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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
TIMBER COMMITTEE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS FIFTY-THIRD SESSION  
(13 to 16 November 1995)

**Highlights of the fifty-third session of the Timber Committee**

- ◆ The Committee examined its follow up activities to UNCED, CSD and the Helsinki Ministerial Conference (including the implementation of Resolution H3 on assistance to countries in transition) to which it attached the highest priority (paras. 30 and 31-34);
- ◆ The Committee reviewed the activities and endorsed the reports of its two subsidiary bodies, the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training and the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party of Forest Economics and Statistics (paras. 35 and 36-38);  
  
It also agreed to implement on a provisional basis "The principles and practices for the relations between the ECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission and their joint subsidiary bodies", pending final approval at the joint session of the two bodies in 1996 (para. 39);
- ◆ The Committee was informed that FAO attached much importance to the continued collaboration in the joint ECE/FAO work in forestry, which by pooling together the skills and resources of both organizations enabled synergy and more effective collection of information on the forestry sector of the ECE region (para. 37);
- ◆ The Committee endorsed the incorporation of its secretariat into the ECE Trade Division (para. 43);
- ◆ The Committee agreed to hold its next session in joint session with the FAO European Forestry Commission, from 23-27 September 1996 in Geneva. The main item of the agenda will be the policy implications of the joint study on European Timber Trends and Prospects, ETTS V (paras. 25-27 and 40);
- ◆ The Committee requested its office-holders to prepare proposals for a modified programme adapted to the new priorities and challenges of ECE and to the availability of resources, on the basis of suggestions by its Vice-Chairman (paras. 41 and 42). The Committee agreed on the rank ordering of programme elements (annex II) and on a provisional calendar of meetings (annex III).

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## Introduction

1. The ECE Timber Committee held its fifty-third session in Geneva, from 13 to 16 November 1995. The session was attended by representatives from Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America.

2. The session was attended by representatives of the European Commission.

3. The following United Nations and specialized agencies were represented: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/WTO); International Labour Organisation (ILO); Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

4. The following governmental organization was represented: African Wood Organization (OAB). The following non-governmental organizations were represented: International Organization for Standardization (ISO); European Confederation of Agriculture (CEA); European Forest Institute (EFI); Organization of European Sawmilling Industries (OES); European Federation of Associations of Particle Board Manufacturers (FESYP); European Confederation of Woodworking Industries (CEI-BOIS); European Federation of Plywood Industries (FEIC); European Federation of Fibreboard Industries (FEROPA); and Euro MDF Board (EMB).

5. The Chairman Mr. G. Siegel (Austria) was unable to attend the Committee's session due to health problems. The Committee expressed its wishes for a prompt recovery. The Committee agreed that in the absence of Mr. G. Siegel, its two Vice-Chairmen, Messrs. N.A. Burdin (Russian Federation) and D. Darr (United States of America) would co-chair the session.

6. Ms. C. Cosgrove-Sacks, Director of the UN/ECE Trade Division, addressed the session.

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

7. The provisional agenda, as set out in document ECE/TIM/84, was adopted.

### Matters arising from the fiftieth session of the Economic Commission for Europe (Item 2 of the agenda) (TIM/R.252)

8. The Committee was informed of the discussions of its work by the Commission and of the Commission decisions at its fiftieth session. It agreed to take account of these discussions and decisions, particularly with regard to its programme of work. The Committee's attention was drawn to the General Assembly's recommendation to the regional commissions made in the Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women held at Beijing in 1995. The Committee suggested that the status of women in forestry might be the special topic at its next session to be held in joint session with the European Forestry Commission and asked its office holders to consider the preparation of this item.

Subsidiary bodies, teams of specialists and other activities since the fifty-second session (Item 3 of the agenda)

- (a) Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training, twentieth session and Steering Committee, twelfth session (TIM/EFC/WP.1/24 and TIM/EFC/WP.1/AC.1/17)

9. The Committee welcomed the Joint Committee's work in reviewing its structure, objectives, methods of work, and in adapting its programme to the priorities of its parent bodies. It also took note of the long term strategy for the Joint Committee's activities prepared by the Steering Committee. Improving communication between subsidiary bodies and parent bodies and also within countries themselves and with other international bodies was an important issue to be discussed under item 11 (a) of the agenda (see para 39).

