

**UNECE/FAO Teams of Specialists Reporting 2015
– Forest Sector Outlook -**

Items for regular reporting to the JWPFSEM (length max two pages)
1. Name :
UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook
2. Period covered:
June 2014 – March 2015
3. Leader/Deputies and Secretary:
Leader: Mart-Jan Schelhaas
4. Members: (Number only)
58
5. Countries: (List separated by comma)
25 (Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan)
6. Meetings held:
Second meeting of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook 22 - 23 January 2015 Arona & Ispra (Italy)
7. Outputs and impacts achieved during last year:
<p>The new Team was installed in June 2014. A “Consultation paper on questions to be addressed by future outlook studies in the ECE Region” was prepared by Kit Prins and presented during the COFFI meeting in Kazan.</p> <p>During the second team meeting, this document was discussed together with the reactions received. Based on this discussion, a first sketch of the possible scenarios for a European Outlook Study was drafted, which will be used for consultation with stakeholders. Furthermore, it was discussed how to better align the North American and European Outlook Study, and how to integrate the Russian Federation better into the Outlook Studies.</p> <p>The following EFSOS II supporting paper was finalised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Weimar, H., Englert, H., Moiseyev, A. and Dieter, M. (2014) Competitiveness of the European Forest Sector - A contribution to EFSOS II. Geneva Timber and Forest Discussion paper, ECE/TIM/DP/62. Geneva: UNECE.</i>

A book chapter was published that reviews among others how previous Outlook Studies dealt with the balance between wood supply and other forest functions:

- *Nabuurs GJ, Schelhaas MJ, Hendriks CMA, Hengeveld GM 2014. Can European forests meet the demands of the bioeconomy in the future? Wood supply alongside environmental services. In: Innes J, Nikolakis W., 2014. Forests and globalization: Challenges and opportunities for sustainable development. The Earthscan Forest Library*

A high-level peer-reviewed article was published that analyses the consequences of the EFSOS II scenarios for the future expected level of natural disturbances:

Seidl, R., Schelhaas, M.J., Rammer, W., Verkerk, P.J., 2014. Increasing forest disturbances in Europe and their impact on carbon storage. Nature Climate Change. DOI: 10.1038/NCLIMATE2318

8. Outputs and impacts expected for coming year:

Development of the framework for the North American Forest Sector Outlook projection model and base/reference scenarios. Test runs possible 2015-2016.

Development of an detailed work plan for the European Forest Sector Outlook.

9. Issues for the attention of the Secretariat and the Working Party:

The implementation of a new European Forest Sector Outlook Study will require substantial resources (personal and financial). The detailed workplan will give more information on the resources required. The Working Party is invited to provide guidance on possible funding sources.

The ToS would like to harmonize the future Outlook studies between the sub-regions. The Russian Federation asked for an official request by the secretariat about the future Forest Sector Outlook. The ToS invites the Working Party to provide the secretariat with a mandate to officially approach the Russian Authorities.

The ToS also discussed the possibility to include western part of the Russian Federation in the future European Forest Sector Outlook study, or to apply the same methodology and scenarios. The Working Party is invited to comment on this proposal.

10. Comments, lessons learned:

The ToS is exploring ways of more closely aligning the reference scenario(s) of the North American and European Outlook studies

Date: 04/03/2015