Workshop on questions related to the forest labour force under market economy conditions Poland ? (subject to confirmation)
- E. ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE JOINT FAO/ECE WORKING PARTY ON FOREST ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS
11. Workshop on land use planning (aménagement forestier et inventaire) France ? (subject to confirmation)

Duration: 3 years 1992-1994.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02(B).6. ISSUES ACCORDED SPECIAL PRIORITY BY THE COMMISSION OR THE COMMITTEE

02(B).6.1. Problems in the forestry and forest industry sector arising from radiation contamination, particularly from the Chernobyl disaster

Description: The Timber Committee will provide assistance to the Governments of the most seriously affected countries to find solutions to the problems caused to the forestry and forest industry sector in areas contaminated by radiation from the Chernobyl disaster.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: A team of specialists will be established under the auspices of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee and with the participation of other agencies, including the FAO/IAEA Division in Vienna, with the task of examining the forestry and forest industry problems created by the Chernobyl disaster and of making proposals for their solution, including international co-operative activities. It will meet in March 1992 in Gomel, Belarus to prepare a programme of action to be submitted to the nineteenth session of the the Joint Committee and the fiftieth session of the Timber Committee.

Duration: To be determined at the Committee's fiftieth session.

ANNEX II
TABULAR PRESENTATION OF TIMBER COMMITTEE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1992-1996

Programme element	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
<u>PROGRAMME 02(B) - TIMBER</u>	50th session of Timber Committee	51st session of Timber Committee, joint session with FAO European Forestry Commission	52nd session of Timber Committee	53rd session of Timber Committee	54th session of Timber Committee
	Study tour in the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic	Study tour in Belgium and the Netherlands	Study tour in the United States	Study tour in ... 1/	Study tour in ... 1/
PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02(B).1: ANALYSIS OF DEVELOPMENTS FOR FORESTRY AND FOREST PRODUCTS IN THE LONG-, MEDIUM- AND SHORT-TERM					
02(B).1.1. Appraisal of long-term timber trends and prospects	Preparation of ETTS V Ad hoc meeting on policy considerations for ETTS V	Working Party session presentation of draft outlines of ETTS V and to joint session	Completion of ETTS V draft	ETTS V review meeting Revision and publication of ETTS V	
02(B).1.2 Medium-term trends in industry structure and markets in specific forest products sectors	Sawnwood and sawlogs	Wood-based panels, including survey on structure of these industries	Wood-raw material, notably pulpwood and wood for energy	Sawnwood and sawlogs	Wood-based panels, including survey on structure of these industries
02(B).1.3. Review of short-term forest products market developments and prospects	Continuing: annual review by Committee of short-term prospects; preparation of <u>Annual Forest Products Market Review</u>				
02(B).1.4. Quantification and evaluation of the environmental and other non-wood benefits of forests	Ad hoc meeting on non-wood benefits of forests	Results of ad hoc meeting to be presented at joint session			
	Publication of relevant part of Forest Resource Assessment (temperature) 1990 (see 02(B).2.3)				
02(B).1.5. Trends, prospects and policies in forestry & forest products in southern Europe	As determined by the Committee				

1/ Host country to be decided.

TABULAR PRESENTATION OF TIMBER COMMITTEE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1991-1995 (cont.)

Programme element	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02(B).2.: COLLECTION, DISSEMINATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF FOREST AND FOREST PRODUCTS STATISTICS (Includes the main activities of the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics)					
02(B).2.1. Collection of forest products statistics and publication of the <u>Timber Bulletin</u>	Volume XLV (7 issues a year. Four of these contain forest products statistics (2 with annual and quarterly statistics on production and trade; one with annual data on trade flows; and one with price data). Of the other issues, two are market reviews and one is a special issue).	19th session of Working Party Volume XLVI	Volume XLVII	Volume XLVIII	Volume XLIX
02(B).2.2. Improvement of the quality of forest and forest products statistics (including their collection and dissemination systems)	Continuing review at each session of the Working Party				
02(B).2.3. Forest resource assessment	Publication of Forest Resource Assessment (Temperate-zone) 1990	Ad hoc meeting of experts on global forest resource assessment in ... 1/ Presentation of preliminary results or long-term forest resource changes in temperate zone countries to the Joint Session	Ad hoc meeting to review FAO/ECE Classification & Definitions of Forest Products (or 1994) Four-yearly survey on conversion factors at 19th session and publication in 1994	20th session of Working Party Volume XLVIII	
02(B).2.4. Forest fire statistics	Publication of results of annual surveys				
02(B).2.5. Productivity in the forest sector	Draft study to be presented to ad hoc review meeting	Revised draft study to be submitted to Working Party and published			