10. The representative of ILO reiterated the importance his organization attached to the Joint Committee and supported the forward planning of its activities within the new orientation of its work.

11. The Committee was informed that the seminar on multiple use forestry in Prince George, Canada, recommended the preparation of international, non-binding guidelines for codes of forest practice (TIM/EFC/WP.1/SEM.42/2). It agreed that the seminar's proposal should be considered by the Joint Committee before being transmitted to other bodies.

12. The Committee welcomed the offer by Romania to host the twenty-first session of the Joint Committee and the seminar on environmentally sound forest roads and wood transport in June 1996. It thanked those countries which had provided host facilities for Joint Committee activities over the past year: Canada, Finland and Greece.

- (b) Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, twentieth session (TIM/EFC/WP.2/25)

13. The Committee endorsed the report of the Working Party, presented by its former Chairman, Mr. N. Burdin (Russian Federation), and approved the general direction of its activities. It welcomed the cooperation through the Intersecretariat Working Group on forest sector statistics, intended to avoid all duplication and reduce reporting burdens on countries.

14. The Committee also strongly endorsed the Working Party's approval of the redesign of the *Timber Bulletin* and the creation of several series of papers with a single cover layout which includes uniform logos differentiated by colour, emphasizing their common provenance. These changes made the Committee's publications and other documents more attractive and user friendly.

- (c) Global forest resource assessment 2000, temperate zone (TIM/R.253)

15. The Committee was informed of progress on this project, to which it attached high priority, in view of the importance of having high quality and comparable information for decision making.

16. It stressed the importance of developing standard global terms and definitions for key parameters and welcomed the process proposed to reach consensus on these and in particular the Intergovernmental Consultation to be held at Kotka (Finland) in June 1996.

17. The Committee urged countries to nominate correspondents and make available to them sufficient resources. They are expected to make a significant input into the work and should also be empowered to approach other institutions to seek relevant data, notably on environmental parameters.

18. It noted the importance of adopting a realistic approach to planning this work, based on the likely availability of resources. It agreed that the quality of the assessment will depend on the availability of financial and manpower resources, and urged countries to consider contributing resources to the central team. It thanked those countries and institutions which have already contributed or cooperated in the work, including the EU, EFI and the USA, as well as the members of the team of specialists.

(d) Outlook for the supply and demand of non-wood goods and services, meeting of team of specialists November 1994 (TIM/R.254)

19. The Committee was informed of progress on this and endorsed the mandate for the team of specialists (annex 2 of TIM/R.254), with the following addition: "d) support and give advice to the preparation of the temperate and boreal forest resource assessment 2000 with regard to indicators of non-wood goods and services."

(e) New products, recycling, markets and applications for forest products (TIM/R.255 and Add.1)

20. Mr. Y. Granger (France), team leader, presented the team's report which covered the current state of legislation, technical constraints, consequences of recycling on the forest and forest industries sector, new market outlets and recommendations for policy makers. The team recommended that policy makers recognize the ecological value of the removal of small diameter logs and that promotion of research and development in forestry and forest products should be reinforced, especially for development of new products and wood-based energy. Wood is a natural, renewable and biodegradable raw material that is also carbon neutral, and as such it should be excluded from energy and CO2 taxes.

21. The Committee thanked Mr. Granger and the team for its report. Germany offered to host a policy workshop on timber markets, recycling and energy generation from wood in September 1996. The Committee accepted this offer and asked the secretariat with the teams on new products and on wood energy to prepare the workshop.

(f) Public relations in the forest and forest industries sector (TIM/R.256 and Add.1)

22. Mr. F. Lindsay (UK), leader of the Joint FAO/ECE Team of Public Relations Specialists in the Forest and Forest Industries Sector, presented the team's recommendations notably with respect to international promotion of wood, inclusion of communication skills in forestry education at the university level, international communication on the sector through the Internet and the nomination

of a forest and forest industries public relations coordinator to extend fully the team's network. Austria announced its intention to host a meeting of the PR team.

