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TIMBER COMMITTEE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS FIFTY-SECOND SESSION

(10-13 October 1994)

Highlights of the fifty-second session of the Timber Committee

- ◆ The Committee reaffirmed that it attached the highest priority to the activities which contributed to the follow up of UNCED and the Helsinki Ministerial Conference (paras. 40-45);
- ◆ The Committee reviewed its programme of assistance to countries in transition and reported on the implementation of Resolution H3 of the Helsinki Ministerial Conference (paras. 9-19);
- ◆ The Committee reviewed the activities of its teams of specialists and endorsed their reports and mandates:
 - Public relations (paras. 23-26);
 - Recycling (paras.27-28);
 - Use of wood for energy (paras.29-30).It also reviewed in detail the methods of work of all the teams, and adopted a General statement of obligations and a proforma mandate which should guide the teams of specialists in their work (para. 50)
- ◆ The Committee agreed to start work on the issue of certification of forest products (para. 45 and annex IV);
- ◆ The Committee reviewed the forest products markets and approved a statement (paras. 36-39);
- ◆ With regard to Commission decision I (48), the Timber Committee considered that it had been possible to carry out the majority of its work programme, despite the fact that one post had been vacant over the past year. The system of publications had been radically overhauled, to be more attractive and easier to use (para. 54).

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Introduction

1. The ECE Timber Committee held its fifty-second session in Geneva, from 10 to 13 October 1994. The session was attended by representatives from Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States of America.

2. The session was attended by representatives of the Commission of the European Communities (EC).

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

4. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: European Confederation of Agriculture (CEA); European Forest Institute (EFI); Organization of European Sawmilling Industries (OES); European Federation of Associations of Particle Board Manufacturers (FESYP); and International Forestry Students Association (IFSA).

5. The Committee agreed that in the absence of its Chairman, Mr. D. Lipman (Russian Federation) its two Vice-Chairmen, Messrs. G. Siegel (Austria) and D. Darr (United States of America) would co-chair the session.

6. Mr Y. Berthelot, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, addressed the session.

Adoption of the agenda (Item 1 of the agenda)

7. The provisional agenda, as set out in document ECE/TIM/82, was adopted.

Matters arising from the forty-ninth session of the Economic Commission for Europe (Item 2 of the agenda) (TIM/R.236)

8. The Committee was informed of the discussions of its work by the Commission and of the Commission decisions at its forty-ninth session. It agreed to take account of these discussions and decisions, particularly with regard to its programme of work.

Assistance to countries of central and eastern Europe in transition (Item 3 of the agenda)(TIM/R.237 and Add.1)

9. The Committee was informed of the implementation and development of the programme of assistance to economies in transition in central and eastern Europe and on the results and recommendations of the inaugural meeting of the team of specialists on countries in transition held in June 1994 in Geneva. The question of the implementation of Resolution H3 of the Helsinki Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe was considered in detail under this item.

10. The delegation of the United Kingdom proposed that the identified themes and topics for assistance should be more concentrated on the specific needs of the transition countries. It was suggested that the proposed topics could serve as a "shopping list" for choosing the most appropriate ones for each particular country.

11. The Committee stressed the importance of satisfactory distribution of information on the results of the workshops and other relevant meetings, including their reports and proceedings. Countries were asked to pay more attention to this aspect.

12. It also noted the importance of the participation of the appropriate experts in relevant workshops and meetings, that is those whose professional experience corresponds to topics under consideration of a specific workshop or meeting. The importance of activities aimed at the promotion of investments in forestry and forest products sector of transition countries was emphasized.

13. The delegation of France drew the attention of the Committee to the necessity of a detailed analysis of the outlook for supply and demand both in countries in transition and elsewhere. An essential part of sustainable forest management is to ensure satisfactory economic outlets for forest production, on domestic or on export markets.

14. The Committee endorsed the report of the team of specialists as a whole taking into account the above proposals including the mandate as proposed by the team with one exception: the duration of the team's activities should be considered continuing.

15. The Committee welcomed the actions to implement resolution H3, notably by collecting information on present and future activities to assist countries in transition. This information would be synthesized and presented to the Helsinki follow up meeting in January 1995.

16. The Committee was informed of two workshops hosted by the Czech Republic in 1994: on valuation of forest benefits through a total evaluation of production, environmental and social functions of forests; and on the effect of global climate change on boreal and temperate forests.

17. The delegation of Slovakia informed the Committee that the earlier proposed workshop on "Institution building, framework conditions and policy infrastructure for sustainable development of the forestry sector under market economy conditions" will be organized in 1995. The exact date and proposals for the agenda and the programme of the workshop will be sent to the secretariat later.

18. The delegation of Finland informed the Timber Committee on the preparation of the workshop on "Development of marketing of sawnwood products in countries in transition to market economies" to be held in Sopron, Hungary, in November this year.

19. The session thanked all those who contributed to the programme of assistance to countries in transition, especially the governments of Switzerland and the Czech Republic for hosting the workshops held between the fifty-first and fifty-second sessions of the Committee.

