



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

Wednesday, 11 October 2017, Hotel Novotel Warsaw Centrum, (room TBA), Warsaw, Poland

### Report

Eoin O'Driscoll, Leader of the Team of Specialists called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and announced that there would be additional time for participants to share their current projects in the area of forest products markets with the group.

The meeting had 16 participants (not in any particular order):

Eoin O'Driscoll (Ireland), Matthew Fonseca (UNECE), Florian Steierer (UNECE), Mark van Benthem (Stichting Probos, Netherlands), Chris Gaston (Canada), Sylvain Labbé (Canada), Dinko Vusic (Croatia), Diego Benedetti (EOS), Marion Le Roy (European Panel Federation; EPF), Pierre Hermans (Belgium), Ivan Eastin (USA), Achim Schaefer (Switzerland), Reima Sutinen (Finland), Magdalena Sajdak (Poland), Krzysztof Jodlowski (Poland), Dominika Kacaba (IKEA), Branko Glavonjic (Serbia).

### **Future team work on workshops/meetings**

The possibility of a mini-workshop in the Spring of 2018 together with the Housing Committee, covering material accounting for climate change was discussed. Sylvain Labbé raised the issue that the climate benefits of building with wood are very well known and widely communicated within the forest sector. However, he stated that we need to build better links with other sectors outside the forest. These include the UNECE Housing Committee. In doing so, we will need to develop a consistent and solid message for other sectors. This needs to be written in their language/terms and not in ours.

Sylvain further stated that "the forest sector needs to highlight performance-based regulations, to include embodied energy and carbon balance per m<sup>3</sup>". Speakers should be material neutral "ambassadors" who merely present performance-based metrics covering all facets of the life of a structure, including embodied energy. Ideally, workshop should focus on government policies and EPDs. Sylvain and Eoin will follow up and keep the Team posted on any progress. The team discussed the pros and cons of EPDs, and while there is potential to manipulate environmental product declarations (EPD), they still provide the best information for making informed decisions on the sustainability of material use.

Other possibilities were discussed, such as an EUTR compliance workshop in southeast Europe, but no concrete proposals were put forward.

### **Improvement to the 2018 FPAMR**

The Team discussed potential topics for the 2018 FPAMR special chapter (chapter 3), This included:

- Tall wooden structures.
- Wooden furniture.
- Wood chips (and possibly other residues).
- New forest products (e.g. structural hardwood lumber, toilet paper from beach fibre) or processes used in the forest products industry (e.g., CT scanning, computer optimization, robotics, bio-refining).
- The bio-economy.
- Environmental product declarations (EPD)

Florian Steierer discussed the layout of the printed version of the 2017 Market Review, which was presented at LAS2017 instead of the graphically enhanced version that was available at past Committee/Commission meetings. With this year's Joint meeting falling earlier in the calendar than in the recent past and the fact that the meeting was not held in Geneva, there simply was not enough time to produce the graphically designed version. Florian also discussed the additional work required with the graphically enhanced version, namely correcting mistakes that occur when importing the Word version into the graphic program (InDesign). The Team was in agreement that the Word version was attractive and user friendly and that it was probably not necessary to expend resources on producing the graphically enhanced layout (the secretariat will explore this option for 2018).

There was some discussion regarding the timeline for author's contributions for the 2018 edition of the Review in order to move the schedule forward. The UNECE secretariat will discuss possibilities further with the authors.

### **Conversion factors publication**

Matt Fonseca mentioned that correspondents from the UNECE region have submitted conversion factors and that overall the quality and quantity is much improved over the 2009 submissions. As this version of the publication will be global in scope, we are still awaiting replies from more countries in the tropics and southern hemisphere.

### **Market Discussion component of the press release for LAS2017**

The Team was in complete agreement to use information from the presentation from Werner Kurz on how forests and long-lifespan forest products provide the most efficient carbon capture method currently available, together with the information on tall wooden buildings and forest products markets, provided excellent fodder for a press release (the secretariat followed through with this concept). See: <http://www.unece.org/?id=47088>

### **Meetings of interest to the ToSSFP and future Team meetings**

Florian Steierer summarized the roundtable (Marianske Lazne, Hungary, 5-7 September) where forest certification was at the center of the discussion. He mentioned that certification has been very much on the minds of many member states and this conference provided for an open and frank discussion on how best to address some of the concerns, e.g., how to address the bureaucratic

burden, cost, and how to better facilitate certification for small and medium-sized forest-based enterprises.

Florian also mentioned the possibility that the 2018 meeting of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry will take place in Vancouver, BC in November. He stated that if this plan comes to fruition, that this meeting will undoubtedly have a strong forest products market component.

Eoin O'Driscoll asked those in attendance to take note that the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Team would likely take place just before the Working Party meeting on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management (Geneva, 22-23 March). The date and time for the Team meeting has not been set but will likely be on 21 or 22 March.

### **Open discussion (tour de table) from the participants**

Eoin stated that if any Team members had some good quality photos of forest products and manufacturing processes to feel free to contact him or the Forestry and Timber section as they are always useful for producing publications and web pages (the photos would be duly cited).

Reima Sutinen gave a brief overview of work that the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland has undertaken in the area of wood-based bioeconomy. The main output was a publication that presents insights into the renewal of the Finnish forest sector and the emergence of the wood-based bioeconomy field. You can download the publication in English at:  
[http://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/79985/TEM\\_oppaat\\_2\\_2017\\_Wood\\_based\\_Bioeconomy\\_Solving\\_Global\\_challenge\\_29052017web.pdf](http://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/79985/TEM_oppaat_2_2017_Wood_based_Bioeconomy_Solving_Global_challenge_29052017web.pdf)

Mark van Benthem gave a presentation on the market survey that Probos conducted to assess sustainably sourced timber, which has grown in the last ten years from 13.3% for sawn goods and wood-based panels and 0.5% for paper to the current figure of 83.3% and 65.4% respectively. You can download information on the survey at:  
[http://www.probos.nl/images/pdf/bosberichten/BB\\_2017\\_03\\_Dutch\\_sustainably\\_sourced\\_timber\\_consumption\\_grows\\_to\\_83\\_in\\_a\\_decade.pdf](http://www.probos.nl/images/pdf/bosberichten/BB_2017_03_Dutch_sustainably_sourced_timber_consumption_grows_to_83_in_a_decade.pdf)

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30. This report will be made available on the meetings page of the Forestry and Timber website. Please contact the Team secretary if any omissions or revisions needed ([matthew.fonseca@unece.org](mailto:matthew.fonseca@unece.org), ph: +41 22 917 1846).