23. The Committee thanked Mr. Lindsay for his dedicated leadership of a most successful team, as well as all the team members. It agreed to review the mandate of the team at the joint session with the FAO European Forestry Commission in 1996.

(g) United States hardwood study tour (TIM/R.257)

24. Mr. H. Stinshoff (Germany), thanked on behalf of the participants the organizers and sponsors of the tour, notably the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service and Foreign Agricultural Service, the American Forest and Paper Association, and the American Hardwood Export Council. The tour theme was the Appalachian hardwood resource and its efficient utilization and the 45 participants from 14 countries visited forests and both small- and large-scale hardwood products manufacturers.

Study of European timber trends and prospects (ETTS V) (Item 4 of the agenda)

25. The Committee was informed that the study was nearing completion and would be published in spring 1996, in good time for the joint session and heard a detailed oral presentation of the study's main results. However, it regretted the delay which had affected the study preparations. The Committee welcomed the study, which it considered would be an important contribution to decision taking and policy forming in the forest and timber sector. It urged members and the secretariat together to encourage dissemination and discussion of the study and its implications.

26. It requested the secretariat to develop a proposal for the evaluation of the ETTS V process, in consultation with representatives of Finland, France, Germany, and Sweden, and submit this proposal to the joint session in September 1996.

27. The Committee warmly thanked all those who had contributed to the study, as national correspondents, as members of the core team or by contributions of funds or services.

Certification of forest products (Item 5 of the agenda) (TIM/R.260 and Add.1)

28. Mr. R. Busink (Netherlands), leader of the FAO/ECE Team of Specialists on Certification of Forest Products, presented the team's interim report. In the ensuing discussion it became apparent that certification of forest products is a complex issue which deserves priority attention, despite the methodological difficulties. The team's mandate was extended 1 year in order to allow it to finalize its report and present it at the joint session in 1996. The Committee thanked Mr. Busink and the team for the excellent work.

Market developments in 1995 and prospects for 1996 (Item 6 of the agenda)

29. The Committee's discussion on the forest products markets was based on national reports and statistics, countries' estimates for 1995 and 1996, and the secretariat's Forest Products Annual Market Review - Volume XLVIII (1995), 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 1995 and 1996 and other tabular material, in Forest Products Markets in 1995 and Prospects for 1996 - Volume XLVIII (1995), N° 6 of the Timber Bulletin.

Follow up to the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, UNCED and CSD (Item 7 of the agenda) (TIM/R.262)

30. The Committee was informed of the latest developments in this respect, including the Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" decisions regarding forest issues, and the Brussels round table of the Helsinki process. It noted that it was making a significant contribution to these processes, both directly by implementing resolution H3 and by active participation in a number of meetings, and, perhaps more important, indirectly, by providing information and analysis relevant to the processes. The Committee was informed that the coordinating countries of the Helsinki process were considering options with regard to the technical follow up to the Helsinki resolutions, including possible cooperation with international organisations. The Committee requested its secretariat to examine positively any request it might receive from the coordinating countries in this respect

Assistance to countries of central and eastern Europe in transition (Item 8 of the agenda) (TIM/R.263)

31. The Committee was informed of progress on the implementation and development of the programme of assistance to countries in transition, to which it attached high priority. It stressed the importance of this activity and appreciated the efforts made by the secretariat and hoped that a regional advisory service would also be available in the future.

32. It agreed that workshops should play an important role in the future although there is a clear need for more operational approaches as well, especially in the field of promotion of investment activities in the forest sector. It suggested that the EU could contribute to the workshop programme in a more active way. It emphasized also the need of a comprehensive overview of the workshop proceedings.

33. Some countries, notably Slovakia and Finland have expressed their readiness to host workshops, while Austria stated that the workshop on public relations is still subject to confirmation.

34. The Committee warmly welcomed the work done in monitoring forestry assistance to countries in transition, in accordance with resolution H3 of the Helsinki Conference. This monitoring activity would build up a data base which will be analysed to determine the main characteristics of the assistance programmes and help to indicate whether they are in accordance with countries' real needs.

