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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS FIFTIETH SESSION (20-23 October 1992)

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Introduction

1. The Timber Committee held its fiftieth session at Geneva from 20 to 23 October 1992. The session was attended by representatives from the following countries : Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Yugoslavia.
2. The following intergovernmental organization participated : European Community (EC).
3. 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), United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).
4. The following non-governmental organizations were represented : European Confederation of Agriculture (CEA), European Confederation of Woodworking Industries (CEI-Bois), European Federation of Associations of Particle Board Manufacturers (FESYP), Organization of European Sawmilling Industries (OES), International Technical Association for Tropical Timber (ATIBT), International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA).
5. The delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, stated that it did not accept the automatic continuity of the membership of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in international organizations, including the United Nations, and took note of General Assembly resolution 47/1 which inter alia decided that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) should apply for membership in the United Nations and not participate in the work of the General Assembly. It regarded this resolution as a model for action in the specialized agencies and other UN bodies as appropriate.
6. The delegation of the USA associated itself with the statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom.
7. The delegation of the Russian Federation considered that this resolution only suspended Yugoslavia's right to participate in the work of the General Assembly but did not apply to regional economic commissions and that Yugoslavia had the right to take part in the Committee's session.
8. The delegation of Yugoslavia considered that General Assembly resolution 47/1 did not cover ECE; it expressed its wish to continue to participate positively in the work of the Commission and the hope that the Commission's activities should not be politicised.
9. Mr. Hinteregger, Executive Secretary of ECE drew attention to the letter of the UN Legal Counsel, which gives the understanding of the United Nations Secretariat regarding the practical consequences of resolution 47/1, namely that while representatives of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) can no longer participate in the work of the General Assembly, nor of its subsidiary organs, conferences and meetings convened by it, the resolution neither terminates nor suspends Yugoslavia's membership in the Organization. Consequently the resolution does not take away the right of Yugoslavia to participate in the work of the organs other than Assembly bodies.

10. Mr. Hinteregger addressed the Committee's fiftieth session. He recalled how the Committee had contributed over the years to the development of the forest and forest products sector and urged it to adapt further its activities in the light of Commission decisions, notably O(45) and the changing circumstances in the ECE region.

Adoption of the agenda (Item 1 of the agenda)

11. The provisional agenda, ECE/TIM/61, presented by the Chairman was adopted. With regard to the timetable, the delegation of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member states, while recognising the limitations on formal meetings, expressed the hope that, in future, consideration could be given to having the full market discussion (item 6) in formal session. The secretariat expressed its readiness to comply with this request to the extent possible within the limits of the time available for formal sessions and the time needed to cover all items of the agenda in formal session.

Matters arising from the forty-seventh session of the Commission (Item 2 of the agenda) (TIM/R.204)

12. The Committee was informed of the Commission's discussion of its work, and the decisions of the Commission. It took note of the views expressed by the Commission in relation to its work. It noted that the Commission had endorsed the report of the forty-ninth session of the Committee including its programme of work, ranking of priorities and its terms of reference. It also noted that the Commission had approved the proposal that the Joint Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics could meet at two year intervals with five half days formal session. It agreed to take account of these discussions and decisions, in particular when reviewing its programme of work.

13. With reference to operative paragraph 10 of the Commission's decision B(47) the Chairman, Mr. D. Darr, informed the Committee of the consultations held between the Chairman of the Commission, the Executive Secretary and the Bureau of the Timber Committee on 20 October. The Committee was invited, among other things, to strengthen cooperation with FAO and with other ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies and to develop further its activities along the lines of decision O(45). The problem of resources was discussed in relation to the increasing number of issues addressed by the Committee; the need to continue to set priorities among its programme elements was pointed out.

14. Another issue discussed was the lack of sufficient meeting time in formal session during the Committee's sessions. A supplementary half day of formal session (i.e. with interpretation) was considered desirable.

Sessions of subsidiary bodies, special meetings, teams of specialists and other activities since the forty-ninth session (Item 3 of the agenda)

(a) Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training, nineteenth session, Italy, September/October 1992 (TIM/EFC/WP.1/22)

15. The Committee was informed of the outcome of the Joint Committee's nineteenth session, held at Croce di Magara, Calabria, Italy from 29 September to 2 October 1992. An advance copy of the report in English only was available to delegates, and the Committee decided to give detailed

consideration to the report at its fifty-first session. In the meantime, it agreed on the following:

- (1) to associate itself fully with the European Forestry Commission in underlining the great value of the Joint Committee's work for countries in the ECE region and the need for adequate resources to be allocated for its activities to be maintained at current levels;
- (2) to endorse the Joint Committee's proposals for its programme of work for 1993-1997 and to incorporate them in its own programme;
- (3) to support the Joint Committee's intention to establish a small task force with the mandate to examine whether it was necessary to make changes to its terms of reference, its structure and methods of work; and if so to draw up proposals for submission first to its Steering Committee and then, amended if necessary, to its twentieth session;
- (4) to consider at its joint session with the European Forestry Commission in October 1993 the document, approved by the Joint Committee subject to certain changes and additions, synthesizing the conclusions and recommendations of meetings held since its eighteenth session that appeared to be particularly important from the policy point of view;
- (5) to give full support to the Joint Committee's request that interpretation facilities should be provided for five half-day sessions, rather than four as provided for in Commission decision 0(45). In transmitting its recommendation for this exemption to the application of that decision, it drew attention to the fact that the Joint Committee meets every two years, i.e. at longer intervals than the 18 months envisaged in decision 0(45), with a correspondingly larger volume of business to deal with.

16. The Committee expressed deep appreciation to the Government of Italy for the excellent organization and generous hospitality offered to the Joint Committee.

- (b) First meeting of experts on problems arising from radiation contamination, Belarus, March 1992 (TIM/R.206)

17. The Committee was informed of the results of :

- the first meeting of experts on forestry and forest industry problems arising from radiation contamination held in Gomel, Belarus, March 1992; and
- the small meeting of experts which had prepared a consolidated report, including recommendations for future work, on the impact of the Chernobyl nuclear power station accident on forestry in the contaminated areas of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine (Minsk, Belarus, July 1992, TIM/EFC/WP.1/R.108/Add.1).

18. The Committee took note of the recommendations of the experts and endorsed the activities to be undertaken by the team of specialists as agreed by the nineteenth session of the Joint ECE/FAO/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training (TIM/EFC/WP.1/22, paras. 56-61). The team of specialists will meet in April and September 1993 in the Russian Federation and Ukraine, respectively.

(c) Study tour in the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, May 1992 (TIM/R.207)

19. The Committee took note of the report on the study tour, including a one-day workshop, on the theme "forest regeneration in areas exposed to air pollution" organized under the joint auspices of the Committee and the European Forestry Commission of FAO. The Committee expressed concern over the problem of forest damage caused by air pollution. It endorsed the view expressed in paragraph 21 of the report that forests could not bear the burden of being a continuous sink for air pollution and emphasized the need for pollution abatement to remain a first priority leading to improved environmental conditions for forestry. It called for continued efforts at the international and national levels in this respect. It expressed high appreciation of the achievements of the foresters in the CSFR in developing forest regeneration methods to save forests in the "black triangle" which is heavily exposed to air pollution. The Committee also associated itself with the statement of the delegate of the Netherlands noting that in the CSFR there were also other causes for forest damage than air pollution, e.g. heavy deer population in forests; and with the view expressed that indigenous species should be used as much as possible in operations to regenerate damaged forest areas.

