



UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION

FORESTRY AND TIMBER SECTION

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Palais des Nations
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Geneva, 23 July 2012

Re: Upcoming session of the Timber Committee, October 2012, Geneva

Dear Delegate,

You are cordially invited to participate in a workshop on the environmental sustainability of wood (15 October 2012), and to the seventieth session of the Timber Committee (TC) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (from 16 to 19 of October 2012), both to take place in Geneva.

The main theme of the workshop and the session is the **sustainability of wood products**.

The workshop, entitled 'the Green Life of Wood', will provide an opportunity to listen and interact with experts in the field of **wood products, their life cycle analysis, carbon footprint, and environmental impact**. Through a participatory exercise, the workshop will also allow all participants to share their points of view and ideas, as well as to discuss solutions and develop recommendations on how to further develop scientific evidence on: the suitability of wood for storing carbon; reducing emissions; and as a recyclable material, and how the environmental benefits of wood can be better marketed.

Participants in the TC session will be able to review, discuss and contribute to a paper on **forests and economic development**, which synthesises and elaborates on the main studies developed by ECE-FAO in 2011-12 such as the state and outlook of European and North American forests and the Forest Product Annual Market Reviews. The final paper will be presented at the 10th session of the United Nations Forum of Forest in April 2013 and will provide an important contribution to the discussion on the subject taking place at the global level.

This will be followed by market discussions. These will focus on **sustainable forest products and their contribution to the green economy**, covering the broad market and policy

developments related to innovative and sustainable forest products, and how they support a more environmentally friendly and stronger economy.

The Committee session will also **welcome delegates from the European Forestry Commission** to discuss three important issues for the future of the joint ECE-FAO work on forests in the region:

1. The results of the **2013 Strategic Review** of the joint programme of work and its supporting ECE/FAO bodies;
2. The draft **elements of the new joint ECE/FAO programme of work** for the period 2014-17;
3. The draft **Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy**, which after several consultations with different stakeholders has reached an advanced stage and should be thoroughly discussed by the Committee and the Commission's members in order to finalize it.


Attached is the official agenda of the session. Documents for the session are being finalized and will be available on the ECE website at <http://www.unece.org/forests/tc2012.html> by the beginning of August. Information on the 'the green life of wood' workshop is regularly updated and made available at: <http://www.unece.org/forests/lca-workshop.html>.

Finally, the meeting will discuss the organization of the **European Forest Week (EFW) in 2013**, and hear about preparations of **Metsä2013**, the joint session of the ECE Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission to take place in Rovaniemi, Finland, next year. The EFW and Metsä2013 will address the importance of forests and forest products in a green economy.

Taking into account the focus of this year's TC session, representatives of the **private sector are also invited to join the meeting** to share experiences, information and recommendations on the sector. The meeting will offer an opportunity to strengthen the partnership between the United Nations and the forest sector in order to further promote and implement best practices for sustainable forest management and for a dynamic forest sector that could lead the transition towards a green economy.

We look forward to welcoming you in Geneva in October. Registration forms are available via the ECE website. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you need further information.

Yours sincerely,



Paola Dedda
Chief, Forestry and Timber Section
Secretary to the Timber Committee