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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE**

Timber Committee

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION**

European Forestry Commission

**Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party
on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management**

Thirty-fifth session

Geneva, 23-25 April 2013

Agenda item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda

Guidance on Work Area 1: Markets and Statistics

AGENDA ITEM 4 (a) – REVIEW AND PLANS - STATISTICS

Note by the secretariat

Summary

According to its mandate, the Working Party is expected to provide guidance to Work Area 1: Markets and Statistics. This document discusses the activities in forest products statistics during the last year. The Working Party is invited to note and comment on any developments in the work area and also respond to the specific questions posed within this note.

I. Outputs

A. Forecasts

1. In 2012 the secretariat produced the Timber Committee Forecasts for the years 2012-2013. Presentations made at the annual Timber Committee Market Discussions were based on the forecasts supplied by countries prior to the meeting as well as the preliminary JFSQ data.
2. The secretariat received forecasts from 30 countries in 2012, the same number as in 2011.

B. Forest Products Markets

3. Data tables in support of the *Forest Products Annual Market Review, 2011-2012* (FPAMR) based on the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ)¹ as well as *Forest Products Statistics 2007-2011*. All forest products data were uploaded to the FAOSTAT interactive database, the primary distribution site for forest products data, in July and November. FAO also provided the preliminary 2011 data in August. Final 2011 data are available on the UNECE Timber Committee (TC) and FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) website as well as at FAOSTAT.
4. There were 36 replies to the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire for the region. This compares with 41 in 2011.
5. The price database has been updated and complemented with import (as well as export) unit value data for the period 1964-2011. There were 250 downloads of the export unit price file in 2012.
6. *We would again ask countries that are not currently supplying price statistics and that would be in a position to supply them to please consult with the secretariat on the feasibility, usefulness and modalities of providing current and representative price information of forest products.*

C. Online Data (including prices)

7. All data are provided in electronic-only form on the TC/EFC website (<http://www.unece.org/forests/fpm/onlinedata>). This year that includes
 - The chapter and annex tables (apparent consumption) of the FPAMR;
 - A set of product tables by country for the FPAMR; for the first time these items were linked directly from the publication;
 - The complete set of statistics (production, imports, exports by volume and value) on primary forest products for 2007-2011;
 - The graphs and associated information presented to the Timber Committee;
 - The forecast tables for 2012-2013 for products and subregions;
 - On-going price statistics as these data are updated;
 - Unit price table containing all export and import unit values from 1964-2011.
8. As an indicator of the amount of data being provided for the UNECE region, for the year 2011 there were 24,600 data points (representing a specific country/flow/product/unit) for the historical forest products data and 2,430 for the forecasts. This is an increase of about 25% since the year 2000.
9. It should be noted that the 2011 secondary products and species trade data are not yet available through the usual product-page HTML and Excel file on the TC/EFC website due to time constraints.

¹ The JFSQ consists of questionnaires on wood removals and forest products production (JQ1), trade of primary products (JQ2), trade of secondary products (JQ3) and species trade (EU/ECE). Additional questionnaires are supplied for other organizations, i.e. ITTO1-3 and EU1-3.

10. The secretariat would welcome views on the coverage, usefulness and timeliness of the forest products statistics. If interested, we could prepare a short questionnaire on this, either to be circulated to users or available through the website.

D. Data Availability

11. The secretariat received fewer replies to the JFSQ and the same number for the TCQ as last year. The amount of data provided stayed approximately the same. The quality (extent of data provided) varied but on average improved slightly. For a detailed listing of data availability please see the annex.

12. In terms of the "indicators of achievement" used by the UN to evaluate performance, the table in the annex shows the results for the last 20 years. The "% satisfactory" is the number of countries with official data for more than 80% of the 209 possible responses to JQ1 and JQ2, divided by the total number of countries in the UNECE region. The fall for 2009 noted last year has been partially recovered, rising from 58% to 66%. The target approved by the UN General Assembly for 2011-2012 is 68% which we are failing to reach. A list of data status by country will be provided at the meeting.

II. Data Analysis Issues

13. The data for chips, particles and residues are not always reliable and are not treated equally in the JFSQ and Timber Committee forecast questionnaire (TCQ). In the JFSQ chips and particles are one item and the residues are another. In the TCQ these items are combined and use the term "domestic supply". The object in both questionnaires is to see the total amount of byproducts available. A table will be provided at the meeting showing data from these two sources and the share of sawnwood production that these represent.