Other activities since the fifty-first session (Item 4 of the agenda)

- (a) Fifth study of European timber trends and prospects to the year 2000 and beyond: progress report (TIM/R.238)

20. The Committee was informed of the state of preparations for ETTS V, and of recent activities, notably the ad hoc meeting on the policy context, and the FAO/Italy meeting on the countries in transition. The review meeting for ETTS V was scheduled for 6-8 February 1995: the Committee urged delegations to ensure

that their country was represented at the meeting by suitably qualified experts. The Committee again thanked national correspondents, and the governments who had made available resources for the preparation of the study.

21. It was pointed out that it would be desirable if the outlook for Europe could be considered in a global context. The Committee noted that a number of relevant activities are under way in FAO, including forest resource assessment, and econometric analysis of supply and demand of forest products.

22. The Committee agreed it was appropriate already to put in place a system for evaluation of the whole ETTS V process. It asked the secretariat to prepare proposals, including draft terms of reference, for its fifty-third session, to set up a small group to evaluate the process, in order to improve the preparation of ETTS VI.

(b) Public relations in the forest and forest industries sector (TIM/R.239)

23. Mr. Frazer Lindsay (UK), leader of the Joint FAO/ECE Team of Public Relations Specialists in the Forest and Forest Industries Sector, presented a report on the team's meeting in Tällberg, Sweden, in May, 1994 which included the team's terms of reference and programme of activities. He stressed that the most important activities concerned the international public relations follow-up of the results of UNCED and the Montreal and Helsinki Conferences so that the governments and the public are informed about positive developments in the sector. He stated that the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission must develop their identity and that the team could assist in their publicity.

24. Mr. Lindsay distributed a draft UK country profile as an example for a series of concise, 2-page information papers on ECE member countries' forest and forest products industries. The secretariat is to produce similar profiles on other ECE countries for presentation to the next team meeting, and use in other fora before then.

25. He distributed the team's public relations "toolkit" entitled "Communications strategies in forestry and the forest industry sector." It provides guidance for governments, associations and industry on techniques for conducting public relations campaigns.

26. The meeting endorsed the team's report which included its mandate, terms of reference and programme of activities. The meeting expressed its thanks to the team members for their very useful activities in an area of vital importance to the sector as a whole, and to Mr. Frazer Lindsay for his work, especially the production of the toolkit. It thanked Sweden for its generosity in hosting the team's 1994 meeting.

(c) Development of new products, recycling, markets and applications for forest products: meeting of team of specialists (TIM/R.240)

27. The Committee was informed by Mr. Granger (France), team leader, of the results of the first meeting of the Team of Specialists on New Products, Recycling, Markets and Applications for Forest Products which was held in March, 1994. The report of the team meeting which presented the team's activities and mandate was endorsed and adopted.

28. The team leader presented a synthesis of national reports received from some members which indicated a significant difference between the importance of recycling legislation and programmes in western countries (including the USA) and those of central and eastern Europe. In western countries waste paper recycling has progressed to its current economical and technical limits of 52% utilization and will attain 58% in 2000. These developments will have serious ramifications on the forest, the forest products industries, the forest products markets and prices based on an estimation that in western Europe an increase in the utilization rate of recycled fibre will result in a decrease in the consumption of roundwood. The need to develop new products and markets for recycled fibre and small-diameter roundwood exists; possibilities identified by the team include reconstituted wood and wood energy.

(d) Use of wood for energy: meeting of the team of specialists (TIM/R.241)

29. The Committee took note of the activities of the team, and of the results of the meeting. It was informed that the national reports provided by team members would be made available shortly. It endorsed the principle of a workshop to bring together wood energy experts with policy makers in the fields of energy and environment, but noted that for the success of such a meeting, it is necessary to attract the active participation of sufficiently senior policy makers. The organizers of the proposed workshop should ensure that this type of participation was assured before finalizing plans.

30. The Committee approved the draft terms of reference of the team (TIM/R.241, annex I), but considered the team should be time limited: the duration should be one year, ending in 1995, and references to regular sessions should be removed. If the Committee wished, it could prolong the team's mandate in 1995. The reference to "high level" should also be modified as ministers were unlikely to attend.

(e) Activities of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training: recommendations of the Task Force (TIM/R.242, TIM/EFC/WP.1/R.117)

31. The Committee recognized that the Joint Committee was a forum for harmonious cooperation between three international organizations, analyzed close linkages between technical, economic and environmental activities and promoted rational use of forest resources. The Joint Committee had implemented numerous successful activities in areas closely related to the priority concerns of the Timber Committee. The technical, economic and environmental orientation of these activities complemented the work of the Timber Committee.

32. The representative of ILO reiterated the importance his organization attached to the Joint Committee which it considered an efficient and effective means of obtaining and disseminating information, and keeping close contact with practitioners. ILO would continue to support the Joint Committee, as in the past. He stressed that the Joint Committee made it possible to make available the experience of developed countries to experts in other regions, through the dissemination of seminar proceedings and the participation of experts from other regions in Joint Committee activities.

33. The Committee recognized the need for the Joint Committee's objectives and functioning to be reviewed. It noted the intention of the Joint Committee to do this at its twentieth session in November 1994, on the basis of a Task Force

report. The Joint Committee should then submit its proposals in this respect to its parent bodies at their sessions in 1995. The Committee noted that the success of the Joint Committee's decentralised structure depended critically on the commitment and abilities of its members, as input from the FAO/ECE secretariat was bound to remain limited.