1/ Host country to be decided.

TABULAR PRESENTATION OF TIMBER COMMITTEE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1991-1995 (cont.)

Programme element	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
02(B).2.6. Transfer of economic and statistical methods and experience in the forest and forest products sector	Participation of experts from other regions, notably in projects 02(B).1.4., 02(B).2.2.(c) and 02(B).2.3. will be encouraged				
PROGRAMME ACTIVITIY 02(B).3: FOREST TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING (Covers the activities of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training)					
02(B).3.1. Silvicultural operations and general management aspects	19th session of Joint Committee in Italy	11th session of Steering Committee in ... 1/	20th session of Joint Committee in ... 1/	12th session of Steering Committee in ... 1/	21st session of Joint Committee in ... 1/
02(B).3.1.1 Development and use of methods and equipment for silvicultural operations, including stand establishment and multiple use forestry	Model Forest Damage Manual and a framework for reporting on experience in dealing with catastrophes to be submitted to 19th session and published	Seminar in ... 1/ on forest seed collection, treatment and storage	Seminar in Poland 2/ on afforestation techniques on abandoned agricultural land	Seminar in ... 1/ on techniques for safeguarding the survival and recovery of forests threatened by air pollution	
02(B).3.1.2 Forest fire prevention and control Biannual publication of International Forest Fire News					
02(B).3.1.3 Methods and procedures for the preparation and implementation of forest management plans	Seminar in Sweden on the use of information systems in forest management				
02(B).3.2. Wood harvesting and transport				Seminar in ... 1/ on topic to be decided	Seminar in ... 1/ on topic to be decided

1/ Host country to be decided.
2/ Subject to confirmation.

TABULAR PRESENTATION OF TIMBER COMMITTEE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1991-1995 (cont.)

Programme element	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
02(B).3.2.1 Development and use of harvesting machinery and systems		Seminar in the Russian Federation on the use of multifunctional machinery and equipment in logging operations	Seminar in ... 1/ on forest operations necessary admissible in protected areas		
02(B).3.2.2 Forest roads and transport of wood raw material	The 19th session will decide on further activities on: - forest roads as a basis for integrated forest management; and - the impact of road transport legislation	Seminar in Romania 2/ on forest roads (construction and maintenance) and raw material transport			
02(B).3.3. Vocational training, applied ergonomics, occupational safety and health of forest workers					Seminar in ... 1/ on topic to be decided
02(B).3.3.1 Vocational training in forestry	Seminar in USA on future of forestry workforce in the ECE region			Seminar in Switzerland ... 2/ on topic to be decided (or 1996)	
02(B).3.3.2 Applied ergonomics, safety and health in forest operations		Seminar in ... 1/ on a personal protective equipment	Seminar in ... 1/ on a topic related to ergonomics, safety and health		
02(B).3.3.3 Transfer of technical information and experience	Publication of seminar proceedings; provision by seminar host countries of fellowships for participants from developing countries				
	Task force to assist developing countries in the event of forest catastrophes (linked to 02(B).3.1.1)				
PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02(B).4: ISSUES RELATED TO A SOUND AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOREST AND FOREST PRODUCTS SECTOR					
02(B).4.1. Energy conservation and self-sufficiency in the mechanical wood-processing industries		Seminar in ... 1/ on choice of technologies of combustion of wood and bark in the forest industries (or in 1994)			

1/ Host country to be decided.
2/ Subject to confirmation.

