

**Agenda**  
**35<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics**  
(28/02/2022)  
Virtual meeting hosted by Eurostat, Luxembourg  
09:00-13:00 hrs (GMT+1) on Tuesday- Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022

Mr Arturo De La Fuente Nuño, acting head of Eurostat's Environmental Statistics and accounts unit opened the meeting.

**TUESDAY, 1 MARCH 2022**

**1) Adoption of agenda**

**Participants:**

UNECE: Alex McCusker, Florian Steierer, Daniel Griswold  
FAO: Ashley Steel, Arkhipova Iana, Sven Walter, Marcella Canero, Roberto Bargigia, Arvydas Lebedys  
ITTO: Jean-Claude Christophe  
Eurostat: Melinda Verebelyine Dosa  
Melinda Dosa is Chair, XY notetaker.

**2) Review of the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire activities and process in 2021**

- a) Number and quality of replies
- b) Successes/problems
- c) Data dissemination
- d) Data validation - discrepancies identified:
  - Apparent consumption
  - Annual changes
  - Unit price
  - Global checks
- e) Data exchanges among partner organizations

ECE to FAO:

Eurostat to ECE:

ECE / ITTO and FAO/ITTO:

- f) Ancillary statistical activities by individual organizations
- g) Pending issues (review June 2021 notes also)

**WEDNESDAY, 2 MARCH 2022**

**3) The JFSQ cycle in 2022**

a) 2020 JFSQ revision/improvements -> JFSQ 2021

*Q&A session in May 2021:*

- Change position of poplar and beech sawnwood on ECE-EU so it follows HS structure
- We (IWG) should include a column of “bark ratio” in conversion factors (see pages 13-14 in latest study).
- We should propose HS code assignment of “ex” codes in annex
- Highlight (again) definition of removals which includes ALL wood
- At least two people (Sweden and Netherlands) wanted to see “stemwood” as an item on JQ removals. This may be too hard for many countries but a special questionnaire might be useful, perhaps as part of a larger exercise on removals data practices in countries
- France raised again issue of approaches to unrecorded (non-commercial) roundwood which we hope to discuss in Team of Specialists subgroup
- Conversion factors could be made part of JFSQ – some confusion between historical ones in definitions and FAO Yearbook and the 2009 (2020) study.
- etc..

b) Deadlines and data exchanges

- FAO will prepare master copies by ....

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Eurostat</i>	<i>UNECE</i>	<i>ITTO</i>	<i>FAO</i>
Send out JFSQ to countries	April 5	April 6	June 14	May 17
Deadline for countries responses	Sept 9	May 17	September 30	August 31
Internal deadline (last day for new data additions)	Sept 25	June 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mar 2021 (for the Biennial Review)</li> <li>• Oct 1<sup>st</sup> for JQ 2020</li> </ul>	Final Nov 15
Basic validation	Sept 30	June 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mar 2021 (for the Biennial Review)</li> <li>• Oct 1<sup>st</sup> for JQ 2020</li> </ul>	Nov 22
Analytical validation (last day for data changes)	Oct 25	July 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mar 2021 (for the Biennial Review)</li> <li>• June 2021 data sent to FAO in CSV and Excel Oct</li> </ul>	July 15/Nov 25

			1st for JQ 2019	
Dispatch to ECE	JQ as received			
Dispatch to FAO (for checking and final)		July 6 and Jul 15/ Nov 15	As received, estimated 2020 dataset in June	
Dispatch to ITTO	JQ originals for ITTO countries as received, eliminating any confidential elements	As received. July and Nov 14 (forecast). Advise them when final data in Dec are available (3rd week)		Send JQs of non ITTO member which have JQ1 with tropical production data, as received
Database upload	November	July/December	February and July	July 30/Nov 30

c) Future: Ideas for “big bang” for JFSQ2022.

What potential changes are needed/desired for JFSQ to be issued next year? Typically we only make changes to questionnaire every 5 years when we adapt new HS codes so that would be next year.

IWG discussed option of adding 4 additional rows (total veneer, total coniferous veneer, total non-coniferous veneer and total tropical veneer), separating out from veneer for plywood, to questionnaire which could be implemented at next “big bang” (IWG in 2023, when JQ2022 is aligned with HS2022)

*Eurostat:* Although it has been raised and rejected in the past, Eurostat proposes to change the name of the questionnaire indicating the year the data collection is carried out. This is the practice for all the other existing questionnaires at Eurostat. It would be definitely confusing in the beginning for some parties but it is also confusing at present for some (other) parties including submitting countries.

4) **Global classifications:**

- a) HS2022 correlation table (preparation for JQ2022). Timing and work involved (Alex)
- b) HS2027 round – review list of suggested changes (Alex)
- c) Combined Nomenclature of the EU (Melinda)

5) **Other Business**

- a) COMTRADE data versus trade data submitted by countries (Ashley)
- b) Understanding and managing negative consumption (Iana)
- c) Organizational and staff changes
  - Eurostat: Melinda Verebelyine Dosa joined Eurostat 1 March 2021, Head of Unit will retire in May 2022
- d) National correspondents
  - Latvian national correspondent has changed.
- e) Place and date of 36<sup>th</sup> IWG meeting (2023) (or in-between)

## 6) Meetings of Interest to IWG

- 21 March - International Day of Forests (theme Forests for sustainable lifestyles and a circular economy)
- April - ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics (merged in 2022-2025 programme of work) – on-line
- 1-3 June - ECE/FAO Joint Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management – Geneva
- November - Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry – Geneva