(f) Other activities (TIM/R.243)

34. The Committee was informed of other activities being carried out under its auspices, on the basis of TIM/R.243. Several delegations stressed the importance of the activities on non-wood goods and services, and of the Forest Resource Assessment 2000. The latter should be adapted to take account of the demand for new types of information on the forest resource, notably those linked to the indicators of sustainable forest management.

35. The Polish delegation informed the Committee of recent developments with regard to the mass outbreak of *Lymantria monacha* in Poland, and the measures taken to limit it. The delegation thanked the bilateral and multilateral agencies which had supported its activities in this respect. The delegation of the Czech Republic indicated that the outbreak had also been observed in its country. The Committee thanked the Polish delegation for this information and expressed the hope that the outbreak would soon be brought under control, in Poland and neighbouring countries.

Market developments in 1994 and prospects 1995 (Item 5 of the agenda) (TIM/R.244)

36. The Committee's discussion on the forest products markets was based on national reports and statistics, countries' estimates for 1994 and 1995, and the secretariat's Forest Products Annual Market Review - Volume XLVII (1994), N° 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 1994 and 1995 and other tabular material, in Forest Products Markets in 1994 and Prospects for 1995 - Volume XLVII (1994), N° 6 of the Timber Bulletin.

37. Several delegations were of the opinion that given the surge in demand for particle board and OSB it would be desirable to report them separately in order to monitor more easily developments in the sector given their different end-uses and the traditional North American distinction between structural and non-structural panels. Another delegation stated that since OSB was a new product in Europe, the three countries with the four European mills would prefer to continue to report production levels together with particle board for confidentiality reasons. The Committee agreed to ask the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics to take up the classification of wood-based panels at its next session in June 1995, to ensure that it reflected the latest technical and market developments.

38. The Committee was informed that the secretariat, together with FAO, the Commission of the European Communities (EFICS programme), EUROSTAT and OECD was setting up an inter-secretariat working group to harmonise procedures for collection of statistics in the field of forest and forest products, in order to minimise the reporting burden on countries. The Committee welcomed this development and asked the secretariat to report on progress to the Working Party in June 1995. Cooperation with ITTO should also be explored.

39. The Committee noted that its analysis was beginning to suffer from the lack of customs data separating trade in logs from that of pulpwood. It urged member countries and the secretariat to continue to explore ways of reintroducing this distinction.

Follow-up to UNCED and the Helsinki Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (Item 6 of the agenda)

(a) Report by the Liaison Unit of the Helsinki Conference (TIM/R.245 and Add.1)

40. The Committee was informed by Mr. G. Siegel (Austria), Chief coordinator for Austria for the Helsinki process, of the progress made, notably in the drawing up of criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management. He also informed the Committee of plans for future action, notably to prepare input for the CSD meeting on forests in April 1995.

b) Role of the Committee (TIM/R.246)

41. The Committee reaffirmed that it attached the highest priority to activities which contributed to the follow up of UNCED and the Helsinki Conference. It endorsed the active participation of the ECE secretariat in the Helsinki process, notably by contributing to the drawing up of the criteria and indicators, and by acting as international coordinator for the implementation of resolution H3 (see para. 15 above).

42. It also noted that the secretariat was contributing, in its capacity as secretariat of the FAO European Forestry Commission, to the FAO input to the CSD meeting on forests in April 1995. The EFC meeting in January 1995 would prepare the regional input to the FAO process.

43. Also very important was the Committee's action in support of the UNCED and Helsinki processes, by information gathering, analysis of the overall outlook and of particular issues, exchange of information and normative activities.

44. The Committee considered that the activities undertaken, as described in TIM/R.246, were an appropriate contribution to the UNCED and Helsinki processes, and agreed to continue along the lines laid down.

45. In addition, it decided to set up a team of specialists to review certification of forest products, (new programme element 09(B).1.10.) and approved the team's terms of reference as set out in annex IV.

Activities of other Principal Subsidiary Bodies of ECE of concern to the Timber Committee (Item 7 of the agenda) (TIM/R.247)

46. 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.

Activities of FAO and other international organizations of relevance to the Timber Committee (Item 8 of the agenda) (TIM/R.248)

47. The Committee was informed of FAO's activities in the field of forestry and of the special emphasis being given to the follow-up of UNCED by the Forestry Department.

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

Programme of work (Item 9 of the agenda)

(a) Joint study tour in the United States in 1995 (TIM/R.249)

49. The Committee was informed about the joint Timber Committee and European Forestry Commission study tour scheduled for 7 to 14 May 1995 in the United States. The theme of the tour is the "Appalachian hardwood timber resources and hardwood lumber industry." A draft announcement and registration information was presented for distribution by the secretariat. The tour will include all aspects of hardwood resources and their utilization through visits to forests, companies, research and educational institutions, trade associations, etc. In addition, a seminar is planned on export market opportunities for hardwood forest products. The US delegation welcomed the Committee and the Commission.

(b) Methods of work of teams of specialists (TIM/R.250)

50. The Committee reviewed the methods of work of its 14 teams, and stressed the need to rationalise the work methods and to prioritise the activities. It welcomed the document presented by the secretariat and agreed that it was essential that sufficient support for a team of specialists should be secured before the decision to establish it is taken. A precise mandate should be formulated, including a time limit, and countries be made well aware of the commitment they make when nominating members. The Committee adopted the General statement of obligations and the proforma mandate for teams of specialists included in document TIM/R.250, and agreed to circulate them to countries when they are invited to nominate members to a team.