20. The Committee warmly thanked the Government of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic for having hosted the study tour and workshop; and extended its thanks to the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic for having successfully organized and carried out both events. The meeting noted that the workshop, which provided a forum for exchange of information, also constituted a valuable contribution to the activities of the Committee to assist countries in transition.

(d) Informal FAO/ECE meeting on public relations in the forestry and forest industry sector, United Kingdom, June 1992 (TIM/R.208)

21. The Committee approved the Rapporteurs' report of the informal FAO/ECE meeting, including its recommendations for further activities. It noted that members of the Executive Committee of the European Forestry Commission had also supported these recommendations. Specifically, the Committee agreed:

- (1) to include a programme element "public relations in the forest and forest industry sector" in its programme of work, which would be carried out jointly with the European Forestry Commission of FAO;
- (2) to establish a joint FAO/ECE team of public relations specialists with the initial task of reviewing the proposals of the informal meeting and preparing a draft for its terms of reference and programme of activities, as well as to start certain activities proposed by the informal meeting;
- (3) to invite countries to nominate a public relations specialist in the forestry and forest industry sector to join the team;
- (4) to request the team to submit its proposals, as indicated in (2) above, to its joint session with the European Forestry Commission in October 1993, as well as a progress report on its activities. The Committee urged the team, when preparing its proposals, to bear in mind that the proposed activities should be undertaken by the team of specialists and the member countries themselves and that only limited secretariat resources might be available;
- (5) to invite the United Kingdom to provide an interim leader of the team until it appointed a leader at its first meeting.

22. The delegation of France offered to provide host facilities for the first meeting of the team of specialists.

23. It was also suggested that the team, in cooperation with the secretariat, might examine the public relation activities of the Committee itself.

24. The Committee expressed its gratitude to the Government of the United Kingdom for the excellent arrangements made for the informal meeting.

(e) Other activities

25. Mr. L. Schotte (Sweden), to whom the Committee's forty-ninth session had given responsibility for informing it about the issue of air pollution and other damage to forests for wood supply and markets (programme element 02(B).4.2), informed the Committee of the work being undertaken in the framework of the large scale experiment on satellite sensing for forest damage assessment. The advisory board of the project had met in 1992 in Prague, Warsaw and St. Andreasberg. UNEP-GRID was coordinating the activities, including searching for solutions for further funding.

26. The Committee was informed of the results of the submission which the joint FAO/ECE secretariat had forwarded for consideration by the CCC Harmonized System Review Sub-Committee on Chapter 44 of the Harmonized System (HS). As requested by the Committee at its preceding two sessions, the submission mainly contained the request to reinstate under heading 44.03 the former subdivision into sawlogs, pulpwood, and other industrial wood in the rough. The Sub-Committee dealt with the FAO/ECE proposal in 4 sections as follows:

- (a) concerning the expression "roughly squared" in 4403 it recommended no change to the heading, text or notes of 44.03. An exclusion is added to the explanatory note of 44.07 as follows "wood roughly squared by coarse sawing (included in heading 4403)";
- (b) concerning 4403.10 a CCC secretariat proposal to amend the heading to read "treated with paint, stains, creosote or other long term preservatives" was supported but the proposal remains conditional;
- (c) the proposal to reintroduce three basic categories "sawlogs", "pulpwood", "other" received no support from any country;
- (d) the proposal to introduce the subcategory of other tropical woods 4403.39 and 4407.29 was supported by a submission of EEC, which received general support from the Sub-committee. This would be adopted with a note to chapter 44 "for purposes of this chapter the expression "tropical wood means one of the following types of wood". The pilot names of the species were listed. The EEC also proposed that the groups under 4403.3, 4407.2 and 4408.2 be replaced by a list of species and "other". The remaining discussion on chapter 44 dealt with separate identification of waferboard and oriented strandboard in particle board of other ligneous material.

27. The Committee took note of these results, regretted the decision not to sub-divide the category of industrial wood in the rough, and recommended that the implications be studied by the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, on the basis of recommendations by a meeting to be convened in 1993.

FAO/ECE Forest Resource Assessment (temperate zones) 1990: main findings
(Item 4 of the agenda) (ECE/TIM/60; TIM/R.209)

28. The Committee was informed of the results and main findings of the UN-ECE/FAO 1990 Forest Resource Assessment (temperate zones). It took note that the publication "The Forest Resources of the Temperate Zones: Main findings of the UN-ECE/FAO 1990 Forest Resource Assessment" (ECE/TIM/60) was issued in June 1992; that Volume I - "General Forest Resource Information" (ECE/TIM/62) was published in October 1992; and that Volume II - Benefits and Functions of the Forest" is being prepared for publication by the end of 1992.

29. The Committee warmly welcomed these important publications and confirmed that the joint session with the FAO European Forestry Commission to be held in October 1993 should include as a main topic on its agenda the policy implications of the results and findings of the Global Forest Resource Assessment 1990, of which the temperate zone assessment constitutes an important element.

30. The Committee noted the need to collect and disseminate forest resource data on the new independent countries of central and eastern Europe (e.g. constituents of the former USSR and former Yugoslavia). It requested the secretariat to send out a questionnaire to collect essential data from the above mentioned countries. The results will be reported to the next session of the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party and published in a supplement to the 1990 Assessment.

31. The Committee approved the proposal that an ad hoc FAO/ECE meeting of experts on the next global forest resource assessment should be convened for the purpose of drawing-up recommendations for follow-up to the 1990 assessment and preparations for the Assessment 2000. It welcomed the offer of Finland to organize the ad hoc meeting of experts in May 1993.

32. The Committee endorsed the proposal by the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economies and Statistics to carry out a pilot study on long-term changes in temperate-zone forest resources. Several countries (France, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom) expressed their interest in and support for this project as well as their readiness to undertake national pilot studies. The Committee requested the secretariat to explore with other countries the possibility of preparing similar studies, with the objective of achieving a good geographic coverage. It agreed that the results should be submitted to its joint session with the European Forestry Commission in October 1993 which should decide whether to extend the study to other countries.

European timber trends and prospects study (ETTS V): progress report
(Item 5 of the agenda) (TIM/R.210 and Add.1)

33. The Committee was informed of progress on the study, and noted that the "core team" would meet in Geneva on 23-25 November. It endorsed the proposals of the informal meeting of experts on the outlook for economies in transition in ETTS V, which had suggested that, after an initial stage of data collection and validation, resulting in the publication of country profiles, national correspondents in transition countries should prepare scenarios for the future, according to an outline to be prepared by the secretariat. These outlines should be discussed and compared at a meeting, published in full and synthesized in ETTS V. Meanwhile consultations should be carried out with the countries of the CIS on the desirability of holding a meeting in Moscow in early 1993 to examine outlook studies for these countries.

34. The Committee agreed that ETTS V should cover Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, in addition to the area covered by ETTS IV.

