



**Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry
Economic Commission for Europe**



**European Forestry Commission
Food and Agricultural Organization**

TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON SUSTAINABLE FOREST PRODUCTS

**Morning meeting (9:00-10:00)
Wednesday, 19 October 2016, Palais des Nations (room IV), Geneva**

Minutes

The Team Leader, Eoin O'Driscoll opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. The Deputy Leaders, Branko Glavonjic and Jeremy Wall were in attendance, as were members of the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section secretariat: Claudia Trentini and Alex McCusker. The full list of participants can be found at the end of this report.

The agenda was adopted and the members present introduced themselves.

Mr. O'Driscoll asked for comments on the latest Forest Products Annual Market Review. Several members of the Team had contributed content and editorial support to the Review. The secretariat reviewed some of the highlights of this edition of the Review. The issue of the tradeoff between the cut-off date for data and subsequent closure of the chapters was raised. It was pointed out this problem would be more acute next year as the Committee meeting was planned for 9-13 October 2017 and thus the publication deadline would be even tighter. Mr. O'Driscoll has emailed members of the Team and has requested further comments and suggestions for improvements for next year with a deadline of November 30.

Mr. Peter Moonen asked for those present to provide their views on what was holding back the use of forest products in the building sector.

- Mr. Eastin said the lack of national (or even state-level) building codes in the US made it very difficult for new materials to become accepted.
- Mr. Labbé said the lobbying efforts against wood by the concrete and steel industry were highly successful
- Mrs. Bastrup-Birk pointed out environmentalists avoided wood and more explanation was needed to convince them of its utility
- Mr. Wall pointed out some of the problems in European regulation. There were efforts to make a standard construction products regulation.
- Mr. McCusker pointed out possible problems with getting mortgage loans for wooden homes.
- Mr. Joshi and others said the wood industry was too isolated and not united enough.

Several conclusions from the discussion were that it was necessary for the wood industry to work together, there should be a focus on developing performance standards, specifically for fire and carbon-performance in order to facilitate access for wood into construction markets. In addition, the fears of consumers and others should be allayed. In this last aspect certification had helped wood. It was clearly important to reach outside the industry particularly the building and construction sector, and attend other fora (e.g. Global Building Alliance). Mr. Moonen summarized the advantages of wood by saying "if I could invent a product like wood I would make a fortune".

Mr. Moonen discussed the idea of organizing a meeting of the Committee in 2019 in Vancouver with the Housing Committee and the Passive Housing Network. Mr. Gaston said the next meeting of IUFRO Division 5 (Forest Products) was scheduled for 12-16 June 2017. Mr. Joshi pointed out the

importance of avoiding overlap with other meetings and maintaining the focus on industry shown at this year's Committee session.

Mr. Wall suggested the Team carry out a news bulletin every 3 months to exchange information and propose informal meeting at other fora.

The Team concluded by urging the Committee to devote at least a full day to markets in the next meeting.

The following participants were at the meeting.

Full name	Organization	Communication country	Communication email
Prof. Eduard Akim	Saint Petersburg State University of Industrial Technologies	Russian Federation	akim-ed@mail.ru
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Prof. Ivan Eastin	University of Washington	United States of America	eastin@uw.edu
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Ms. Annika Hyytiä	University of Helsinki	Finland	annika.hyytia@helsinki.fi
Mr. Surendra Joshi	Swedish Forest Agency	Sweden	surendra.joshi@skogsstyrelsen.se
Mr. Sylvain Labbé	Quebec Wood Export Bureau	Canada	slabbe@quebecwoodexport.com
Mrs. Marion Le Roy	European Panel Federation	Belgium	marion.leroy@europanel.org
Mr. Alex Mccusker	UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section	Switzerland	alex.mccusker@unece.org
Mr. Peter Moonen	Canadian Wood Council	Canada	pmoonen@me.com
Mr. Eoin O'Driscoll	Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine	Ireland	eoin@drima.com
Mr. Jan Oldenburger	Probos Foundation	Netherlands	jan.oldenburger@probos.nl
Ms. Claudia Trentini	UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section	Switzerland	claudia.trentini@unece.org
Mr. Jeremy Wall	European Commission	Belgium	jeremy.wall@ec.europa.eu