TABULAR PRESENTATION OF TIMBER COMMITTEE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1991-1995 (cont.)

Programme element	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
02(B).4.2. Implications of air pollution and other damage to forests for wood supply and markets	The former team leader and a small group of experts will keep under review possible impacts of air pollution damage to forests and liaise with the team of specialists on long-term forecasting methodologies (ERTS V) and with the ad hoc Working Group "Impact of Air Pollution on Forests" of the European Forestry Commission				
02(B).4.3. Economic, silvicultural, ecological and technical problems of the rational use of forest biomass	As determined by the Committee				
02(B).4.4. Competitiveness of sawn-wood	Preparatory meeting to draw up proposals for the seminar in 1995				
02(B).4.5. Development of new products, markets and applications for forest products	Seminar in ... 1/ on competitiveness of sawn-wood (or in 1994)				
02(B).4.6. Information exchange on occurrences of sudden and severe damage to forests	Study tour in USA on the hardwood resource and its utilization				
02(B).4.6. Information exchange on occurrences of sudden and severe damage to forests	Countries where sudden and severe damage to forest occur should send an assessment of such damage to the secretariat for rapid circulation				
PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02(B).5: ASSISTANCE TO THE ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE					
02(B).5.1. Programme of assistance to the economies in transition in central and eastern Europe	The Committee reviews annually activities, notably workshops, through which it provides assistance to economies in transition with respect to their forest and forest industry sector.				
	Workshops or other activities are planned in Germany, the Russian Federation, the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Austria 1/, Sweden, Poland 1/ and France 1/				
PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02(B).6: ISSUES ACCORDED SPECIAL PRIORITY BY THE COMMISSION OR THE COMMITTEE					
02(B).6.1. Problems in the forestry and forest industry sector arising from radiation contamination, particularly from the Chernobyl disaster	Meeting in Belarus of team of specialists to prepare proposals for the Timber Committee and the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee				

1/ Host country to be decided.

ANNEX III

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE TIMBER COMMITTEE

The Timber Committee, as a Principal Subsidiary Body of the ECE, constitutes a forum for cooperation and consultation amongst its member countries.

The Timber Committee shall, within the context of sustainable development:

Provide member countries with the information and services which they need for policy- and decision-making as regards their forest and forest industry sector, including the trade and use of forest products ("the sector") and, when appropriate, formulate recommendations addressed to member Governments and interested organizations. To this end, it shall:

1. With the active participation of member countries, undertake short-, medium- and long-term analyses of developments in, and having an impact on, the sector, including those offering possibilities for the facilitation of international trade and for enhancing the protection of the environment;
2. In support of these analyses, collect, store and disseminate statistics relating to the sector, and carry out activities to improve their quality and comparability;
3. Provide the framework for cooperation e.g. by organizing seminars, workshops and ad hoc meetings and setting up time-limited ad hoc groups, for the exchange of economic, environmental and technical information between Governments and other institutions of member countries that is needed for the development and implementation of policies leading to the sustainable development of the sector and to the protection of the environment in their respective countries;
4. Carry out tasks identified by the Commission or the Committee as being of priority, including the facilitation of subregional cooperation and activities in support of the economies in transition of central and eastern Europe and of the countries of the region that are developing from an economic point of view;
5. it should also keep under review its structure and priorities and cooperate with other international and intergovernmental organizations active in the sector, and in particular with the FAO and its European Forestry Commission and with the ILO, in order to ensure complementarity and to avoid duplication, thereby optimizing the use of resources.