35. It urged national correspondents who had not yet done so to provide complete replies to the enquiry on long-term roundwood supply, using estimates when necessary. It was essential to have 100% coverage of the region in this respect. As a last resort, if no national estimates were provided, the secretariat should prepare its own and submit them for comment by the correspondents.

36. It noted with regret that it had been necessary to postpone to 1993 the ad hoc meeting to prepare the outlook study for non-wood benefits, as well as the ad hoc meeting on the policy context for ETTS V.

37. The Committee considered that ETTS V should examine the consequences for the forest resource of the various scenarios to be proposed, as well as compare the forecast level of removals with the forest potential. The review meeting, planned for 1994, should identify consequences for policy, which should be brought to the attention of the joint session of the parent bodies. ETTS V should also examine, to the extent possible with the resources available, the consequences of the scenarios for the CO₂ balance, as well as possible acidification of soils.

38. Finally, the Committee warmly thanked all countries which were contributing to the study by nominating correspondents and supplying data and in particular those countries which had made available extra financial or human resources to the secretariat team. It urged all countries to consider what further support they might be able to offer.

Market developments in 1992 and prospects for 1993 (Item 6 of the agenda) (TIM/R.211)

39. The Committee's discussion on the forest products markets was based on national reports and statistics, countries' estimates for 1992 and 1993, and the secretariat's Annual Forest Products Market Review (Volume XLV, No. 3 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 1992 and 1993 and other tabular material, in Forest Products Markets in 1992 and Prospects for 1993 (Volume XLV, No. 5 of the Timber Bulletin).

40. During the discussion on the wood-based panels markets, it was recalled that this was the fifth year since the Committee started collecting forecasts on MDF separately from other fibreboard. In view of the good response from countries, the Committee requested the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party to consider showing MDF statistics separately as a sub-category of fibreboard in the Timber Bulletin on a permanent basis.

41. The Committee urged all delegations to ensure that questionnaires were returned by the deadlines indicated, and asked the secretariat to follow up with delegations the question of improving the quality of the short-term forecasting.

Special topic: The implication of selected environmental and ecological developments on the forest and forest products sector in the ECE region (Item 7 of the agenda) (TIM/R.212)

42. Mr. H. Stinshoff (Germany) made a presentation on regulations on packaging and recycling in Germany, based on legislative and administrative measures concerning the reduction of wastes and the recycling of wood-based packaging and transport material. The Committee thanked Mr. Stinshoff for the excellent presentation which was followed by a discussion.

43. The Committee recalled the Commission decision E(47) - Cooperation in the field of environment and sustainable development - and noted the increasing importance that the recycling of wastes and related issues had for the forest and forest products sector; it accordingly agreed to set up a team of specialists. At its first meeting the team should review the question and prepare proposals for activities. The delegation of France offered to lead this group, and to convene the first meeting. Several countries, including some in transition, expressed their interest in participating in this work.

Assistance to countries in transition related to the forestry and forest products sector (Item 8 of the agenda) (TIM/R.213)

44. The Committee was informed of the activities that had been carried out in accordance with the programme of assistance to the economies in transition in central and eastern Europe (programme element 02(B).5.1). A number of delegations expressed appreciation for the work done and stressed the usefulness of the workshops and the informal meeting held in 1992. The representative of the Commission of the European Communities informed the Committee of the interest of his organization in the programme of assistance to the economies in transition and noted that it was considering its possibilities to offer support.

(a) National reports by countries in transition

45. The Committee was informed of the main issues contained in the reports that a number of countries had made available for the session. Particular attention was given to problems encountered in the reform process and to the needs for international assistance identified by the countries concerned. The particular importance and value of country reports for the better understanding of ongoing developments and of progress being achieved in the forest and forest products sector was reiterated. The Committee held the view that the countries concerned should continue to make available such reports to the Committee, in particular for its forthcoming joint session with the European Forestry Commission. These reports should address problems, while the needs for assistance should be highlighted.

(b) Workshop on privatization in forestry and forest industries, Germany, June 1992

46. The Committee was informed of the programme, conclusions and recommendations of the workshop. It took note of the report which was made available to delegations and was informed that the proceedings had been published by the host country. It endorsed the recommendation which invited the countries in transition to take account of the findings of the workshop when preparing or implementing privatization measures.

47. The Committee expressed deep appreciation to the Government of Germany for having hosted the workshop and to the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry for the excellent organization.

(c) Workshop on problems of countries in transition to a market economy, Russian Federation, September 1992

48. The Committee was informed of the programme and content of the workshop which covered a variety of aspects related to the establishment of market structures in the forest complex in countries in transition. It took note of the report which was made available to delegations and of the proceedings which had been prepared by the organizers of the workshop. The workshop was

held in Moscow at the invitation of the Government of the Russian Federation, and organized by the All-Russian Research Institute of Economics and Information for Timber, Pulp and Paper and Woodworking Industries (VNIPIEILesprom) under the auspices of the Department of Forests, Pulp and Paper and Woodworking Industries of the Ministry of Industry of the Russian Federation.

49. The Committee expressed deep appreciation to the host authorities for the excellent preparation and efficient implementation of the workshop and noted the broad coverage of the problems in the papers presented by speakers from both the Russian Federation and other member countries of ECE. It took note of the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report and suggested that the countries concerned should take them into account in their policy formation.

(d) Informal ECE/FAO meeting on strategies for, and coordination of assistance to countries in transition, Austria, October 1992

50. The Committee was informed of the results of the meeting which was held in Ossiach (Austria) from 5 to 8 October at the invitation of the Government of Austria and was organized by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in cooperation with the secretariat. The Committee took note of the report which was made available to delegations; it contained conclusions and recommendations and, in particular, proposals formulated by the informal meeting for consideration by the Committee and the European Forestry Commission to further develop their programmes to assist countries in transition in the forest and forest products sector.

51. The meeting had identified three programme areas and several themes as being of major importance for countries in transition and for inclusion in international (multilateral and bilateral) assistance programmes (see annex IV). The Committee endorsed the proposal and decided to take it into consideration as a basis for the further development of its programme activity 02(B).5. The Committee also took note of the priorities identified by the meeting and of the proposals for methods of work deemed appropriate for assistance activities. It urged member countries to give full attention to the recommendations of the meeting. In particular, it invited member countries of ECE and FAO, as well as international organizations concerned such as UNDP, the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Commission of the European Communities, to consider the possibility of supporting activities related to the proposed themes which are listed in annex IV. Countries in transition should find them useful as references when preparing requests for multilateral or bilateral assistance.

52. The Committee expressed deep appreciation to the Government of Austria for having hosted and organized the informal meeting, including the study visit, and welcomed the comprehensive, balanced and forward looking proposals made by the meeting.

Activities of other Principal Subsidiary Bodies of ECE of concern to the Timber Committee (Item 9 of the agenda) (TIM/R.214)

53. The Committee was informed of the 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.

54. With regard to the evaluation of ECE statistical publications being undertaken by the Conference of European Statisticians in accordance with Commission decision 0(45), the Committee was informed that the Conference will carry out further work on this subject in cooperation with the Principal Subsidiary Bodies concerned. To this end it had prepared an enquiry that was made available to delegations. They were invited to complete and return it to the secretariat by 15 November 1992.