(c) Review and revision of draft programme of work for 1995 to 1999
(TIM/R.251)

51. The Committee considered its draft programme of work for 1995-1999, 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's previous programme had been reviewed by its office-holders as called for by the fifty-first session of the Committee held in joint session with the FAO European Forestry Commission. It welcomed the fact that the programmes of the Committee and the EFC were now integrated. The Committee was also informed of the availability of secretariat resources to carry out its programme. The Committee approved its programme of work for 1995-1999, as set out in annex I. It also reviewed and approved the rank order of its programme elements, annex II, for submission to the fiftieth session of the Commission.

52. In general, all programme elements should be time limited: the only exceptions should be the major core activities which are continuing by their very nature, such as statistics collection or forest resource assessment. There should be no presumption that any activity would be tacitly or automatically renewed. Nevertheless, when an element had reached its time limit, nothing prevented it being renewed or prolonged, provided an explicit decision to do so was taken by the competent body.

53. At their regular sessions the subsidiary bodies should propose to the parent bodies new programme elements or elements to be renewed or prolonged. The Committee considered there was scope for rationalising and clarifying the relations between parent and subsidiary bodies, as had been done for the methods of work of teams of specialists. It requested the secretariat to prepare proposals on this for consideration at its next session.

54. In accordance with decision I (48), the Committee drew the Commission's attention to the fact that:

- it had been possible to carry out the majority of its work programme despite the fact that one post had been vacant over the past year;
- some low priority programme elements had been dropped or would be transferred to other organisations;
- efforts were being made to streamline procedures, for instance as regards methods of work of teams of specialists;
- the system of publications had been radically overhauled; the new presentation was intended to be more attractive and easier to use; delegations were invited to send comments and suggestions to the secretariat.

55. With regard to forest fire statistics, the Committee noted that the European Commission was managing a major programme of detailed statistical collection on forest fires and was willing to extend its coverage to non EU countries. The Committee asked the secretariat to explore urgently with the Commission of the European Communities ways to rationalise procedures, while respecting the interests of all concerned and minimising the reporting burden. Proposals on this topic should be submitted to the Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics in June 1995.

56. Sweden announced the plans for a workshop titled, "Wood, an environmentally friendly material." The three-day workshop in Sweden, currently scheduled for November 1995, is to highlight the environmental and engineering advantages of wood compared to other materials. The full range of wood's use, from the forest, through its multiple uses, and until it is recycled and reused will be covered.

57. The European Forest Institute indicated that it was also considering a proposal for a seminar on related issues and the Committee requested that Sweden, EFI and the secretariat explore coordination of the projects. The offer was supported by several delegations and the possible link to the FAO/ECE Team of Public Relations Specialists was noted.

58. The Committee was informed that the Romanian authorities have offered to host a Joint Committee seminar in autumn 1995, under the subject area of forest roads. The tentative theme was "Forest roads, construction, maintenance and transport of wood raw material". A more detailed proposal will be presented to the forthcoming twentieth session of the Joint Committee in November 1994. The Committee welcomed the offer by Romania.

Election of officers (Item 10 of the agenda)

59. The Committee elected Mr. G. Siegel (Austria) Chairman and Messrs. D. Darr (United States of America) and N.A. Burdin (Russian Federation) Vice-Chairmen, to hold office until the end of the fifty-third session.

Other business (Item 11 of the agenda)

60. None.

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

61. The Committee adopted the present report of its fifty-second session.

Date of next session (Item 13 of the agenda)

62. The Committee was informed that the dates originally intended for its fifty third session, 9-12 October 1995, were not feasible as they coincided with TELECOM 95, and all hotel rooms had already been booked for those dates. The Committee accordingly agreed to hold its next session from 13 to 16 November 1995, subject to the availability of Conference services.

ANNEX I

TIMBER COMMITTEE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1995-1999

PROGRAMME 9(B) - TIMBER

This programme is carried out by the Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC). Many of the programme elements are the joint responsibility of both bodies (or of their joint subsidiary bodies), while some are the exclusive responsibility of the Committee or the Commission. The Timber Committee programme below includes only the programme elements for which the Committee or its subsidiary bodies are responsible; the titles of programme elements which are the responsibility of the EFC are shown for information only, and to ensure a common numbering system.

The Committee meets annually, usually in October. In addition to the activities specified below, the Committee furthers the dissemination and exchange of information and experience by organizing study tours at the invitation of the Governments concerned: a joint study tour with the EFC will be held in the United States in 1995.

09(B).1. POLICIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOREST AND FOREST INDUSTRIES SECTOR (INCLUDING ANALYSIS FOR POLICY FORMULATION)

09(B).1.1 Contribution to the follow-up of UNCED and the Helsinki Ministerial Conference on Protection of Forests in Europe

Description: The Committee and the Commission in cooperation with all other relevant bodies, including the Commission for Sustainable Development and the Liaison Unit for the follow-up to the Helsinki Conference, will contribute to the follow-up, in order to further the objectives of UNCED and the Helsinki conference.