ANNEX IV

PROPOSED RANK ORDER OF PROGRAMME ELEMENTS
IN THE TIMBER COMMITTEE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1992-1996

<u>Rank order</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Title</u>
1	02(B).1.3	Review of short-term forest products market developments and prospects
2	02(B).1.1 <u>a/</u>	Appraisal of long-term timber trends and prospects
3	02(B).2.1 <u>a/</u>	Collection of forest products statistics and publication of the <u>Timber Bulletin</u>
4	02(B).2.3 <u>a/</u>	Forest resource assessment
5	02(B).5.1	Programme of assistance to the economies in transition in central and eastern Europe
6	02(B).1.4 <u>a/</u>	Quantification and evaluation of the environmental and other non-wood benefits of forests
7	02(B).1.2	Medium-term trends in industry structure and markets in specific forest products sectors
8	02(B).3.1 <u>a/</u>	Silvicultural operations and general management aspects
9	02(B).3.2 <u>a/</u>	Wood harvesting and transport
10	02(B).3.3 <u>a/</u>	Vocational training, applied ergonomics, occupational safety and health of forest workers
11	02(B).2.2 <u>a/</u>	Improvement of the quality of forest and forest products statistics (including their collection and dissemination systems)
12	02(B).2.5 <u>a/</u>	Productivity in the forest sector
13	02(B).6.1	Problems in the forestry and forest industry sector arising from radiation contamination, particularly from the Chernobyl accident
14	02(B).4.5	Development of new products, markets and applications for forest products
15	02(B).4.3	Economic, silvicultural, ecological and technical problems of the rational use of forest biomass
16	02(B).4.6	Information exchange on occurrences of sudden and severe damage to forests

a/ Joint activities with the European Forestry Commission, figuring also in its programme of work.

<u>Rank order</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Title</u>
17	02(B).2.4 <u>a/</u>	Forest fire statistics
18	02(B).2.6 <u>a/</u>	Transfer of economic and statistical methods and experience in the forest and forest products sector
19	02(B).4.4	Competitivity in sawnwood
20	02(B).4.2	Implications of air pollution and other damage to forests for wood supply and markets
21	02(B).4.1	Energy conservation and self-sufficiency in the mechanical wood-processing industries
22	02(B).1.5	Trends, prospects and policies in forestry and forest products in southern Europe

a/ Joint activities with the European Forestry Commission, figuring also in its programme of work.

ANNEX V

PROVISIONAL LIST OF MEETINGS IN 1992 AND 1993 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.

1992

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Title</u>
9-16 March	Gomel, Belarus	First meeting of the team of specialists on problems in the forestry and forest industry sector arising from radiation contamination, particularly from the Chernobyl disaster (B)
2-3 April	Geneva	Timber Committee Office-holders/EFC Executive Committee (B)
4-8 May	Corvallis, USA	Seminar on the future of the forestry workforce in the ECE region (A)
24-30 May	CSFR	Study tour/Workshop on forest regeneration in areas exposed to air pollution (A)
15-18 June	Bonn, Germany	Workshop on privatisation in forestry and forest industries (B)
14-18 September	Garpenberg, Sweden	Seminar on the use of information systems in forest management (A)
29 September- 1 October	Cosenza Italy	Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training, 19th session (A)
19-22 October	Geneva	ECE TIMBER COMMITTEE, 50th session (A)
23-25 November	Geneva	<u>Ad hoc</u> meeting on non-wood benefits of forests (B)
25-27 November	Geneva	<u>Ad hoc</u> meeting on policy considerations for ETTS V (B)

1993

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Title</u>
April (dates to be confirmed)	Geneva	Timber Committee Office-holders (B)
7-10 June	Geneva	Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, 19th session (A)
... August	Olenino, Russian Federation	Seminar on the use of multifunctional machinery and equipment in logging operations (A)
19-22 October or 25-29 October	Geneva	Joint session of the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission (A)
(Undecided)	(Undecided)	Seminar on forest seed collection, treatment and storage (A)
(Undecided)	Romania <u>1/</u>	Seminar on forest roads (construction and maintenance) and raw material transport (A)
(Undecided)	(Undecided)	Steering Committee of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee, 11th session (B)
(Undecided)	(Undecided)	Seminar on personal protective equipment
(Undecided)	Belgium & Netherlands	Study tour on forest management and forest industries in a densely populated region (A) <u>1/</u>
(Undecided)	(Undecided)	Seminar on competitiveness of sawnwood (A)
(Undecided)	(Undecided)	<u>Ad hoc</u> FAO/ECE meeting of experts on Global Forest Resource Assessment (B)

1/ Subject to confirmation.