Activities of other Principal Subsidiary Bodies of ECE of concern to the Timber Committee (Item 9 of the agenda)

35. 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 organizations of relevance to the Timber Committee (Item 10 of the agenda)

36. The Committee was informed by Mr. M. R. de Montalembert, Director, Forest Policy and Planning division, of FAO's activities in the field of forestry and of the special emphasis the Forestry Department attached to the UNCED and CSD process.

37. He informed the Committee that, in view of the usefulness and efficiency of the forestry activities developed by FAO and ECE over the years, the Director-General had made arrangements, within the reorganization of FAO, to maintain in Geneva the FAO staff of the Timber Section of the former ECE/FAO Agriculture and Timber Division. FAO attached much importance to the joint ECE/FAO work in forestry which followed a programme jointly developed by the ECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission. Pooling together the skills and resources of both organizations enabled synergy and more effective collection of information on the forestry sector of the ECE region which produces and consumes three-fourths of the world's industrial forest products. Collaboration between FAO and ECE should continue in the important area of forestry, which contributes much to environmental stability and sustainable development.

38. 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 of interest to them.

Programme of work (Item 11 of the agenda)

(a) Relations between subsidiary bodies and the Timber Committee (TIM/R.266)

39. The Committee reviewed the proposed "principles and practices for the relations between the ECE Timber Committee, the FAO European Forestry Commission and their joint subsidiary bodies" (TIM/R.266 annex), and agreed that they should be implemented on a provisional basis, pending final approval at the joint session of the two parent bodies. It welcomed this initiative to streamline and rationalise procedures to avoid misunderstandings and delays.

(b) Fifty-fourth session of the Committee in joint session with the EFC

40. The Committee was informed of proposals for arrangements and main topics for the joint session which will be held in Geneva from 23-27 September 1996. It asked the joint meeting of the two bureaux, in April 1996, to finalise the provisional agenda. The joint session might also include discussion of preparations of the forest resource assessment 2000 and a celebration of the two bodies' fiftieth anniversary.

(c) Review and revision of the draft programme of work for 1996-2000  
(TIM/R.268)

41. The Committee approved its work programme, on the basis of the draft prepared by the secretariat, and taking into account its discussions under other items and on the discussion of this item in the General Assembly. It was informed by Ms. Cosgrove-Sacks, on behalf of the Executive Secretary that a Special Working Group will make proposals for greater efficiency and savings, on the basis of an in depth review to be submitted for consideration to the Commission in April 1996.

42. The Committee requested its office holders to prepare proposals for a modified programme adapted both to the new priorities and challenges and to the availability of resources, on the basis of the suggestions by Mr. Darr, circulated at the session. The Committee agreed that the existence of a core programme consisting of: a) the continuing information collection and analysis; and b) major current policy topics, should be recognised. The majority of secretariat resources should be devoted to this core programme. In the meantime, the secretariat should concentrate on the activities assigned high priority (see annex II). The programme to be prepared should be presented in such a way that it is possible to distinguish between activities which were chiefly implemented by the ECE/FAO Geneva secretariat, those which were the responsibility of other secretariats (FAO Rome and ILO), and those which were the responsibility of lead countries or individuals, such as teams of specialists or workshops. The latter group should in general require minimal secretariat input.

43. The Committee endorsed the incorporation of its secretariat into the ECE Trade Division.

44. The Committee agreed that programme element 6.2 Structural trends in markets for forest products and in the structure and capacity of forest industries should be classified as "cannot be implemented at present", as laid down in decision O(45). (See Part II of the work programme).

45. The Committee agreed on the rank ordering of programme elements, as set out in annex II.

Election of officers (Item 12 of the agenda)

46. The Committee reelected 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-fourth session.

Date of next session (Item 13 of the agenda)

47. The Committee agreed to hold its next session jointly with the FAO European Forestry Commission, from 23-27 September 1996, subject to the availability of Conference services.

Any other business (Item 14 of the agenda)

48. None.

Adoption of the report of the Committee's session (Item 15 of the agenda)

49. The Committee adopted the present report of its fifty-third session.

**ANNEX I**

**PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE ECE TIMBER COMMITTEE  
FOR 1996-2000**

This programme is carried out by the UN/ECE Timber Committee (TC) and the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC), and their joint subsidiary bodies, which meet on alternate years:

- The Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training (JC) (1996, 1998);
- The Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics (FES) (1995, 1997).