55. The Committee reiterated the view that its publications were an invaluable, and often unique, source of information on the forest and forest products sector. It recalled that it had rank ordered collection and publication of statistics number 3 among the priorities of its programme elements. It also noted that under programme element 02(B).2.2. - Improvement of the quality of forest and forest products statistics (including their collection and dissemination systems), the Working Party periodically reviews the quality of the data collected to make sure that it corresponds to the needs of Governments and makes recommendations as appropriate.

Activities of FAO and other international organizations of relevance to the Timber Committee (Item 10 of the agenda) (TIM/R.215)

56. The Committee was informed that the thirty-third session of the FAO Advisory Committee of Experts on Pulp and Paper (Rome, May 1992) had reviewed developments in the sector with reference to pulp and paper capacities. It gave special attention to environmental questions and the use of recovered fibre. It heard the special report of a subgroup on the environment considering standards for emission control in the pulp and paper industry of developing countries (FO: PAP/92/Report).

57. The Tropical Forestry Action Programme (TFAP) currently actively involved some 86 developing countries. An ad hoc group of the FAO Council had prepared recommendations on an international consultative mechanism on TFAP for the consideration of the FAO Council in November 1992.

58. The Committee was also informed that the FAO Committee on Forests (COFO) would meet in March 1993 and that the FAO Regional Conference for Europe in August 1992 had examined the potential uses for marginal agricultural land, including forestry.

59. The UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992 had devoted considerable attention to forests. It had adopted the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21 and the statement of principles for a global consensus on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests, as well as prepared for signature two conventions one on climate change and another on biodiversity. The UN General Assembly was considering the follow-up action to UNCED and finalising arrangements for the establishment of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

60. The Committee was also informed of:

- the preparations for the second Interministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (Helsinki, 14-16 June 1993);
- the resolution of the Forestry Commission of the European Confederation of Agriculture, accepted by its General Assembly on 3 September 1992 in Stockholm;

- the preparations for a seminar in Montreal, Canada, under the auspices of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), on sustainable development of boreal and temperate forests (27 September - 6 October 1993), in which the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission would be invited to participate;
- preparations for the foundation of the European Forest Institute in Finland;
- the survey being carried out by International Forestry Students Association (IFSA), on the coverage of international aspects in forestry education, which would be presented to the joint session in October 1993.

61. With regard to the latter activity, the Committee agreed that efforts should be made to involve forestry students more in international activities. It urged member countries to consider making arrangements (e.g. fellowships) to encourage this.

Programme of work (Item 11 of the agenda)

(a) Review of programme of assistance in support of the economies of central and eastern Europe in transition (TIM/R.216)

62. The Committee took account of the proposals made under item 8 of the agenda (paras. 44-52), to further develop its programme of activities to assist countries in transition. Particular consideration was given to the results of the discussion under item 8(d). The Committee, consequently, agreed that the proposed programme areas and the themes for assistance (see annex IV) should be incorporated in its programme of work.

63. The Committee considered and endorsed the proposal to set up a team of specialists jointly with the European Forestry Commission (EFC) with the task of monitoring activities in support to countries in transition and preparing further programme activities for consideration by the forthcoming joint session of the Committee and the EFC (October 1993). The Committee agreed that the team should take full account of the proposals by the informal meeting held in Ossiach in the performance of its work.

64. A number of countries (Russian Federation, Finland, United Kingdom) and the EC expressed interest in participating in the work of the team. The secretariat was requested to contact these and other member countries and ask for the nomination of experts.

65. Several countries and the representative of the Commission of the European Communities expressed their interest either in hosting a workshop or contributing to such activities. The Committee noted that Poland, the Russian Federation, the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Romania and Hungary were considering their possibilities to host workshops. Finland was considering supporting a workshop to be hosted by Hungary. The Committee urged other member countries and organizations also to consider supporting the programme of assistance.

(b) Study tour in Belgium and the Netherlands in 1993 (TIM/R.217)

66. The Committee was informed that the study tour in Belgium and the Netherlands will be held under the joint auspices of the Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission from 9 to 15 May 1993. The theme of the tour will be: "Wood supply and the balance between wood production and other functions of the forest in densely populated countries". The provisional

programme of the tour was presented. It will include a one day seminar to discuss the main topics of the visits: the multiple functions of the forest, particularly wood production and non-wood benefits; forest expansion in densely populated regions; and the valuation of non-wood products.

67. The delegate of the United States of America gave preliminary information on the preparation of the study tour related to the hardwood resource and its utilization, that his country will host in 1994.

(c) Review and revision of the draft programme of work for 1993-1997 (TIM/R.218)

68. The Committee considered its draft programme of work for 1993-1997, prepared by the secretariat on the basis of the relevant decisions of the Commission, the Committee's previous programme, the programmes of its subsidiary bodies and the recommendations of seminars and teams of specialists. The Committee was also informed of the availability of secretariat resources to carry out its programme. The Committee approved its programme of work for 1993-1997, as set out in annexes I and II. It also reviewed and approved the rank order of its programme elements for submission to the forty-eighth session of the Commission (annex III).

69. As regards programme element 02(B).1.5 - Trends, prospects and policies in forestry and forest products in southern Europe, the Committee was informed that although no definite offers had been received, one southern European country, Turkey, had expressed interest in hosting a meeting on marketing of forest products. It asked the secretariat to explore this possibility with the Turkish authorities.

70. For 02(B).3.2.2. (a) - the Committee asked the secretariat to consult with the Romanian authorities about whether the proposed seminar should be postponed from 1993 or transformed into a workshop.

71. The Committee noted the increased interest in wood energy, for instance as an outlet for small wood, and considered this important question required renewed attention. It requested the secretariat to reanimate the activities of the team of specialists (element 02(B).4.1) and widened its mandate to include all questions related to generating energy from wood, not only conservation and self-sufficiency in the mechanical processing industries. A first activity should be to participate in the examination of wood energy issues in ETTS V. The new formulation of the element brought it close to the former programme element - Economic, silvicultural, ecological and technical problems of the rational use of forest biomass, and the two elements should be merged.

(d) Joint session of the ECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission in 1993 (TIM/R.219)

72. The Committee was informed of the main items proposed for the agenda and the practical arrangements. It requested the forthcoming meeting of its office-holders with the Executive Committee of the EFC to decide on these matters, including the question of whether the joint session should take place in Geneva or Rome. It supported the proposal for the dates of the session to be 18-22 October 1993.

Election of officers (Item 12 of the agenda)

73. The Committee re-elected Mr. D. Darr (United States of America) Chairman and Messrs. D. Lipman (Russian Federation) and P. Lavarde (France) Vice-Chairmen. They will hold office until the end of the fifty-first session.

Other business (Item 13 of the agenda)

74. The Committee expressed its sincere appreciation and heartfelt thanks to Mr. T.J. Peck, Director of the ECE/FAO Agriculture and Timber Division, who had served the Committee for over 30 years and was due to retire in January 1993. His qualities of professionalism, dedication, patience, realism and leadership had made an immense contribution to all parts of the Committee's work.

75. To honour the Committee's fiftieth session, a tree (Pinus nigra) was planted in the park of the Palais des Nations and donated to the United Nations.