Work carried out and to be undertaken: At their joint session in 1993 the Committee and Commission allocated first priority to this topic. At regular sessions of the Committee and Commission, countries will report on their implementation of the UNCED and Helsinki documents, and the "Helsinki Liaison Unit" will report on Helsinki follow-up. In cooperation with the Liaison Unit, the Committee and Commission, through their secretariat, contribute to monitoring and coordinating specific aspects of the follow-up to and the implementation of the Strasbourg and Helsinki resolutions, as agreed with the General Coordinating Committee of the Helsinki follow-up process. The Commission will contribute to the preparation of a high level global meeting on sustainable development in forestry, according to modalities to be determined by FAO in its role as task manager for UNCED follow-up in the field of forests.

Duration: Four years to 1997.

09(B).1.2 **Outlook for the supply and demand of timber**

Description: The Committee and Commission keep under review and up-date projections and forecasts of long-term trends in production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products in order to assess the long term sustainability of the European timber supply. The studies provide Governments with the latest projections and forecasts of long-term prospects at the regional, sub-regional and national level.

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 mandate of the study is given in ECE/TIM/49, paras. 48-54. A team of specialists advises the secretariat on the study, notably as regards methodology and data. An ad hoc meeting on the policy context and a workshop with FAO on the outlook for the countries in transition (Florence, Italy), were held in 1994. A draft will be presented for review to an ad hoc meeting in February 1995, revised in the light of comments and then published. The secretariat will present proposals to the Committee's fifty-third session on the setting up of a team to evaluate ETTS V.

Duration: Three years, 1995-1997.

09(B).1.3. **Outlook for the supply and demand of non-wood goods and services**

Description: The Committee and the Commission will carry out a study on the outlook for the supply and demand of the non-wood goods and services of the forest, as a framework for national studies, as a basis for national policies, and to develop methodology in the field. It will attempt to assess the sustainability of the present practice with regard to non-wood goods and services.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: In June 1993, the Working Party prepared proposals for a study on the outlook for non-wood goods and services, on the basis of the results of an ad hoc meeting in February 1993. A team of specialists will be convened (meeting scheduled for November 1994) and prepare proposals on the scope and methods of a study for the next session of the Working Party. An ad hoc meeting on non-wood goods and services of forests will be held, subject to a country offering the necessary facilities. The same team will also examine the economic and financial basis for sustainable supply of all goods and services of the forest, including topics such as the incorporation of environmental costs and benefits into market forces and mechanisms, the compensation of forest owners for the supply of non-wood goods and services, by traditional means, and by more innovative and market oriented mechanisms (e.g. user fees, management contracts, more result oriented payment systems).

Duration: Five years, 1993-1998.

09(B).1.4. **Review of national forest policies and topical policy issues**
(Responsibility of FAO European Forestry Commission)

09(B).1.5. **Productivity in the forest sector**

Description: The Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics 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, for the use of Governments and other decision-makers in formulating their policies towards the forest sector and in finding the appropriate solutions to technical and economic problems.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: A study on productivity and profitability in the forest industries, reviewed by the Working Party, was finalised and issued. The Working Party will consider at its twenty-first session whether to recommend to the parent bodies that the study be repeated. In the meantime, countries are urged to carry out, on a voluntary basis, similar studies at a national level. The secretariat will present a brief report and proposals to the twenty first session.

Duration: June 1995.

09(B).1.6. **Use of wood for energy**

Description: The Committee and Commission, through a team of specialists, monitor and analyse developments as regards markets (supply, demand and prices) of energy wood, relevant policies and legislation and the influence of these developments on other parts of the forest and forest products sector, and brings these developments and analysis to the attention of policy-makers.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: A synthesis of the reports submitted in 1994 will be prepared and issued. The possibility of holding a workshop to bring policy makers' attention to wood energy problems will be explored.

Duration: One year, 1995.

09(B).1.7. **Recycling of paper: consequences for the sector**

Description: The Committee furthers the exchange of information and experience on recycling of paper and solid wood, and its consequences for the sector as a whole, including markets for wood and forest products, with a view to helping countries to improve efficiency in the use of raw materials and products, and supply technologically, environmentally and economically better products, and to identify the consequences for the sector as a whole of increased paper recycling.

Work to be undertaken: A team of specialists, led by France, prepared a draft synthesis of national reports on recycling legislation and its effect on the forest and forest industries sector. When completed, policy recommendations will be considered.

Duration: Two years, to 1995.

09(B).1.8. **Forest sector policies in the Mediterranean region**
(Responsibility of FAO European Forestry Commission)

09(B).1.9. **Promotion of public awareness and understanding, including public relations**

Description: The Committee and the Commission 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: The FAO/ECE team of public relations specialists in the forest and forest industries sector met again in 1994. It exchanged information and presented a PR toolkit to the Committee's fifty-second session. The team will meet in May 1995 in Quebec (Canada). In addition a workshop on "Wood, an environmentally friendly raw material" will be held in Sweden in 1995.

Duration: Two years, to 1995.

09(B).1.10. **Certification of forest products**

Description: In view of the possible major consequences for the forest and forest products sector of the introduction of systems for the certification of source of forest products, the Committee will collect and analyse information on systems in place or planned and the major issues raised, and review the consequences for the sector as a whole of the introduction of such systems.

Work to be undertaken: A team of specialists will be convened and prepare a report for the Committee's fifty-third session according to the terms of reference in ECE/TIM/83, annex IV.