For each item the responsible body or bodies are indicated. Elements marked (EFC) are the exclusive responsibility of the EFC, they are shown for information only and to ensure a common numbering system.

The Committee and Commission have allocated priorities to the different programme elements. These are indicated as follows:

- (\*\*\*) Highest priority
- (\*\*) Medium priority
- (\*) Lower priority

\*\*\*\*\*

**PART I**

**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 Liaison Unit for the follow-up to the Helsinki Conference will report on its work. 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 work of 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: A team of specialists advises the secretariat on the study, notably as regards methodology and data. A review draft of the next major study of long-term trends and prospects in Europe (ETTS V), was presented to an ad hoc meeting in February 1995. The study will be revised in the light of comments, completed and published (with accompanying "Working Papers") by March 1996. The Committee and the Commission will evaluate the whole ETTS V process. On the basis of consultations with interested countries, the secretariat will prepare proposals to the joint session in 1996, on implementing the evaluation exercise.

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.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: A team of specialists met in November 1994. The same team also examined the economic and financial basis for sustainable supply of all goods and services of the forest. A study, composed of national reports prepared according to a common format will be prepared and issued in 1996 or 1997. Work will be guided by periodic meetings of the team of specialists. An ad hoc meeting on non-wood goods and services of forests will be held, subject to a country offering the necessary facilities.

Duration: Five years, 1993-1997.

09.(B).1.4. **Review of national forest policies and topical policy issues (\*\*\*)**

This programme element is the exclusive responsibility of the EFC.

Description: The Commission reviews, on a regular basis, national forest policies and selected topical policy issues, as support for national policy makers, and background to the Commission's other activities. This review pays particular attention to sustainable development and in particular to reports on implementation at the national level of the provisions of UNCED and the Helsinki Conference, as described in element 1.1.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: At each session, delegates submit national progress reports, according to an outline drawn up by the Executive Committee. However, written national reports will not be requested if reports are already available from other sources. These reports are synthesized by the secretariat, presented and discussed.

Duration: Continuing (review in 1997).

09.(B).1.5. **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.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: A workshop on policy aspects of wood recycling, energy and markets will be held in Germany in 1996 (in conjunction with the team of specialists on recycling).

Duration: One year to 1996.

09.(B).1.6. **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 prepared a synthesis of national reports on recycling legislation and its effect on the forest and forest industries sector. A workshop on policy aspects of wood recycling, energy and markets will be held in Germany in 1996 (with team on wood energy).

Duration: One year to 1996.

09.(B).1.7. **Forest sector policies in the Mediterranean region (\*\*)**

This programme element is the exclusive responsibility of the EFC.

Description: The Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions *Silva Mediterranea*, will advise FAO and member countries in the Mediterranean region on the implementation of the Mediterranean Forest Action Programme (MED-FAP).

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: *Silva Mediterranea* will act, at regular sessions (seventeenth in 1996) and between them, as an inter-governmental forum for the coordination, monitoring and orientation of MED-FAP. It will contribute to identifying international regional priority activities, as well as designing and monitoring them.

Duration: Review in 1997

09.(B).1.8. **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 1995. It exchanged information and will update the PR toolkit. The team will meet in 1998 in Austria. In addition to the team's activities, a workshop on "Wood, an environmentally friendly material" will be held in Sweden in 1996. A workshop will be organized by Austria on PR for countries in transition (subject to confirmation). The team also advises the secretariat on PR for the Committee and the Commission (see TIM/R.256 for more detail).

Duration: Review by joint session in 1996.

09.(B).1.9. **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 and the Commission 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 held three meetings in 1995 and presented a report to the Committee's fifty-third session. A final report will be presented to the joint session in 1996.

Duration: One year to 1996.

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

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

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 general forest inventory data and environmental and other non-wood benefits of the forest. The work will be carried out in close cooperation with FAO and the results integrated into FAO's global assessments and in cooperation with other organisations as appropriate. Developed countries outside the region could also be covered in the temperate-zone assessments.