**PENDING ISSUES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

<b>Paragraph in IWG <a href="#">33<sup>rd</sup> meeting notes</a></b>	<b>Pending issue/action point</b>	<b>Status <i>(to be updated!)</i></b>
2 h)	ECE will continue to work on improving the definition of chips and particles.	Transferred to Team of Specialists for further discussions.
2 h)	[Canada chip production] Should be revised backward or fixed from 1998 onwards and wood residues production from 1993 onwards. <b>Postponed to 2020.</b>	Not done in 2021.
2 h)	ECE will be trying to fix this [IRW data 1964-1989] and will share the correction file with FAO. <b>In progress.</b>	Continued.
2 h)	Eurostat: will download the entire FAOSTAT data in order to check it with the Eurostat data and will communicate the discrepancies found with FAO data.	Postponed to 2021
2 h)	IWG partners agreed to investigate how to clarify laminated flooring in HS 4411. FAO will go through all national extended HS codes and prepare information for the next IWG. ECE will ask European laminated flooring association. <b>Not done.</b>	Postponed to 2021
3) a) i)	<b>Possible addition of a “quality” sheet (metadata explanations) [Eurostat]</b> The IWG supported the idea of the quality sheet. It should be clear that this is not to be requested every year. Some of the questions seem too specific (PRODCOM, CPA), not focused enough on JFSQ. <b>FAO will share their</b> data quality sheet (introduced in JQ2017). Partners can add their own specific sheets to the JFSQ.	Postponed to 2021 (generated automatically)
3)	Ex-codes problems in item 3.2 and 4 cause problems for countries. Since this will not be fixed in HS2022 we should <b>consider other solutions at next IWG meeting</b>	
Mid-term meeting	<b>CPC version 3:</b> FAO has requested to be part of the task force. FAO already has a classification system, which is under review. Iana has prepared a large table of codes and consultant will assist with inserting into CPC or in developing FAO extensions. Submissions should be submitted by 10 Dec. In Oct/Nov will be the bulk of the work to insert 150 codes for forest products into the system.	
Mid-term meeting	<b>Stemwood, roundwood, removals and wood fuel:</b> broad definitions. Alex will pursue this in a Team of Specialist sub-group.	



## HS 2027 – Initial thoughts for proposals:

**Timing:** HS 2022 proposal was submitted in Apr 2017 and provisionally approved by WCO HS Committee in Sep 2018. Following the same timeline, the **proposal for HS2027 should reach WCO in spring 2022**. This and next year should be used for preparing background information. **IWG 2022 should approve** the draft submission for wood products.

- Split sleepers (4406), hoopwood (4404) and treated wood (4403.12) into tropical and non-tropical non-coniferous
- 4403.11 split into pine/etc
- 4403.12 split into oak/beach/eucalyptus, etc.
- 4406.11/91 split into pine/etc
- 4406.12/92 split into oak/beach/eucalyptus, etc.
- Edible insects (FAO to work on it)
- Chips (Latvia's proposal in ToS 26/3/2019):
  - Tropical, eucalyptus wood chips under 4401.22? (**ITTO to confirm the need**) (accepted in CN2021)
  - Pulp chips (size 13-45 mm, bark <1%, ash <0.5%, fresh)
  - Industrial chips (size 10-55 mm, bark <3%, ash <0.5%, sawdust allowed)
  - Energy chips (size 8-80 mm, bark <10%, ash <0.5%, moisture 40-50%)
- Rubber wood added to tropical sawnwood (ITTO / FAO)
- Separate laminated flooring from 44.11 (US has codes already)
- Rosewood (*Dalbergia* and other spp) 4403, 4407, to talk to ATIBT and FAO-FLEGT
- Separate shavings from 4401.49 (code exists in US, CA)
- **ITTO to check** possible tropical species codes under 4403.4x, 4407.2x, 4409.22
- 44.16 barrels of oak
- Check for pallets code
- Splitting particle boards by used in construction/other (standards exist, to check if this could be applied to created new HS codes)
- The first concerns the definition of the raw materials content, we propose to explicitly mention the reference to a primary pulp content instead of fibre content. That to avoid any confusion with recycled papers which are also composed of "*wood fibres obtained by the chemical sulphate or soda processes*" but recycled at least one time
- The second proposal is about the minimum substance. Indeed, there are more and more kraftliner below 115 gsm proposed on the market under the packaging lightening policies effects. Thus, the simplest is to remove this substance reference
- Add log size to more non-coniferous. Right now only birch and beech
- Pellets - It would be possible to divide this code into bags packed in 10-15-20 kg bags intended for premium consumption by households
- 4407 - sawnwood. Is it possible to split on green and dry sawn timber and also into thick lumber? From Jan 2 to Dec.31, 2022 Russian Govt introduced new HS Codes: (<http://static.government.ru/media/files/H89JL2J98CP6kzLuQ2I9u6msAKbGC9ts.pdf>), Softwood lumber with a MC >22% will have the following export tax level. With a thickness of at least 100 mm and a width of at least 100mm: 200 €/m<sup>3</sup>. With a thickness less than 100 mm: 10% or at least 13 €
- 4412 Separate out laminated and raw plywood
- Separate out laminated and raw PB
- (4411) to get figures in m<sup>3</sup> as additional units of measure
- Veneer - Separate out bamboo

- Frames - Separate out bamboo
- Cork - split by planks/pieces
- Prepared cork - by thickness and type
- new code - Pine oil - crude gum, by source species
- Add Biochar