Duration: One year to 1995.

09(B).2. **DATA AND INFORMATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

9(B).2.1. **Monitoring of the temperate and boreal forest resource (Forest Resource Assessment 2000)**

Description: The Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics will collect and publish data on the forest resources of the UN/ECE region, including both

- (a) general forest inventory data (e.g. area, growing stock, increment and drain) and
- (b) 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 could also be covered in the temperate-zone assessments, which will be repeated at approximately 10 yearly intervals.

Work accomplished:

- (a) The results of the Forest Resource Assessment (temperate-zone) 1990 were published in 1992/93;
- (b) The FAO/ECE meeting of experts on forest resource assessment was held at Kotka (Finland) in 1993, and elaborated recommendations for the global forest resource assessment process.

Work to be undertaken:

- (a) The Working Party will be responsible for overseeing work on the temperate and boreal forests in the context of the global forest resource assessment. A team of specialists on forest resource assessment will be convened to lead the work on this subject, notably by generating recommendations on concepts, definitions and methods, taking also into account new developments concerning criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management. The team will report on progress to the Working Party's sessions;
- (b) The pilot study on the long-term historical changes of the forest resource in the developed temperate-zone countries, based on reports by selected countries, will be issued in accordance with the decision of the Joint Session;
- (c) The secretariat published in 1994, as a supplement to the full Assessment, information on the forest resources of countries constituted since the carrying out of the 1990 Assessment.

Duration: Continuing.

09(B).2.2. Collection and dissemination of forest products statistics

Description: The Working Party on Forest Products and Statistics collects statistics on production, trade and prices of forest products, with a view to providing Governments and the forest products sector with data on the basis of which to formulate policies and make decisions.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The Working Party regularly reviews activities of data collection and dissemination to adapt their scope and contents to the needs of the member countries. Regular statistics on production, removals, trade and prices of forest products are published in the Timber Bulletin. Forest and forest products country profiles are prepared by the secretariat, in collaboration with FAO and the Governments of the countries concerned, and published. Other statistics are collected and disseminated as decided by the Working Party, which regularly reviews the entire system and makes proposals for improvements or suppression of existing activities. Topics to be discussed include classifications, definitions and data comparability, input into international multi-sector classifications, coordination of data collection by other international organisations, conversion factors etc.

Duration: Continuing.

09(B).2.3. Research networks on Mediterranean forestry questions
(Responsibility of FAO European Forestry Commission)

09(B).2.4. **Forest fire statistics**

Description: The Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics promotes 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. The Working Party provides technical support to the follow-up work on resolution S3, Decentralised European data bank on forest fires, of the Strasbourg Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, notably by issuing the results.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: Annual enquiries on forest fires are circulated and the results are published. The modalities of implementation of resolution S3 will be determined and implemented in 1995. The secretariat will also explore the modalities for transferring this activity to the Commission of the European Communities.

Duration: Continuing.

09(B).3. **PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY**

09(B).3.1. **Multiple use forestry**

Description: The Joint Committee will collect information on multiple use forestry and make recommendations to governments and forestry professionals to encourage the full and balanced use of each forest to provide the optimum mix of benefits for society.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: A team of specialists was established, led by Mr. G. Nordanstig (Sweden), and met in Vienna, March 1994. The team is preparing a Code of practice and a Seminar will be held at the invitation of Canada in Prince George, British Columbia, in September 1995.

Duration: Two years ending 1996.

09(B).3.2. **Management of mountain watersheds**
(Responsibility of FAO European Forestry Commission)

09(B).3.3. **Development of the human resource**

Description: The development of human resources and the building of capacity at all levels for the sustainable management of national resources is one of the main tasks identified in Agenda 21. In order to help governments ensure that there is "a sufficient number of adequately trained and competent staff" for forest management, the Joint Committee assists Governments in planning their national vocational training policies, in raising the efficiency of forest operations, in improving working practices with regard to safety and health, recommending safety standards in various operations, preventing occupational injuries and diseases, increasing work performance and forest workers' satisfaction with their job.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken:

- (a) A seminar on the future of the forestry workforce was held in the USA in 1992 and the proceedings prepared for publication. Seminars will be organized in 1995 in Portugal on forest workers' training in Mediterranean countries and in 1996 in Switzerland on occupational safety in forestry with the title "Safety in forestry is feasible".
- (b) A study, in cooperation 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 will be presented to the Joint Committee's twentieth session.
- (c) An international network is being established, under the direction of ILO, on the forestry workforce.
- (d) A seminar was held in Kuopio (Finland) in June/July 1994 on "Clothing and safety equipment in forestry".
- (e) A seminar on training of machine operators could be proposed by the Joint Committee at its twentieth session.

Duration: Continuing.

09(B).4. **PROTECTION OF FORESTS, PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF FOREST DAMAGE**

09(B).4.1. **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) International Forest Fire News is issued on a regular basis (twice yearly).
- (b) A team of specialists, led by Mr. J-G. Goldammer (Germany), met in April 1994 and prepared proposals for the following activities:
 - develop the programme for the seminar in 1996;
 - develop a feasibility study for a Global Vegetation Fire Information System;
 - develop the link between fire inventory, management and policy;
 - develop a fire inventory system to meet the objectives of UNCED;
 - revision of the FAO Forest Fire Glossary.