Adoption of the report of the Committee's session (Item 14 of the agenda)

76. The Committee adopted the present report of its fiftieth session.

Date and place of next session

77. See para. 72 above.

ANNEX I

TIMBER COMMITTEE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1993-1997

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 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. A group of experts made proposals to the Committee's fiftieth session on suitable forecasting methodologies to be applied in ETTS V, to the countries of central and eastern Europe in transition. An ad hoc meeting on the policy context, on the basis of which forestry and timber trends and prospects will be analysed in ETTS V, will be convened in early 1993, according to the recommendations of a preparatory meeting in November 1992. 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 as well as the survey of trends in wood-based panels are carried out on a 3-year cycle (1993, 1996, etc.), and the survey of the structure of the sawmilling industry on a 6-year cycle (next in 1997). The results of the 1990 survey on the structure of the sawmilling industry were published (Timber Bulletin, Vol. XLIV, No. 2). The survey on trends of wood raw material, notably pulpwood, and wood for energy will be published in 1994.

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 forecasts 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 broadleaved (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 be convened in spring 1993, to:

- (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, including its recommendations for future activities, 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: The secretariat will explore with the Turkish authorities the possibility of hosting a seminar, possibly on marketing. Future activities to be determined at the fifty-first session.

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.) with five formal half-day sessions as decided by the forty-seventh session of the Commission. It cooperates with the Conference of European Statisticians. The Working Party is also responsible for some programme elements under other 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 FAO and 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 will consult with the bodies responsible for international multi-sector classifications (e.g. HS, PRODCOM, CPC) in order to ensure that the interests of the wood products sector are recognised. Following the decisions of the Customs Cooperation Council on modifying Chapter 44 of the Harmonized System, an informal meeting to be convened in 1993 will prepare recommendations on the classification of roundwood trade to be used in future by ECE/FAO and FAO. These recommendations will be submitted to the Working Party's nineteenth session in 1993;

(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) ECE/FAO publications: An ad hoc meeting, to be convened in spring 1993, 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:

(a) Forest resource assessment (temperate zone) 1990: The results of the Forest Resource Assessment (temperate-zone) 1990 are being published in 1992;

(b) FAO/ECE ad hoc meeting of experts on global forest resource assessment: Proposals will be formulated for the scope and contents of the temperate-zone part of the Forest Resource Assessment 2000. These proposals will be discussed in the third FAO/ECE ad hoc meeting of experts on Global Forest Resource Assessment to be held in May 1993 in Finland, which will make recommendations to the Working Party on further activities;

(c) Study of long-term historical changes of the forest resource: 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 FAO/North American Forestry Commission, IUFRO and the European Forestry Institute (EFI) to be founded in 1993. The secretariat, with consultant help, will prepare an outline for the study, coordinate inputs by member countries to a pilot study and present the preliminary results to the joint session of the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission in October 1993. The joint session will decide on further activities.

(d) Forest resources of newly constituted countries: The secretariat will circulate to the authorities of countries constituted since the carrying out of the 1990 Assessment an abbreviated enquiry and publish the information obtained as a supplement to the full Assessment.

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 early 1993. A revised, draft study would be submitted to the Working Party at its nineteenth session in June 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, which will make proposals on further activities.

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 (1994, 1996, 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 Activity 02(B).5: Assistance to the economies in transition in central and eastern Europe; and to Programme Element 02(B).6.1: Problems in the forestry and forest industry sector arising from radiation contamination, particularly from the Chernobyl disaster.

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 (year and host 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 (host country to be decided) on multiple use forestry.

(b) The team of specialists on a Model Forest Damage Manual held its third meeting in February 1991 and has completed the Manual for publication in 1993.

(c) A team of specialists on afforestation techniques on agricultural land has been established to draw up the programme for a seminar in 1994 in Poland (subject to confirmation).

(d) A team of specialists on site damage risks has been established to draw up proposals for the implementation of the recommendations of the seminars held in Belgium in 1989 and in the Federal Republic of Germany in 1990. The results of the team's work will be presented to the Joint Committee's twentieth session.

(e) A seminar or other activity will be organized in 1996 or later on silviculture and forest operations suitable in coppice stands in the Mediterranean region (host country to be decided).

(f) A team of specialists on multiple use forestry is being established.

Duration: (a) Continuing; (b) four years 1990-1993; (c) and (d) four years 1991-1994; (e) two years 1995-1996; (f) three years 1993-1995.

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) 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. The proceedings will be published in 1992.

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

(c) A team of specialists is being established to follow-up the recommendations of the seminar on forest fire prevention, land use and people.

Duration: (b) continuing; (c) two years 1993-1994.

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 accomplished and to be undertaken:

(a) A seminar on the use of information systems in forest management was held in Sweden in 1992; the proceedings will be issued in 1993.

(b) The Steering Committee will consider treating information systems as a special topic at the Joint Committee's twentieth session.

(c) The twentieth session will decide on the setting up of a team of specialists on information systems in forestry.

Duration: (b) one year 1994; (c) decision by twentieth session of Joint Committee.

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: A seminar on thinning operations was held in Denmark in 1991 and the proceedings published in 1992.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Seminars on selected items will be held at intervals: in 1993 (22-28 August, to be confirmed) in the Russian Federation on the use of multifunctional machinery and equipment in logging operations.

(b) A workshop will be held in 1993 in Greece (subject to confirmation) on harvesting and silviculture in degraded forests.

Duration: (a) continuing; (b) one year 1993.

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 and maintenance 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 seminar or other activity will be organized in 1993 (or later) in Romania on forest roads (construction and maintenance) and raw material transport.

(b) A team of specialists will be established on forest roads as a basis for integrated forest management.

Duration: (a) and (b) two years 1993-1994.

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: A seminar on the future of the forestry workforce was held in the USA in 1992 and the proceedings prepared for publication.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Seminars will be organized at intervals: in 1994 or 1995 in Portugal on forest worker training in Mediterranean countries; in 1995 (or 1996) in Switzerland on a topic related to vocational training in forestry.

(b) A study will be carried out in 1993, in co-operation with the Swiss Federal Forest Service, on professions, skills and training in forestry comparing the qualifications attained in forestry-related occupations in ECE member countries.

(c) An international network will be established, under the direction of ILO, on the forestry workforce.

Duration: (a) and (c) continuing; (b) one year 1993.

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: The proceedings of the seminar held in the United Kingdom on the use of pesticides in forestry were published in 1991.

Work to be undertaken: Seminars will be organized at intervals on selected problems: in 1994 in Finland on personal protective equipment.

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

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. Use of wood for energy

Description: The Committee collects information, analyses trends, and encourages the exchange of information on the use of wood for energy and on energy conservation.

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. The team will help to analyse the replies to the enquiry on future use of wood for energy being circulated in connection with ETTS V, and consider what further actions it might undertake.

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. Public relations in the forestry and forest industries sector

Description: The Committee will promote the exchange of information in the field of public relations with the objective of making available high quality information about the sector and creating a positive image of forestry and the forest industry.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: An informal meeting in June 1992 reviewed the situation and prepared preliminary proposals. A team of specialists will meet in France with the initial task of reviewing the proposals of the informal meeting and preparing draft terms of reference and a proposed programme of activities. Future activities will be as decided by the joint session of the Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission, co-sponsors of this activity.

