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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION

Timber Committee

European Forestry Commission

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

**JOINT FAO/ECE/ILO COMMITTEE ON FOREST TECHNOLOGY,  
MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING**

**Twenty-third session, Geneva, 5-8 June 2000**

**REPORT**

(as approved by the session)

**Highlights of the session**

- S** The Joint Committee reviewed its cooperation with other international organizations and highlighted its contribution to the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) in favour of sustainable forest management (paras. 21-23);
- S** The Joint Committee reviewed its public relations, notably the establishment of its website <[www.unece.org/trade/timber/joint-committee](http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/joint-committee)> (paras. 24-27);
- The following special topics were presented: Codes of practice as a tool for sustainable forest management - the case of Ireland; Forest operations in Europe - a critical appraisal from an NGO perspective; Markets for certified forest products; Forest technology, management and training in dealing with major windblow in France.(paras. 5-15);
  - The Joint Committee reviewed recent achievements and developments in its field of interest (paras.16-20); and agreed to start work on the following new activities: disaster preparedness in forestry; new roles and modes of operation of forest services; close to nature forestry; mobilisation of additional wood supply mainly from private forests; biodiversity - from concept to practice; and on traditional forest related knowledge;
  - It reviewed and approved a programme of work for 2001 to 2005 (annexes I and II).

## **Introduction**

1. The Joint Committee held its twenty-third session in Geneva (Switzerland) from 5 to 8 June 2000. Participants attended from the following countries: Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom.
2. The following non governmental organization also attended: the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).
3. Participants were welcomed by the Chairman of the Joint Committee Mr. H. Hoefle (Germany). The Committee was addressed by Ms. C. Cosgrove-Sacks, Director of the ECE Trade Division and by Messrs. P. Poschen (ILO) and J. Lorbach (FAO).

## **Adoption of the agenda (Item 1)**

4. The provisional agenda (TIM/EFC/WP.1/2000/1) prepared by the secretariat was adopted.

## **Special topics (Item 2)**

### **(i) Codes of practice as a tool for sustainable forest management - the case of Ireland**

5. Mr. D. McAree (Ireland) presented his country's Code of Best Forest Practice which aims at ensuring that the planned increase in forest cover (from the present 9% of total land area to 17% in the coming 30 years) takes place in a sustainable manner. Removals are expected to also increase from 2.5 million m<sup>3</sup> per year to some 10 million m<sup>3</sup>. This will be possible as former agriculture land becomes available for forestry and farm-forestry is developed. The Code was the result of a broad process of consultation, it promotes sustainable forest management practices and provides incentives, it is socially acceptable, economically viable and ecologically sound and is continuously evaluated, adjusted and refined.
6. The Committee thanked Mr. McAree for a most interesting presentation and requested the secretariat to publish the paper presented in the ECE/FAO Discussion Paper series, along with a summary of the ensuing discussion.

### **(ii) Markets for certified forest products**

7. Mr. E. Pepke (ECE) explained the Timber Committee's work in markets for certified forest products (CFPs) and the European Forestry Commission's interest in sustainable forest management. He focussed on CFPs and explained that due to the marketing and communication functions of certification, these products are growing in availability, although demand is still small in comparison to commodity forest products. The area of certified forest land in Europe is forecast to double within

a year as new certification systems are established. However area certified does not equate directly to CFP production and availability. Potential benefits of certification extend beyond price premiums and include new markets for wood products, sustainable source of forest products, and technology and information transfer to forest owners, loggers, wood processors. The Timber Committee has called certification a marketing tool and it can communicate to consumers that wood is an environmentally sound choice when coming from sustainably managed forests. Certification has costs for forest management, ie the process of certification and for the performance of certified sustainable management, as well as establishing chain of custody and labelling products. More information on certification may be found in the Market Information Service of the Timber Committee website.

