



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

Online meeting 4:00 – 6:00 PM Central European Summer Time (GMT + 2)  
Tuesday, 13 OCTOBER 2020

### Meeting Report

Welcome and Opening Comments (Eoin O’Driscoll, Leader of the Team of Specialists).

1. Adoption of the Agenda (EOD). **The agenda was adopted.**
2. Tour de table (all).
3. Discussion on the expected ToS work for the 2020-2021 period, including:
  - the forthcoming workshop on building and renovation solutions (Eoin O’Driscoll, Team Leader). **The Team Leader discussed the work being done to organize a webinar on carbon-friendly construction and renovation, which is scheduled to take place in late November (TBA). Most of the arrangements and speakers are in place, however there are still a few details to be ironed out. Several participants asked that as soon as the webinar is finalized to let the Team know so that they can assist in promoting it. In addition, there was some concern that a finalized agenda and schedule needs to occur soon in order to get the information out there in what has proven to be a busy schedule of webinars on forest products. The team leader stated that he was targeting Monday, 19 October to have the speakers finalized with a target date of 19-23 November for the Webinar.**
  - The short-, medium- and long-term impacts of COVID-19 on the manufacture, delivery, use, re-use and recycling of sustainable forest products: generating scenarios for a “new normal” (Jeremy Wall, Deputy Leader). **The Deputy Leader provided some background on the importance of fundamental changes which appear to be occurring with forest products as a result of COVID-19 and mentioned that some believe that these changes may become the “new normal” in a post COVID World, e.g., working from home, people relocating away from urban areas to more rural locations with a lower cost of living, etc. At any rate, several delegates commented on developments in their countries related to this topic or discussed the effects on various products, e.g., paper and sawn softwood. In addition, a set of scenarios were distributed for immediate feedback from the participants as well as a more thorough analysis and consultation (tentatively to be reported upon at the next team meeting, which will likely be in March 2021.**

#### 4. Discussion on UNECE/FAO, Forestry and Timber section work area 1 (Forest Products Markets).

- Forest Products Annual Market Review 2019-2020 (secretariat); review of 2019 and 2020 process. There will also be a focus on discussing the Value-added wood products chapter. **Florian Steierer updated the team on the production process of the Forest Products Annual Market Review, pointing out the new shorter format and thanking the authors for their work. This year was challenging, with COVID, no UN budget and no interns to assist. He mentioned that, while shorter than past editions, the Review has been optimized, thus packs a great deal of information in less space. This year's Review also has something that it has not had for many years; a production forecast by product line for 2020 and for 2021.**

**Matt Fonseca discussed the challenges of producing a chapter on value-added wood products, given the lack of market intelligence and production data (which causes creates a reliance on anecdotal information, published articles and trade data), with a result that the chapter coverage is somewhat "buffet style" covering some products but leaving out other important products. The Team was asked for their advice on what if anything should be changed with the chapter. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive and indicated that the Team was happy with what we have been doing (the secretariat was pleasantly surprised and will stay the course).**

- Market discussions at 2020 COFFI meeting. **Florian Steierer discussed the current options for the Market Discussions at this year's COFFI meeting with tentative plan to focus on the effects of disturbances (bark beetles and fires) upon forest products markets rather than the typical market summaries by region, which have been a feature in the past. While there was some support for this, there was also strong support for more forest product-related topics, with pre-fabricated homes cited in particular. Paul Janke, who will be presenting on the bark beetle and agreed to cover this aspect. Florian Steierer will continue to look into options for presentations oriented more closely to forest products markets.**

#### 5. Other events

**There was no discussion on this topic except for the webinar and COFFI meeting, which were already discussed.**

#### 6. Any other business.

**The Team Secretary, Matt Fonseca, mentioned that we will need to hold an election for Team Leader and Deputy Leaders at the next meeting of the Team. Please contact the secretariat or the Team Leader if you are interested and willing to serve the Team.**

#### 7. Future Team Meetings.

**The next meeting of the Team will likely be in March 2021 (TBA).**

List of participants (34 participants in total).

**Mr. Orifjon Abidov, Prof. Eduard Akim, Mr. Delton Alderman, Mr. Thorsten Arndt, Dr. Annemarie Bastrup-Birk, Mr. Diego Benedetti, Ms. Isabelle Brose, Mr. Aasm. Bunkholt, Prof. Ivan Eastin, Dr. Silvia Ferlazzo, Ms. Kathryn Fernholz, Mr. Matt Fonseca, Dr. Branko Glavonjic, Mr. Hüseyin Güler, Ms. Annika Hyytiä, Mr. Paul Janke, Prof. Orest Kiyko, Mr. Antti Koskinen, Mr. Igors Krasavcevs, Mr. Sylvain Labbé, Mr. Rajmund Laczko, Mr. Arvydas Lebedys, Mr. Alex McCusker, Mrs. Silvia Melegari, Ms. Margherita Miceli, Mr. Igor Novoselov, Mr. Eoin O'Driscoll, Mr. Jan Oldenburger, Mr. Ed Pepke, Mr. Giovanni Seri, Mr. Zbyněk Šmída, Mr. Florian Steierer, Dr. Andrzej Talarczyk, Mr. Michel Valois, Mr. Jeremy Wall.**