A seminar is planned in the Russian Federation on "Boreal forest, fire and global change", in 1996 (to be confirmed).

Duration: (a) Continuing; (b) Two years, 1995-1996.

09(B).4.2 **Effects of pollution and climate change on forests and the sector as a whole**

Description: The Committee and the Commission examine the implications of air pollution and other damage to forests, as well as climate change, for the forest and forest products sector, taking into account the work being carried out by other competent bodies.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: These effects will be analysed in ETTS V. The leader of the former team of specialists (disbanded in 1990) 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 and report to the Timber Committee on developments, as and when necessary. A workshop on effects of global climate change on boreal and temperate forests will be organized by the Czech Republic in October 1994.

Duration: Three years, 1995-1997.

09(B).4.3. **Management of forests in areas contaminated by radiation**

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

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The team of specialists, led by Mr. V. Zorin (Belarus), met at Mogilev (Belarus) in November 1993 and prepared a detailed report on the situation and proposed activities, namely:

- (a) Organize the collection and exchange of information on all aspects of forest management on the contaminated areas of the affected countries;
- (b) Prepare the programme of the International Centre on the problems of forest management under conditions of radio-active contamination;
- (c) Prepare proposals for the programme of international cooperation on the above matters for 1994-1995;
- (d) Define the need for equipment and consider possibilities for financing.

A workshop will have been held in Gomel (Belarus) in October 1994 on ways of control and solution of problems in the forest and forest industry sector arising from radiation contamination.

Duration: Four years to 1995.

09(B).5. **ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES IN TRANSITION**

09(B).5.1 **Implementation of Resolution H3 of the Helsinki Ministerial Conference**

Description: The Committee and the Commission will contribute to implementing resolution H3 on assistance to countries in transition.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: A team of specialists, under the joint auspices of the Committee and the Commission, periodically reviews (every 2-3 years, as from 1994) the programmes of assistance, under FAO/ECE auspices, to ensure that they correspond to countries' needs and are effective and efficient. It prepares recommendations for further programme activities for consideration by the Committee and the Commission. The secretariat, in cooperation with the team, coordinates the international follow-up to H3, notably by collecting and analysing information on relevant bilateral and multilateral programmes of assistance to countries in transition, and reporting, with recommendations as appropriate, to the meetings of the Helsinki follow-up process.

Duration Three years, 1995-1997.

09(B).5.2. **Programme of activities for countries in transition, notably workshops**

Description: The Committee and Commission will provide assistance to the countries in transition, in order to promote the process of economic reform and transition to a market economy in their forest and forest product sector. 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 and Commission have ascertained (at the first meeting of TOS, Geneva, June 1994 - see programme element 09(B).5.1) which topics are of most interest to the transition countries and continued to implement a wide range of activities, notably workshops, which are scheduled and organized in a flexible manner. Ten workshops and other meetings took place in 1990-93. The Committee and Commission are informed of results and decide on the direction of activities and the methods used. (Planned activities are listed below, but the programme is flexible and may be changed between sessions.) Workshops may be proposed by countries and/or the Committee or Commission or any of their subsidiary bodies.

Duration: Continuing

09(B).5.2.1. **Institution building, including legal and policy infrastructure**

Workshops are planned on:

- Institution building, framework conditions and policy infrastructure for sustainable development of the forestry sector under market economy conditions, Slovakia, 1995, the exact place and date are to be confirmed.
- Forest seed collection treatment and storage, Opocno, Czech Republic, 4-5 June 1995.

09(B).5.2.2. **Development of market oriented and ecologically sound enterprises**

Workshops are planned on:

- Development of marketing of sawnwood products in countries in transition to market economies, Sopron, Hungary (in cooperation with Finland) 7-11 November 1994.

09(B).6. **FOREST INDUSTRIES AND MARKETS FOR FOREST PRODUCTS**

09(B).6.1. **Review of markets for forest products and short term forecasts**

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.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The annual session of the Timber Committee reviews short-term trends and prospects in the markets for forest products, 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. The Annual Forest Products Market Review prepared by the secretariat is also published in autumn, with a description of the previous year's developments.

Duration: Continuing.

09(B).6.2. **Structural trends in markets for forest products and in the structure and capacity of forest industries**

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.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: Medium-term surveys are carried out on a 3-year rotation of sectors. These surveys incorporate as appropriate the results of surveys of the structure and capacity of major sectors (every time for panels, every other time for sawmilling). The sequence is as follows (years refer to publication):

1993 Sawmilling (delayed to 1994)
1994 Wood-based panels.
1995 Wood raw material (includes pulpwood and energy wood)
1996 Sawmilling
1997 Wood-based panels
1998 Wood raw material
etc.

Duration: Continuing.