8. In the lively discussion concern was raised that certification may be little more than the ratification of the *statu quo* and not lead to improvements in forest management. Mr. C. Elliott (WWF) conceded that the use of generic criteria and indicators in some cases had been unsatisfactory, but in others negotiations had been difficult suggesting certification was demanding changes. The second round of certification was going to be more challenging. He pointed out that certification was becoming meaningless if all forests were certified. For this reason a blanket certification of millions of hectares had little credibility. Concerning the issue of competing certification schemes and labels, it was observed that this had created confusion in some countries such as the Russian Federation. Some degree of competition was nonetheless desirable as it avoided monopolies. Efforts for collaboration harmonization were under way in some countries such as the United Kingdom where a set of criteria and indicators compatible with both FSC and PEFC had been agreed, and in Germany where both were discussing reliable chain-of-custody verification.

9. The Joint Committee agreed that the implications of certification for forest practices and operations had received very little attention so far. This topic should be kept under review and may warrant Joint Committee activities in the future.

(iii) **Forest technology, management and training in dealing with major windblow in France**

10. The topic was introduced by Messrs. R. Bonneville and P. Verneret (France) in complementary presentations on the national programme put in place by the government and the repercussions of the windblow for the forest and forest products sector respectively. The windblow caused by storms 'Lothar' and 'Martin' in December 1999 had caused damage on an unprecedented scale with about 138 million m<sup>3</sup> of windblow, equivalent to 7 per cent of the growing stock and to 9-18 times the annual cut in the regions affected. A massive government programme covering activities from inventory through harvesting, transport and storage to rehabilitation had been approved with a volume of subsidies of FRF 6.8 billion and soft loans of FRF 12 billion.

11. Major impacts on the delivered cost of wood to mills had been avoided for the time being, *inter alia* by a freezing of all harvesting in areas not affected by the storm through a voluntary agreement. Transport had proved a major bottleneck and there was a need for large volumes of wood to be kept in wet storage. In spite of alerts about safety hazards and of special training offered, more than 40 persons had lost their lives in the first five months of windblow harvesting. Accidents had mostly

occurred in the first few weeks and overwhelmingly concerned non-professional forest workers. In recent weeks, the rate of accidents had been falling, thanks in part to intensive information efforts.

12. The windblow was going to have long term repercussions on the forestry sector in France from the stand level to the sector as a whole, including a probable consolidation of forest holdings, a sharp increase in mechanization and possibly new modalities for timber sales. A working group had been established to advise on the possible needs for different silvicultural models, including any changes in species selection for the rehabilitation of areas affected by the storms. Mr. Verneret suggested there was a need for disaster preparedness, including institutional arrangements capable of coping with emergencies on such a scale. The discussion of the windblow catastrophes in France, Germany and Switzerland had revealed that until the end of May 70 persons had lost their lives in the clearing and salvaging operations. The victims were mostly self-employed or workers not permanently employed in forestry, often lacking the necessary skill and equipment.

13. The Committee thanked both speakers for their very informative presentations and decided that both papers should be made available on the Joint Committee home page. The Committee agreed that the 'Acute Forest Damage Manual' produced by a team of specialists in the early 1990's should be reviewed by a new team in the light of the experience gained (see para. 31).

(iv) **"Forest operations in Europe - a critical appraisal from an NGO perspective"**

14. Mr. Elliott introduced the critical appraisal of forest operations in Europe on the basis of the 'score cards' produced by his organization, which attempt to measure the performance of forest protection and management in Europe by assigning scores to a number of parameters. Aspects appraised include, among others, forest legislation and policy, the extent and condition of protected forest areas and forest management. The scores depend on data availability and quality, meaning that only a fraction of the countries could be covered. Some of the scores are the result of historical processes rather than the quality of present policies and management. There were many areas where the scores suggested scope for improvements in European forestry, but few countries had very serious deficits. Additional information on the score cards and other forestry work of WWF is available on their website at 'www.panda.org'.