Work accomplished: The secretariat published in 1994, as a supplement to the 1990 Assessment, information on the forest resources of countries constituted since the 1990 Assessment. The Global Synthesis of the Forest Resources

Assessment 1990, including the information on the temperate forests published earlier (1992-1993), was issued in Rome in March 1995. The team of specialists on the temperate and boreal forest resource assessment held its inaugural meeting in March 1995.

Work to be undertaken:

- (a) A network of national correspondents will be established in 1996;
- (b) After widespread consultation, the team will prepare a draft enquiry, for approval by the parent bodies at the joint session in 1996;
- (c) Experts and national correspondents will be briefed at an ad hoc meeting in 1997 on application of the enquiry;
- (d) Circulation of enquiry and analysis of results from 1997;
- (e) 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 1995.

Duration: Continuing.(review in 2003)

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

Description: The Working Party on Forest Economics 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: 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. These activities are coordinated with those of other international organisations through an Intersecretariat Working Group, which will, among other activities, develop systems for forest data collection, to avoid duplication of work and reduce excessive burden on statistics providers.

Duration: Continuing (review in 1997).

09.(B).2.3. **Research networks on Mediterranean forestry questions (\*)**

This programme element is the exclusive responsibility of the EFC.

Description: *Silva Mediterranea* will encourage the exchange of information and the coordination of research in topics of interest to Mediterranean forestry, through research networks.

Work carried out and to be undertaken: Six research networks are at present operational, focusing on forest fires, key species of the subregion (stone pine, cedar species, and, the most recently created network, on cork oak), other multipurpose tree species, selection of stands of Mediterranean conifers for the production of seeds to be used in reforestation programmes. They report on results to the regular sessions of Silva Mediterranea, which may found new networks or terminate existing ones. A workshop on the use of wildfire data bases in the framework of research networks on forest fire management was held in France in November/December 1993. The reports of meetings held will be published, as well as a special publication on cedar species.

Duration: Continuing (review in 1997).

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 (with a simplified enquiry from 1996) and the results are published in cooperation with the Commission of the European Communities. The modalities of implementation of resolution S3 will be determined and implemented in 1996. These activities are carried out in close cooperation with other appropriate organisations at a regional and global level.

Duration: Continuing, review in September 1998.

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 G. Nordanstig (Sweden), and met in Vienna (March 1994), and in London (August 1994). The team is preparing a code of practice; a seminar was held at the invitation of Canada in Prince George, British Columbia, in September 1995. A follow-up workshop will be held in Sweden in 1997.

Duration: Three years, to 1997.

09.(B).3.2. **Management of mountain watersheds (\*)**

This programme element is the exclusive responsibility of the EFC.

Description: Mountain watersheds are important in Europe as areas playing key ecological roles in maintaining biological plant and animal communities including forests, balanced hydrological cycles and in supporting human communities with traditional socioeconomic land uses and practices adapted to the environment. The Working Party on Management of Mountain Watersheds collects information, documents technologies, monitors evolution, exchanges experience and discusses progress within these mountain ecosystems in view of their sustainable management and conservation. Important areas of concentration will be sustainable management and security of mountain ecosystems, with special attention to torrent control, avalanches, risk zoning, and mapping and early warning systems.

Work accomplished: The Working Party held its nineteenth session in Spain in July 1994. It has an important role in the follow-up of Agenda 21, chapter 13 and supports FAO's role as task manager for this chapter on mountain ecosystems.

Work to be undertaken:

- (a) strengthening the programmes of work of the three subregional groups to ensure the implementation of resolution S4;
- (b) organisation and implementation of contribution to Agenda 21 chapter 13;
- (c) continuation and follow-up of the special study on application of geographic information systems to mountain watershed management;
- (d) the twentieth session will be held in 1996 in Norway.

Key areas of concentration will be:

- sustainable management of mountain ecosystems;
- improved mountain livelihood systems, in response to UNCED;
- activities related to international agreements on mountains;
- risk and disaster control and monitoring.

Duration: Review in 1997

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. 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 was held in Kuopio (Finland) in June/July 1994 on: Clothing and safety equipment in forestry;
- (b) A seminar will be organized in 1996 in Switzerland on the topic: Safety and health in forestry are feasible!;
- (c) 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 was published and disseminated in 1995;
- (d) An international network has been established, under the direction of ILO, on the forestry workforce.