ANNEX II

RANK ORDER OF PROGRAMME ELEMENTS IN THE
TIMBER COMMITTEE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1995-1999

(as agreed by the Committee's at its fifty-second session)

| <u>Rank order</u> | <u>Reference</u> | <u>Title</u> |
|-------------------|------------------|---|
| 1 | 09(B).1.1. | Contribution to the follow-up of UNCED and the Helsinki Ministerial Conference on Protection of Forests in Europe |
| 2 | 09(B).6.1. | Review of markets for forest products and short term forecasts |
| 3 | 09(B).1.2. | Outlook for the supply and demand of timber |
| 4 | 09(B).2.2. | Collection and dissemination of forest products statistics |
| 5 | 09(B).2.1. | Monitoring of the temperate and boreal forest resource (Forest Resource Assessment 2000) |
| 6 | 09(B).5.1. | Implementation of Resolution H3 of the Helsinki Ministerial Conference |
| 7 | 09(B).5.2. | Programme of activities for countries in transition, notably workshops |
| | - | Institution building, including legal and policy infrastructure |
| | - | Development of market oriented and ecologically sound enterprises |
| 8 | 09(B).1.3. | Outlook for the supply and demand of non-wood goods and services |
| 9 | 09(B).6.2. | Structural trends in markets for forest products and in the structure and capacity of forest industries |
| 10 | 09(B).1.9. | Promotion of public awareness and understanding, including public relations |
| 11 | 09(B).1.10. | Certification of forest products |
| 12 | 09(B).1.6. | Use of wood for energy |
| 13 | 09(B).3.1. | Multiple use forestry |
| 14 | 09(B).3.6. | Development of the human resource |

- 15 09(B).1.7. Recycling of paper: consequences for the sector
- 16 09(B).4.3. Management of forests in areas contaminated by radiation
- 17 09(B).4.2. Effects of pollution and climate change on forests and
the sector as a whole
- 18 09(B).4.1. Forest fire prevention and control
- 19 09(B).1.5. Productivity in the forest sector
- 20 09(B).2.4. Forest fire statistics

ANNEX III

PROVISIONAL LIST OF MEETINGS IN 1995 AND 1996 FALLING WITHIN
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 member countries 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.

1995

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Title</u> |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 6-8 February | Geneva | <u>Ad hoc</u> meeting to review ETTS V (A) |
| March (dates to be confirmed) | Geneva | Meeting of the team of specialists on new products, recycling, markets and applications for forest products (B) |
| April (dates to be confirmed) | Geneva | Meeting of the Timber Committee office holders (B) |
| 1-4 May | Quebec, Canada | Meeting of Joint FAO/ECE team of public relations specialists in the forest and forest industries sector (B) |
| 7-14 May | United States | Joint Timber Committee/European Forestry Commission study tour on the hardwood resource and its utilization (A) |
| 4-8 June | Opcno, Czech Rep. | Workshop on forest seed collection and storage (B) |
| 19-23 June | Geneva | Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, 20th session (A) |
| 28 August -1 September | Prince George B.C., Canada | Seminar on multiple use forestry (A) |
| September (dates to be confirmed) | Romania (subject to confirmation) | Seminar on forest roads construction and maintenance and raw material transport (A) |
| 13-16 November | Geneva | ECE TIMBER COMMITTEE, 53rd session (A) |
| (Undecided) | Slovak Republic | Workshop on institution building, |

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| | | framework conditions and policy infrastructure for sustainable development of the forestry sector under market economy conditions (B) |
| (Undecided) | Switzerland | Seminar on safety in forestry is feasible (A) |
| (Undecided) | (Undecided) | Steering Committee of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training, 12th session (B) |
| (Undecided) | Sweden | Workshop on questions related to the forest labour force under market economy conditions (B) |
| November (to be confirmed) | Sweden | Workshop on "wood, an environmentally friendly material" (A) |
| (Undecided) | Portugal (subject to confirmation) | Seminar on forest workers' training in Mediterranean countries (A) |

1996

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| April (dates to be fixed) | Geneva | Meeting of the Timber Committee office holders (B) |
| July-August (to be confirmed) | Krasnoyarsk, Russian Federation (subject to confirmation) | Seminar on Forest, fire and global change (A) |
| 9-13 October | Geneva | ECE TIMBER COMMITTEE, 54th session (A) |
| (Undecided) | (Undecided) | Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training, 21st session (A) |

ANNEX IV

MANDATE OF THE TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON CERTIFICATION OF FOREST PRODUCTS

A. TERMS OF REFERENCE

NAME: Team of specialists on certification of forest products

ESTABLISHED BY: ECE Timber Committee

References: Report of the fifty-second session, ECE/TIM/83, para.45

Date: October 1994

PROGRAMME OF WORK REFERENCE: 9 (B).1.10

MANDATE: To collect and analyse information and review the major issues for the forest and forest products sector of the ECE region of the introduction of systems for certification of the source of forest products. On the basis of information on existing and planned systems, and hypotheses as to their application with varying degrees of intercountry harmonisation, the team should prepare a scenario for the long term, using the ETTS V structure. The team should draw the Committee's attention to aspects which might require action at a later stage, by the Committee or its members.

Approved by: Timber Committee

REPORTING: The team reports to the Timber Committee

EXPECTED OUTPUT IN THE NEXT 18 MONTHS: A report to be discussed at the Committee's fifty-third session

DURATION: 1 year

B. INFORMATION SHEET
(as of 12 October 1994)

NAME: Team of specialists on certification of forest products

TEAM LEADER: To be chosen by the team at the first meeting

ACTIVITIES:

Past: None

Ongoing: None

Future: Preparing report for Committee session

MEMBERSHIP: Invitations to countries to nominate members. Participation of national and international industry and trade associations should also be explored. Desirable size about 10 members. Expected workload intensive.