14. A number of estimation procedures are used to produce data when officially supplied figures are not available. In order of desirability these are:

- a) Use non-official sources, for example industry publications, associations and experts. The latter are often authors of the FPAMR.
- b) When no figures are directly available, alternative data are used. For production, apparent consumption, based on comparable figures from earlier years or similar countries, can be used to derive estimates. For trade, unit value, again either from earlier years or similar countries, can be used to estimate a missing component (volume or value). These can be compared to known information such as species availability or production trends.
- c) When alternative data are not available, a calculation based upon an "automatic" procedure is made. For example, if a total is provided, the subitems can be estimated based on the share in the total of those subitems in previous years.
- d) The simplest and most common procedure is to repeat data from the previous year. This implies that there has been no change.
- e) All data are flagged at the lowest level of aggregation. Estimates are classified as "analyst", "technical" or "repeated" in the ECE TIMBER database. They are published as a secretariat estimate (E) or repeated (R). In FAOSTAT the "analyst" and "technical" estimates are indicated as unofficial (*) and the "repeated" estimates are shown as FAO estimates (F).

15. Wood balances are one way of evaluating data and gaining a better understanding of wood flows. Currently a simple check is carried out as part of the JFSQ data validation process. This and an alternate are outlined below:

- a) Current – Industrial roundwood available (removals plus imports minus exports) minus sawnwood, veneer, plywood and pulp production. Each product is multiplied by roundwood equivalent. The net balance indicates a surplus or shortage of wood.
- b) Alternate – Industrial roundwood available (as above but minus direct use such as poles) minus sawnwood, veneer, plywood, particleboard, fibreboard and pulp production (multiplied by solid-wood equivalent). From this would be added net trade in wood fibre (chips and particles) minus industrial wood used for energy or other products not captured above (based on a fraction of the solid-wood equivalent).
16. These wood balances use “standard” factors. Should we give scope to trying to apply country-specific factors which, given the level of product aggregation, may also be very general?
17. *The Working Party is asked to provide guidance on whether these items are in need of improvement and possible procedures for doing so.*

III. International Issues

18. Cooperation between the four organizations (International Tropical Timber Organization, Eurostat, FAO and UNECE) collecting data through the JFSQ continues through the Inter-secretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics (IWG). The IWG met in February 2013 in Rome. Information on IWG meetings can be found at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=23657>. The main issues were a review of activities in 2012, with an emphasis on clarifying problems in data exchange, and preparations for the JFSQ 2012.
19. The JFSQ was revised to adapt to the Harmonised System 2012 and to include pellets. After debating a number of options the structure of the questionnaire was modified. The main reason was to preserve series continuity and maintain the current numbering structure while providing an opportunity for future changes.

3	WOOD CHIPS, PARTICLES AND RESIDUES
3.1	WOOD CHIPS AND PARTICLES
3.2	WOOD RESIDUES (INCLUDING WOOD FOR AGGLOMERATES)
4	WOOD PELLETS AND OTHER AGGLOMERATES
4.1	WOOD PELLETS
4.2	OTHER AGGLOMERATES

20. The FAO is leading an IWG effort to implement revisions to the HS2017. Information has now been provided to the HS Review Sub-committee in May and November 2012. The Sub-committee has adopted most of the proposed changes. A few were rejected and two are still under discussion: expanding the coverage of species defined as tropical wood and creating a code for prefabricated wooden houses. These will be discussed at the next meeting in May 2013. Suggestions made by countries for last year's Working Party, in particular encouraging the split between sawlogs and pulpwood (based on diameter), were approved. The proposal was aided through the efforts of some delegations to the Working Party who conveyed their support for the proposal to representatives to the Sub-committee.

21. The HS Review Committee, which must approve these recommendations, met in March 2013 and decided to postpone discussion until the Sub-committee had provided a complete list of recommended changes to forest products. The Committee will meet in September and ECE and FAO will again be approaching Working Party delegations to contact representatives to the

Committee.

IV. Dissemination of Data

22. The data collected are disseminated through three channels, FAOSTAT, the FPAMR and the TC/EFC online database. The FAOSTAT website (<http://faostat.fao.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?PageID=626&lang=en#ancor>) has widespread name recognition and interactive data selection mechanism but does not show all data collected by UNECE/FAO. The FPAMR gets widespread distribution including a significant number of newspaper and trade journal articles each year. The website of the TC/EFC runs about 8,000 page views per month and the page “data and statistics” is the second most visited page on the site (after the homepage). The FPAMR is the most downloaded file. Please see the annex for summary statistics on our website.