Duration: Continuing, review in 1997.

09.(B).3.4. **Environmentally sound forest roads and wood transport (\*\*)**

Description: The Joint Committee will encourage the exchange of information on the latest developments in the technology and practice of forest road building and maintenance, with a view to transporting wood from the forest to the mill at low cost, while respecting the environment.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The team of specialists on forest roads will prepare a seminar in Romania in June 1996, possibly followed by publication of the seminar report in 1997.

Duration: Three years to 1997.

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 (biannually).
- (b) A team of specialists, led by J-G. Goldammer (Germany), met in April and December 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 "Forest, fire and global change", in August 1996. The team has established a group on forest fire management training to provide advice on request from countries inside and outside the ECE region.

Duration: Review in 1997.

09.(B).4.2. **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 met at Gomel (Belarus) in November 1994. A workshop was held in Gomel (Belarus) and Chernigov (Ukraine) in November 1994 on ways of controlling and finding solutions to the problems in the forest and forest industry sector arising from radiation contamination. Research will continue along the lines laid down at the workshop. Another workshop was held in Kiev (Ukraine) in October 1995.

Duration: Review in 1997.

09.(B).4.3. **Reduction of the impact of forest operations on ecosystems (\*\*)**

Description: The Joint Committee will contribute to minimising the impact of forest operations on ecosystems, notably from compaction and erosion due to the use of heavy equipment, by collecting and disseminating information on the characteristics of forest sites and machines and their interactions, and formulating, if possible, recommendations on good practice.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The team of specialists building on the results of the FORSITRISK team, will review developments in research, indicate directions for future research and development, and, if considered appropriate, generate guidelines for designers and users of forest machines and equipment. A workshop on the topic will be held in 1998 and the results published.

Duration: Four years to 1998.

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 team will hold its next meeting in 1996. 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. A draft report on the implementation of H3 was presented to the Second Expert Level Follow-up Meeting in January 1995. The report was finalized and published.

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 products 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 continued to implement a wide range of activities, notably workshops, which are scheduled and organized in a flexible manner, under two broad headings. (Past and planned activities are listed below, but the programme is flexible and may be changed between sessions.)

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

- Workshop on evaluation of forest benefits through a total evaluation of production, environmental and social functions of forests (Forest value), Czech Republic, September 1994.
- Workshop on institution building, framework conditions and policy infrastructure for sustainable development of the forestry sector under market economy conditions, Slovakia, 1996, the exact place and date are to be confirmed.

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

- Workshop on development of marketing of sawnwood products in countries in transition to market economies, Sopron, Hungary (in cooperation with Finland and FAO Forest Department), November 1994;
- Workshop on forest seed collection treatment and storage, Opocno, Czech Republic, 4-5 June 1995.
- Second workshop on marketing of sawnwood products, for Russian speaking countries, Estonia, 9-13 October 1995.

Duration: Continuing.

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 and the *Forest Products Annual Market Review* prepared by the secretariat. An analysis of market trends, based on the Committee's discussions, is published after the session.

Duration: Continuing.

## **PART II**

### Projects for possible implementation at a future time

(ECE Decision O(45) and Supplementary report containing the views and proposals of the ECE to the Special Commission of ECOSOC, E/ECE/1150/Rev.1, para. 131)

#### **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 and others of the ECE region for policy and planning purposes.

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 survey on sawmilling was published in 1995. The issue of the medium-term surveys has been temporarily suspended until ETTS V is completed, and the Geneva staff is at full strength.

ANNEX II

PROPOSED RANK ORDER OF PROGRAMME ELEMENTS  
IN THE INTEGRATED PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE TIMBER COMMITTEE  
AND THE EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION FOR 1996-2000

Most of the programme elements are the joint responsibility of the Timber Committee (TC) and the European Forestry Commission (EFC), or of their joint subsidiary bodies. Elements which are the exclusive responsibility of the TC are marked (TC). Elements marked (EFC) are the exclusive responsibility of the EFC, they are shown for information only and to ensure a common numbering system.