Duration: To be determined by the Committee's fifty-first session.

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: The seminar will take place in Sweden in 1994 (subject to confirmation).

Duration: Three years to 1994.

02(B).4.5. Development of new products, recycling, markets and applications for forest products

Description: The Committee furthers the exchange of information and experience on new products, recycling 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. A team of specialists, led by France, will review the question of wood packaging, recycling and reduction of waste and its consequences for the sector, and present proposals for future work to the Committee's fifty-first session.

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.

Duration: Continuing.

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

02(B).5.1. Activities to assist countries in transition to a market economy

Description: In line with the Commission's decisions O(45), B(46) and D(47), the Committee will provide assistance to the countries concerned, in order to promote the process of economic reform and transition to a market economy in their forest and forest product sector, notably by means of workshops, symposia, other similar informal fora and expert missions. Cooperation, including financial support, will be sought from member countries, competent international and intergovernmental institutions, the business community and private donors. The Committee's activities will be planned and carried out in close cooperation with the European Forestry Commission of FAO. The topics and themes to be included in this programme shall be in line with the priorities and needs seen by the countries concerned.

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. A team of specialists, under the joint auspices of the Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission, will monitor activities and prepare further programme activities for consideration by the joint session of the Committee and the Commission in 1993. The informal FAO/ECE meeting at Ossiach (October 1992) identified the following programme areas and special issues which were endorsed by the Committee as a basis for the further development of the joint Timber Committee/European Forestry Commission programme of assistance:

Programme area I

Institution building and framework conditions; building of the legal and policy infrastructure for sustainable development of the forestry and forest products sector.

Programme area II

Activities related to the development of economically sound enterprises in the forestry and forest products sector.

Special issues

- (a) Issues of general importance for the protection of forests, forest conservation and sustainable development of the forest sector.
- (b) Issues of concern for individual countries or groups of countries.

(The list of more detailed "themes" identified by the Ossiach informal meeting is set out in annex IV).

The status of activities carried out and planned under this programme element is as follows:

I. ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN 1991 AND 1992

1. First meeting of a team of specialists to prepare activities in support of countries in transition, held under the auspices of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training, Garmatpuzta (Hungary), October 1990.
2. Seminar on new technologies in the wood-based panels sector (ECE/TIM/SEM.14/2, Annex), Gdansk (Poland), May 1991. Recommendations summarized in TIM/R.192.
3. Informal meeting on economies in transition in ETTS V (TIM/EFC/WP.2/R.120), Geneva, May 1991.
4. Workshop on the organization and management of forestry under market economy conditions, Budapest (Hungary), September/October 1991. Report and proceedings available (TIM/EFC/WP.1/R.107).
5. Workshop on forest regeneration in areas exposed to air pollution in connection with the study tour in CSFR (25 to 30 May 1992), Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, May 1992. Report available (TIM/R.207).
6. Workshop on privatisation in the forest and forest industry sector, Bonn-Röttgen (Germany), June 1992. Report and proceedings available (TIM/R.213).
7. Workshop on the problems of creation and activities of market structures in the forest complex, Moscow (Russian Federation), 21-26 September 1992. Report and proceedings available (TIM/R.213).
8. Informal FAO/ECE meeting on strategies for assistance to countries in transition, Ossiach (Austria), 5-8 October 1992 (held under joint auspices of the European Forestry Commission and the Timber Committee). Report available (TIM/R.213).

II. ACTIVITIES PLANNED

A. UNDER TIMBER COMMITTEE AUSPICES

9. Workshop on market research, market development, marketing and distribution of sawmilling products. Hungary (subject to confirmation) 1994 (in cooperation with Finland).

B. UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE JOINT FAO/ECE/ILO COMMITTEE ON FOREST TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING

10. Workshop on commercial, economic and technical aspects of wood raw material supply in a market economy, Garpenberg (Sweden), June 1993. Proposal that it be held under joint auspices of Joint Committee and Timber Committee (TIM/EFC/WP.1/R.115, Annex II).
11. Workshop on questions related to the forest labour force under market economy conditions, host country to be decided, date to to be decided.

C. UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE JOINT FAO/ECE WORKING PARTY ON FOREST ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS

12. Workshop on forest management planning (aménagement forestier) and inventory, France (subject to confirmation), date to be decided.

D. UNDER JOINT TIMBER COMMITTEE AND EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION AUSPICES

13. Workshop on guidelines for the development of legislation for forestry and the forest products sector, 1993, host country and place to be decided.

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 Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture 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. A first meeting of experts was held in March 1992 in Gomel, Belarus and a small meeting of experts prepared a consolidated report in Minsk, Belarus, in July 1992. It contains recommendations which have been approved by the 19th session of the Joint Committee as basis for the work to be undertaken by the team (TIM/EFC/WP.1/22, para. 57). The team of specialists will undertake the following work:

- (1) Organize the collection and exchange of information on all aspects of the forest management on the contaminated areas (territories) of the affected European countries;
- (2) Prepare the programme for research and practical activities of the International Centre on the problems of the forest management under conditions of radio-active contamination;
- (3) Organize meetings in 1993 (Brjanks, Russian Federation, April; Kiev, Ukraine, September);
- (4) Prepare proposals for the programme of international co-operation on the above matters for 1994-1995;
- (5) Define the need for equipment and to consider possibilities for financing (funding);
- (6) Initiate preparations for a seminar at the end of 1994 on "The role of forestry in the rehabilitation of areas (territories) contaminated by an accidental release of radio-active material into the environment" with support from the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee and the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency).

Duration: Three years 1992-1994.

ANNEX II
TABULAR PRESENTATION OF TIMBER COMMITTEE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1993-1997

Programme element	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
<u>PROGRAMME 02(B) - TIMBER</u>					
	51st session of Timber Committee, joint session with FAO European Forestry Commission (26th session)	52nd session of Timber Committee Study tour in the United States	53rd session of Timber Committee Study tour in ... 1/	54th session of Timber Committee Study tour in ... 1/	55th session of Timber Committee Study tour in ... 1/
	Study tour in Belgium and the Netherlands				
<u>PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02(B).1: ANALYSIS OF DEVELOPMENTS FOR FORESTRY AND FOREST PRODUCTS IN THE LONG-, MEDIUM- AND SHORT-TERM</u>					
02(B).1.1. Appraisal of long-term timber trends and prospects	Ad hoc meeting on the policy context for ETTS V Presentation of draft outlines of ETTS V to Working Party session and to joint session TC and EFC	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	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	Wood raw material, notably pulpwood and wood for energy
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 Annual Forest Products Market Review				
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 TC and EFC				
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 1993-1997 (cont.)

Programme element	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
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 Timber Bulletin	19th session of Working Party Volume XLVI	Volume XLVII	20th session of Working Party Volume XLVIII	Volume XLIX	21st session of Working Party Volume XLX
	(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).				
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				
	Ad hoc meeting to improve collection and dissemination of statistics				
	Four-yearly survey on conversion factors at 19th session and publication in 1994				
02(B).2.3. Forest resource assessment	Ad hoc meeting of experts on the global forest resource assessment 2000 in Kotka, Finland				
	Presentation of preliminary results for long-term forest resource changes in temperate-zone countries to the Joint Session				
02(B).2.4. Forest fire statistics	Publication of results of annual surveys				
02(B).2.5. Productivity in the forest sector	Revised draft study to be submitted to Working Party and published				

TABULAR PRESENTATION OF TIMBER COMMITTEE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1993-1997 (cont.)

