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EUROPEAN FOREST WEEK

20-24 OCTOBER 2008

IN BRUSSELS, ROME AND ALL OVER EUROPE



20-24 October 2008

European Forest Week, 20-24 October 2008, will celebrate the contribution of European forests to mitigating climate change, providing wood and renewable energy, securing the supply of fresh water and protecting our environment.

Organized by the UNECE Timber Section, jointly with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, the European Commission and the current EU Presidency, France, **European Forest Week** will take place in Brussels, Rome and throughout the UNECE region.

European Forest Week was declared by ministers responsible for forests in 46 European countries during the Warsaw Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe. Its objectives are to

- Increase the visibility of the forest based-sector and its contribution to development of economy and society in Europe
- Raise awareness about its important contributions to mitigating climate change, providing freshwater and protecting the environment
- Engage other sectors in a participatory dialogue on forest related issues.

Events to be held in Rome (20-24 October) will feature discussions on forests and climate change, energy, water and “working together for forests”.

The annual UNECE/FAO forest product markets discussions will also take place at that time, covering all forest products’ market sectors as well as interlinked policy developments in the UNECE region of Europe, North America and Central Asia.

On Monday, 20 October, a workshop on green building will be held to discuss the role of wood in green building and the effects on the forest sector in the UNECE region.

In addition, there will be a number of policy dialogues, organized by partner organizations, for example on harvested wood products, wood energy, potential sustainable wood supply, gender and forestry, climate change and forest biodiversity, research, forest law enforcement and governance.

The joint session of the UNECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission will also be held in Rome, as will a meeting of the UNECE Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management.

Rome-based events will bring together hundreds of policymakers from governments, non-governmental organizations, research institutions, regional and international networks, United Nations agencies and the private sector.

Brussels events include a high-profile EU Presidency event on Monday, 20 October, and a Conference organized by the European Economic and Social Committee on Thursday, 23 October.

In-country activities held simultaneously in participating countries throughout the region will highlight means of fully utilizing the potential of European forests.

Offers of national or local events are welcome; organizations wishing to organize events or activities during the **European Forest Week** under its logo can register online: <http://www.europeanforestweek.org>.



For more information, contact the UNECE/FAO Timber Section at efw@unece.org.

Website: <http://www.europeanforestweek.org>.

Not an official record - For information only

European Forest Week will address four main themes: Forests & Climate Change, Forests & Energy, Forests & Water, and Working together for Forests. Each of these will be addressed at plenary sessions to be held in Rome on 21-24 October.



Forests & Climate Change

The climate and forests are strongly interlinked. Through the sequestration of carbon, forests help to reduce carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Renewable energy generated from woody biomass can also contribute to reducing the global carbon footprint. Sustainably managed forests can mitigate the effects of and adapt to climate change, thus sustaining and enhancing social, economic and environmental services from forests.

A plenary session on Forests and Climate Change, on Tuesday, 21 October, will highlight the facts on forests and climate change, and the implications for forest policy. Policy dialogues on carbon storage in harvested wood products, climate change and forest biodiversity, among others, will highlight aspects of the forests and climate change discussion.

Forests & Water

There are important interactions between forests and water. The benefits of forests for the supply of water are multiple: their influence on the hydrological circle affects water resources both quantitatively and qualitatively.

A plenary session on "Forests and Water" on Thursday, 23 October, will present the linkages between forests and water, and discuss collaboration between the forest and water sectors. Topics covered will range from financial instruments and economic incentives such as payments for ecosystem services, to forests and water-related risk management in the context of climate change and transboundary forest-water related issues.

Forests & Energy

Wood energy is the most important source of renewable energy in Europe, where renewable energy has become an essential component of national sustainable energy policies. Due to the EU targets for renewable energy, wood energy production in Europe and other parts of the UNECE region is expected to increase.

A plenary session on "Forests and Energy" on Wednesday, 22 October, will address questions related to possible tradeoffs between forest biodiversity and wood energy production, the role of wood energy in climate change mitigation and implications for the forest products industries. A policy dialogue on wood energy in the region will provide information on recent developments and trends.

Working together for Forests

The European forest sector is endowed with a rich infrastructure of international organizations and processes, which operate at the subregional, regional and global levels and bring together governments, researchers, the private sector and civil society.

Facts and Figures

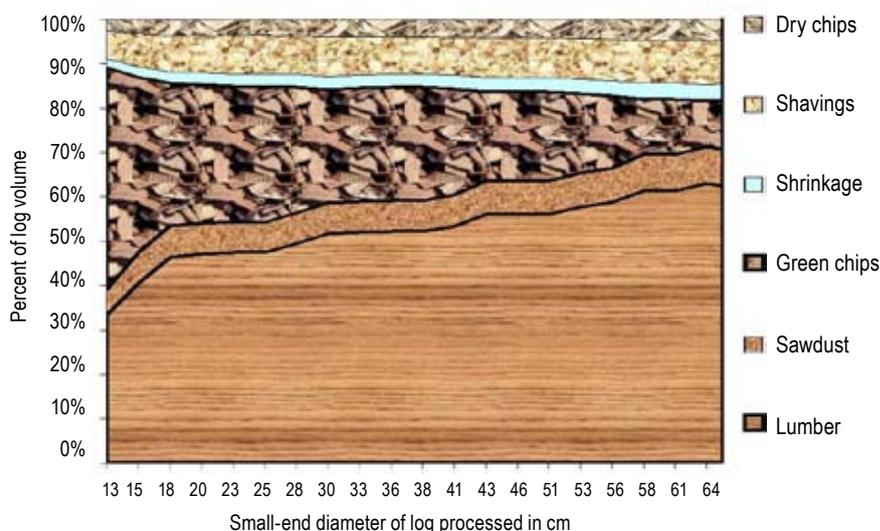
A typical cubic metre (m³) of softwood logs (1.12 m³ over bark) processed in a North American sawmill, produces the following:

- ★ 0.34 m³ of chips which can be used for paper, fibreboard, wood energy of which:
 - approx. 0.30 m³ are green (from the sawmill)
 - 0.04 m³ are dry (from the planing mill)
- ★ 0.07 m³ of sawdust that can be used for fibreboard, particleboard, wood pellets (energy), low grade paper
- ★ 0.59 m³ of rough green sawnwood (lumber), which if dried and planed will result in
 - 0.47 m³ of dry-finished sawnwood (lumber)
 - 0.03 m³ of volume loss due to shrinkage
 - and 0.09 m³ in planer shavings (used for similar purposes as sawdust and often used as animal bedding)
- ★ While not accounted for in UNECE statistics on logs (roundwood), 0.12 m³ of bark is commonly attached to a m³ of softwood log volume, which is generally used as boiler fuel (energy), mulch or decorative ground cover.

As shown in the graph, recovery of sawnwood generally increases with log diameter.

The plenary session "Working together for Forests" on Friday, 24 October will highlight key elements of the continued good cooperation among European organizations to promote sustainable forest management, as well as the regional input to the United Nations Forum on Forests. The session will be organized on the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission, marked by a joint session of the two partners and the adoption of a strategic plan for the UNECE/FAO integrated programme of work on timber and forestry for 2008-2013.

Material balance by diameter for sawn softwood



Source: Fonseca, M. 2005.

Note: Based on studies done in the Northwest and Southeast United States at construction grade lumber mills (dimension and studs).