**A. Highest priority**

<u>Rank order</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Title</u>
1	1.1.	Contribution to the follow-up of UNCED and the Helsinki Ministerial Conference on Protection of Forests in Europe
2	6.1.	Review of markets for forest products and short term forecasts (TC)
3	1.2.	Outlook for the supply and demand of timber
4	2.2.	Collection and dissemination of forest products statistics
5	2.1.	Monitoring of the temperate and boreal forest resource (Forest Resource Assessment 2000)
6	5.1.	Implementation of Resolution H3 of the Helsinki Ministerial Conference
7	5.2.	Programme of activities for countries in transition, notably workshops
8	1.3.	Outlook for the supply and demand of non-wood goods and services
9	1.4.	Review of national forest policies and topical policy issues (EFC)
10	1.8.	Promotion of public awareness and understanding, including public relations
11	1.9.	Certification of forest products

Rank order    Reference    Title

**B. Medium priority**

12	1.5.	Use of wood for energy
13	3.1.	Multiple use forestry
14	3.3.	Development of the human resource
15	3.4.	Environmentally sound forest roads and wood transport
16	4.3.	Reduction of the impact of forest operations on ecosystems
17	1.6.	Recycling of paper, consequences for the sector (TC)
18	4.2.	Management of forests in areas contaminated by radiation
19	1.7.	Forest sector policies in the Mediterranean region (EFC)

**C. Low priority**

20	2.3.	Research networks on Mediterranean forestry questions (EFC)
21	3.2.	Management of mountain watersheds (EFC)
22	4.1.	Forest fire prevention and control
23	2.4.	Forest fire statistics

**ANNEX III**

**PROVISIONAL LIST OF MEETINGS IN 1996 AND 1997 FALLING WITHIN  
THE TIMBER COMMITTEE'S 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). 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.

**1996**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Title</u>
5-8 March	Geneva	Team of specialists on countries in transition (B)
15-17 April	Jönköping (Sweden)	Workshop on "wood, an environmentally friendly material" (A)
15-17 April	Geneva	Second meeting of the team of specialists on the temperate and boreal forest resource assessment (B)
April (dates to be confirmed)	Geneva	Joint meeting of the ECE Timber Committee office holders and the Executive Committee of the FAO European Forestry Commission (B)
10-14 June (dates to be confirmed)	Kotka (Finland)	Intergovernmental consultation of forest resource assessment, Kotka III (B)
17-21 June	Sinaia (Romania)	Seminar on environmentally sound forest roads and wood transport (A)
24-27 June	Sinaia (Romania)	Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training, 22 <sup>nd</sup> session (A)
5-10 August	Krasnoyarsk, (Russian Federation)	Seminar on forest fire and global change (A)
September (dates to be confirmed)	Hamburg (Germany)	Workshop on timber markets, recycling and energy generation from wood (A)
23-27 September	Geneva	ECE TIMBER COMMITTEE, 54 <sup>th</sup> session, in joint session with the FAO European Forestry Commission (A)

1996 (cont.)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Title</u>
7-11 October	Konolfingen (Switzerland)	Seminar: Safety and health in forestry are feasible! (A)
Undecided	Austria	Workshop on public relations for countries in transition (B)
Undecided	Slovakia	Workshop on institution building, framework conditions and policy infrastructure for sustainable development of the forestry sector under market economy conditions (B)

1997

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Title</u>
April (dates to be confirmed)	Geneva	Meeting of the Timber Committee office holders (B)
4-5 June	Uppsala (Sweden)	Workshop on multiple use forestry (A)
June (dates to be confirmed)	Geneva	Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, 21 <sup>st</sup> session (A)
September (dates to be confirmed)	Italy (to be confirmed)	Seminar on harvesting of wood and non-wood forest products in the Mediterranean region (jointly organized by Italy and FAO, in collaboration with the FAO/ECE/ILO Joint Committee) (A)
October (dates to be confirmed)	Geneva	ECE TIMBER COMMITTEE, 55 <sup>th</sup> session (A)
Undecided	Undecided	<i>Ad hoc</i> meeting on temperate and boreal forest resource assessment (A)