23. FAO continues to publish trade flow data (2010 posted in July 2012). FAO has also scanned all Yearbooks and other statistical publications. These are available online at <http://www.fao.org/forestry/statistics/80570/en/>. FAO will provide a briefing on improvements to FAOSTAT and the number of visitors to its webpages.

24. The Secretariat is working with the ECE Statistical Division to use their website for dissemination. This would increase the tools available for accessing data.

V. Cooperation with Countries

25. FAO and ITTO are carrying out a workshop for China on forest products statistics in April 2013. FAO will brief delegates on the outcome. Other national workshops are being discussed. A possible forest products statistics workshop aimed at users of the statistics with the objective of reviewing the outputs we produce and aligning them better with user demand.

26. *The Working Party is invited to review the activities carried out this year and planned for the coming year.*

Annex

Replies to the Questionnaires

Questionnaire		Year Questionnaire Sent			
		2009	2010	2011	2012
JFSQ	JQ1 (production) - replies	41	40	41	37
	% of cells filled (of 66)	67.4	70.6	69.2	73.8
	JQ2 (trade) - replies	39	41	43	39
	% of cells filled (of 216)	92.9	83.4	90.0	87.9
TCQ	JQ3 (sec. prod. trade) - replies	9+25	11+25	13+28	10+28
	% of cells filled (of 48)	90.3	77.5	81.3	83.5
	EU/ECE (species trade) - replies	9+24	10+24	11+24	10+21
	% of cells filled (of 88)	67.1	76.2	64.9	84.9
TCQ	TC1 (roundwood forecast) - replies	30	29	30	30
	% of cells filled (of 21)	89.8	87.3	86.0	85.6
	TC2 (product forecast) - replies	29	28	30	29
	% of cells filled (of 45)	94.3	88.2	89.5	92.0

“% of cells filled” applies only to non-EU/EFTA replies. There are a total of 56 member countries. Please note the basis for the calculation of the indicators of achievement is different from the process used for evaluating the questionnaire replies.

Indicators of Achievement

Data for Year	% Satisfactory
1992	62.2
1993	60.8
1994	61.5
1995	59.6
1996	55.8
1997	55.8
1998	51.9
1999	59.6
2000	63.5
2001	69.2
2002	71.2
2003	65.4
2004	69.2
2005	69.2
2006	73.6
2007	79.2
2008	71.7
2009	66.0
2010	67.9
2011	58.5

Note that results for 2011 are preliminary and will likely be revised upward. See paragraph 12 for explanation of calculation.

Summary Web Statistics (2011 –2013)

	1 March 2012 – 28 February 2013	
Visits*	29,546	
Unique visitors	23,005	
Page views	105,307	
Share of ECE page views	1.2%	
Average time on site (min)	03:45	Top 5 files downloaded (% of total 31,823 PDF/DOC/XLS)
Top 5 pages viewed (% of total page views)	Homepage (20.2%) Data and Statistics (7.6%) Timber Committee 2012 (5.6%) Meetings (3.7%) Publications (3.5%)	FPAMR 2012 (5.5%) FPAMR 2011 (4.6%) EFSOS II (3.2%) Forest Products Statistics (2.0%) Price Data (1.6%)
Top 5 countries visiting (% of total visits)	United States (9.8%) Russian Federation (6.4%) UK (6.3%) Germany (5.7%) France (4.6%)	

	1 March 2011 – 29 February 2012	
	3/11-6/11	6/11-2/12
Visits	18,566	25,888
Unique visitors	10,574	11,381
Page views	53,929	127,286
Share of ECE page views	N/A	2.3%
Average time on site (min)	03:09	05:04
Top 5 pages viewed (% of total page views)	Homepage (14.1%) Data and Statistics (7.9%) PES Workshop (4.9%) Illegal Logging Workshop (3.6%) Meetings (3.1%)	Homepage (13.8%) Data and Statistics (4.6%) Meetings (3.0%) FPAMR 2010-2011(2.8%) Publications (2.8%)
Top 5 countries visiting (% of total visits)	United States (8.0%) UK (6.8%) France (5.2%) Germany (5.1%) Finland (5.1%)	United States (8.5%) UK (7.7%) Germany (6.0%) France (5.9%) Finland (4.6%)

* Note that visits from the United Nations Office at Geneva are included.