Programme element	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
02(B).2.6. Transfer of economic and statistical methods and experience in the forest and forest products sector					
PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02(B).3: FOREST TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING (Covers part of the activities of the Joint FAO/ECE/LO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training)					
	11th session of Joint Steering Committee	120th session of Joint Committee in ... 1/	12th session of Joint Steering Committee in ... 1/	21st session of Joint Committee in ... 1/	13th session of Joint Steering Committee in ... 1/
02(B).3.1. Silvicultural operations and general management aspects					Seminar 2/
02(B).3.1.1 Development and use of methods and equipment for silvicultural operations, including stand establishment and multiple use forestry	Team of specialists on afforestation of agricultural land	Seminar in Poland on afforestation techniques on abandoned agricultural land	Seminar in ... 1/ on multiple use forestry		
	Publication of Forest Damage Manual and a framework for reporting on experience in dealing with catastrophes				Seminar or other activity on silviculture and forest operations suitable in coppice stands in the Mediterranean region (to be decided at 20th session)
	Team of specialists on multiple use forestry				
	Team of specialists on site damage risks				
	Seminar or other activity on seed collection, treatment and storage (to be decided by Steering Committee or 20th session)				
02(B).3.1.2 Forest fire prevention and control	Biannual publication of International Forest Fire News				
	Team of specialists on forest fire				
02(B).3.1.3 Methods and procedures for the preparation and implementation of forest management plans	Special topic on application of information systems in forestry at 20th session (subject to confirmation)				Team of specialists on information systems (establishment to be decided at 20th session)

- 1/ Host country to be decided.
2/ Topic and host country to be decided.

TABULAR PRESENTATION OF TIMBER COMMITTEE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1993-1997 (cont.)

Programme element	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
02(B).3.2. Wood harvesting and transport		Seminar 1/	Seminar 1/	Seminar 1/	Seminar 1/
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				
	Workshop on harvesting and silviculture in degraded forests in Greece 2/				
02(B).3.2.2 Forest roads and transport of wood raw material	Seminar on other activity in Romania 3/ on forest roads (construction and maintenance) and raw material transport				
	Team of specialists on forest roads as a basis for integrated forest management				
02(B).3.3. Vocational training, applied ergonomics, occupational safety and health of forest workers					
02(B).3.3.1 Vocational training in forestry	Comparative study on professions, skills and training (in cooperation with Switzerland) 4/	Seminar in Switzerland			Seminar 1/
	International network in the forestry workforce				
	Seminar in Portugal (1994 or 1995) on training in Mediterranean countries				
02(B).3.3.2 Applied ergonomics, safety and health in forest operations	Seminar in Finland on personal protective equipment			Seminar 1/	
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 and forestry students				

1/ Topic and host country to be decided.

2/ Subject to confirmation.

3/ Year and type of activity to be decided.

4/ Topic and year (1995 or 1996) to be decided.

TABULAR PRESENTATION OF TIMBER COMMITTEE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1993-1997 (cont.)

Programme element	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02(B).4: ISSUES RELATED TO A SOUND AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOREST AND FOREST PRODUCTS SECTOR					
02(B).4.1. Use of wood for energy		Seminar in ... 1/ on choice of technologies of combustion of wood and bark in the forest industries (year to be determined)			
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 (ETTS V) and with the ad hoc Working Group "Impact of Air Pollution on Forests" of the European Forestry Commission				
02(B).4.3. Public relations in the forestry and forest industries sector	As determined by the Joint session on the basis of proposals by the team of specialists				
02(B).4.4. Competitiveness of sawn-wood		Seminar in Sweden 2/ on competitiveness of sawn-wood			
02(B).4.5. Development of new products, recycling, markets and applications for forest products	As determined by the Committee on the basis of recommendations of the team of specialists	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				
PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02(B).5: ASSISTANCE TO THE ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE					
02(B).5.1. Activities to assist countries in transition to a market economy	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 the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic 1/, France 1/, Hungary (in cooperation with Finland) 1/, Poland 1/, Romania 1/, Russian Federation 1/ and Sweden 1/				

1/ Host country to be decided.

2/ Subject to confirmation.

TABULAR PRESENTATION OF TIMBER COMMITTEE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1993-1997 (cont.)

Programme element	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
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 the Russian Federation of the team of specialists. Meeting in Ukraine of the team of specialists	Seminar in ... 1/ on the role of forestry in the rehabilitation of areas contaminated by an accidental release of radio-active material into the environment			

1/ Host country to be decided.

ANNEX III

RANK ORDER OF PROGRAMME ELEMENTS
IN THE TIMBER COMMITTEE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1993-1997

(as agreed at the Committee's fiftieth session)

<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	Activities to assist countries in transition to a market economy
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).4.3 <u>a/</u>	Public relations in the forestry and forest industries sector
9	02(B).3.1 <u>a/</u>	Silvicultural operations and general management aspects
10	02(B).3.2 <u>a/</u>	Wood harvesting and transport
11	02(B).3.3 <u>a/</u>	Vocational training, applied ergonomics, occupational safety and health of forest workers
12	02(B).2.2 <u>a/</u>	Improvement of the quality of forest and forest products statistics (including their collection and dissemination systems)
13	02(B).4.5	Development of new products, recycling, markets and applications for forest products
14	02(B).2.5 <u>a/</u>	Productivity in the forest sector
15	02(B).6.1	Problems in the forestry and forest industry sector arising from radiation contamination, particularly from the Chernobyl disaster
16	02(B).4.1	Use of wood for energy

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).4.6	Information exchange on occurrences of sudden and severe damage to forests
18	02(B).2.4 <u>a/</u>	Forest fire statistics
19	02(B).2.6 <u>a/</u>	Transfer of economic and statistical methods and experience in the forest and forest products sector
20	02(B).4.4	Competitiveness of sawnwood
21	02(B).4.2	Implications of air pollution and other damage to forests for wood supply and markets
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 IV

ASSISTANCE IN SUPPORT OF THE ECONOMIES OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE IN TRANSITION

The informal FAO/ECE meeting on strategies for assistance to countries in transition of central and eastern Europe, held in Ossiach (Austria), 5 to 8 October 1992, agreed on a proposal for programme areas and issues, themes, a ranking, methods of work and recommendations for the implementation of a programme of assistance.

PROGRAMME AREAS

1. The following major programme areas, were identified for a programme of international assistance under the joint auspices of the ECE Timber Committee, the FAO European Forestry Commission and their subsidiary bodies:

Programme area I: institution building and framework conditions; building of the legal and policy infrastructure for sustainable development of the forestry and forest products sector.

Programme area II: activities related to the development of economically sound enterprises in the forestry and forest products sector.

Special issues

- (a) issues of general importance for the protection of forests, forest conservation and sustainable development of the forest sector
- (b) issues of concern for individual countries or groups of countries.

THEMES 1/

2. The meeting proposed the following themes to be considered in the context of the programme areas identified for:

Programme area I

- (i) - Schemes for financial support systems for the development of the sector
 - Forestry taxation schemes
 - Valuation of forests
 - Building up of forest services
- (ii) - Advice for the development of forest policy
 - Ownership structure (distribution between state, commune and private ownership of forest land)
 - Education, training, research
 - Occupational safety and health
- (iii) - Non-governmental organizations
 - Forest health assessment.

1/ Note: the groupings marked (i) (ii) (iii) indicate the priority ranking suggested by the meeting; this and the list of themes should be subject to regular review by both the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission.

Programme area II:

- (i) - Privatization of enterprises of the wood processing, timber harvesting and related service activities
 - Pricing systems, market organization, marketing
 - Analysis of costs of enterprise operations
 - Accounting systems
- (ii) - Organization of associations of the private sector enterprises
 - Documentation and information bases on market developments
- (iii) - Joint venture agreements.

Special issues

- (a) Issues of general importance for the protection of forests, forest conservation and sustainable development of the forest sector

It was felt that this was a field to be covered primarily in the framework of international conferences developing guiding principles, resolutions and conventions designed for the issue. Full consideration should be given to such guiding principles in the preparation and implementation of a programme of activities related to the programme areas I and II.

- (b) Issues of concern for individual countries or group of countries
 - Forest management and regeneration in areas contaminated by radiation (including questions related to the marketing and use of timber harvested in contaminated areas)
 - Cross-sectoral issues of relevance for the forest and forest products sector
 - Reform and organization of a state forest enterprise working under market economy conditions
 - Impact of the environmental movement on forest policies
 - Information systems in forestry
 - Code of practices in forestry (including guidelines on environmental aspects, working conditions, occupational health and safety, etc.)
 - Concepts for the inclusion of forest operations in small-scale agricultural activities
 - Education programmes and university level scholarships; retraining of staff of existing extension services.

METHODS OF WORK

3. The meeting also agreed that the following methods of work were the most effective ways of implementing a programme of assistance:

- workshops and similar informal meetings
- expert missions
- study tours.

Seminars and similar formal meetings may also be considered appropriate. Furthermore it was noted that the transfer of written information, documentation and literature should be recommended. Professional contacts, permanent information exchange, adequate questionnaires for the collection of statistics and other information, and a speedy dissemination of available information to designated focal points in the countries in transition were considered as additional means for topical, timely and economical assistance.

RECOMMENDATION FOR IMPLEMENTATION

4. The implementation of a programme adequately covering the needs and themes for international assistance required the widest possible contribution and coordination of bilateral and multilateral possibilities. The meeting recommended that the member countries of ECE and FAO as well as international and intergovernmental organizations such as UNDP, the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Commission of the European Communities and other organizations consider their possibilities to support activities related to the proposed themes. The ECE Timber Committee, jointly with EFC, could serve as a forum for setting up a programme (of workshops and similar activities). Countries in transition should consider the themes identified and possibly further specify them when preparing requests for multilateral or bilateral assistance.

DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

5. A number of issues included in the list of themes for future activities had already been covered by workshops carried out under the auspices of the Timber Committee, the EFC and their joint subsidiary bodies since 1990 (see documents TIM/R.213 and TIM/R.216). It was therefore recommended that proceedings and other relevant documentation be made available to designated focal points in countries concerned and that the further distribution of information in these countries be organized by themselves. It was also recommended that due account be taken of the themes, content and results of past workshops when preparing future ones. An exchange of information and experience among the countries in transition could further enhance cooperation.

ANNEX V

PROVISIONAL LIST OF MEETINGS IN 1993 AND 1994 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.

1993

Date	Location	Title
11-12 January	Geneva	Informal meeting of the Steering Committee of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee (B)
13-14 January	Geneva	Joint meeting of the Timber Committee office holders and the Executive Committee of the European Forestry Commission (B)
14-15 January	Geneva	Informal meeting on policy context for ETTS V (B)
15-17 February	Geneva	<u>Ad hoc</u> meeting on improving collection and dissemination of forest and forest products statistics (A)
22-24 February	Geneva	<u>Ad hoc</u> meeting on outlook for non-wood benefits of forests (A)
(early 1993)	Moscow, Russian Federation (subject to confirmation)	Informal meeting of experts on the outlook for the forest sector in CIS countries
April (dates to be confirmed)	Brjanks, Russian Federation	Meeting of the team of specialists on problems arising from radiation contamination (B)
(Undecided)	Geneva	Informal review meeting on productivity and profitability in the forest sector (B)
3-7 May	Kotka, Finland	<u>Ad hoc</u> FAO/ECE meeting of experts on Global Forest Resource Assessment (B)
9-15 May	Belgium and the Netherlands	Joint Timber Committee/European Forestry Commission study tour on wood supply, wood production and other functions of the forest in densely populated countries (A)
7-10 June	Geneva	Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, 19th session (A)

1993 (cont.)

Date	Location	Title
June (dates to be confirmed)	Garpenberg, Sweden	Workshop on commercial, economic and technical aspects of wood raw material supply in a market economy (A)
August (dates to be confirmed)	Olenino, Russian Federation	Seminar on the use of multifunctional machinery and equipment in logging operations (A)
September (dates to be confirmed)	Kiev, Ukraine	Meeting of the team of specialists on problems arising from radiation contamination (B)
18-22 October	Geneva or Rome	Joint session of the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission (A)
(Undecided)	Greece (subject to confirmation)	Workshop on harvesting and silviculture in degraded forests (A)
(Undecided)	(Undecided)	Steering Committee of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee, 11th session (B)
(Undecided)	France	Meeting of the team of specialists on wood packaging, recycling and reduction of wastes (B)
(Undecided)	Paris, France	Meeting of the FAO/ECE team of public relations specialists (B)
(Undecided)	Portugal	Seminar on forest workers' training in Mediterranean countries (A)
(Undecided)	(Undecided)	Meeting of the joint FAO/ECE team of specialists to monitor activities in support of countries in transition (B)
(Undecided)	Romania (subject to confirmation)	Seminar on forest roads (construction and maintenance) and raw material transport (A)

1994

April (dates to be confirmed)	Geneva	Meeting of the Timber Committee office holders (B)
(Undecided)	(Undecided)	Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training, 20th session (A)
(Undecided)	United States	Timber Committee study tour on the hardwood resource and its utilization (A)
(Undecided)	Geneva	Review meeting on ETTS V (A)
October (dates to be confirmed)	Geneva	ECE TIMBER COMMITTEE, 52nd session (A)

1994 (cont.)

Date	Location	Title
(Undecided)	Poland (subject to confirmation)	Seminar on afforestation techniques on abandoned agricultural land (A)
(Undecided)	Finland	Seminar on personal protective equipment (A)
(Undecided)	Sweden	Seminar on the competitiveness of sawnwood (A)
(Undecided)	Hungary (in cooperation with Finland) (subject to confirmation)	Workshop on market research and development, marketing and distribution of sawmilling products (A)
(Undecided) end 94	(Undecided)	Seminar on the role of forestry in the rehabilitation of areas contaminated by an accidental release of radio-active material into the environment (A)