(v) **Globalization in the forestry and wood industries**

15. Due to time shortages Mr. M. Lövgren (ILO) informed the Committee only briefly about work in progress in this subject. The ILO was organizing an international tripartite meeting on 'The Social and Labour Dimensions of the Forestry and Wood Industries on the Move' in Geneva, 17-21 September 2001. The meeting would discuss the consequences of global restructuring in the forestry sector through mergers and acquisitions, relocation of industries to low-cost countries and the emergence of new sources of raw material in the form of plantations mostly in the Southern hemisphere. The ILO is preparing a report on the subject. A summary of the findings of a preliminary study of 11 countries in Central and Eastern Europe was going to be published in the ECE/FAO

Timber Discussion Papers series and would be made available to Committee members.

**Achievements, problems and priorities in the Joint Committee's field of interest (summaries of national reports) (Item 3)**

16. National reports were tabled by the following countries: Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine. The Committee highlighted the wealth of information provided by national reports, encouraged countries to submit them and agreed to post them at the website to make them widely available.

**(i) Subject area 1: forest management**

17. The coordinator Mr. J. Souheimo (Finland) summarized the main achievements and problems in this field. During the late 1990s many countries in the region had completed or were still in the process of reforming their forestry legislation. The policy reform was significant and had broadened the concept of sustainable forest management encouraging the enhancement of biodiversity. Forest legislation focusses more and more on the promotion of sustainable forestry taking due account of the economic, social, ecological and cultural aspects. The implementation of the new forest policy had required considerable efforts in information, education and in providing extension services to forest professionals and forest owners. However, much still needed to be done in order to reach the general public, and the need to develop public relations and awareness campaigns were recognised.

**(ii) Subject area 2: technology**

18. The coordinator Mr. S. Rzadkowski (Poland) provided an overview of achievements in this field. There was a continued trend towards higher mechanization of forest operations, this had also been the case in the restoration of damaged forest areas after "Lothar". Forest operations have an important impact on the cost of the wood raw material. In order to maintain the competitiveness of forest industries it is thus important to apply new technologies and machinery, optimize wood transport and make wider use of information systems. Special attention is given to the protection of forest soils and to the environmental impact of new technologies. Certification of forest management and of wood products is developing rapidly in certain countries.

**(iii) Subject area 3: vocational training and applied ergonomics**

19. Mr. Büchel (Switzerland), the coordinator for subject area 3, presented an overview of the national reports concerning training and safety and health. In most countries organizational changes and growing attention to environmental and social concerns are resulting in increasing specialization and new job descriptions. In response, training programmes and systems are evolving rapidly by widening their scope beyond traditional subjects and structuring of courses into modules. In terms of safety and health, mechanization leads to new hazards such as stress, while close to nature forestry poses safety problems due to dead standing trees and the need for selective felling.

20. Topics to be addressed by the Committee in the future in the area of training include the future skill profiles of forestry jobs, how to provide further and refresher training for ageing workers as well as for contractors and owners of small forests, as well as ways of controlling the quality of training. Regarding safety and health, physical and mental stress and hazards associated with windblow clearing, as well as ways to put safety concepts into practice, should be considered.

**Implications of activities of other international organizations, notably the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (Item 4) TIM/EFC/WP.1/2000/4**

21. Mr. Lövgren introduced the paper regarding relations with the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), with FAO *Silva Mediterranea* and with the European Forest Research Institute (EFI). Concerning *Silva Mediterranea*, Mr. J. Teixeira (Portugal) indicated that a 'cork mark' was being launched in order to promote the use of this forest product.

22. The Committee decided that close contacts should be maintained with all three organizations. The ILO should continue to serve as liaison with IUFRO and send the Joint Committee programme to all relevant IUFRO coordinators after their forthcoming world congress. The Joint Committee's Team of Specialists on Forest Fires had been asked to work with *Silva Mediterranea* on arranging a seminar on forest fires for the Mediterranean region in the coming years. In addition, the organizers of the Joint Committee seminar on afforestation (Ireland, 2002) will contact *Silva Mediterranea* at the planning stage in order to take into account the needs of this region at the event. Information systems and the utilization of forest products were promising areas to keep in mind for future cooperation with the EFI, with which the FAO/ECE would maintain contacts.

23. The Joint Committee was informed of the activities of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE), and in particular of the work programme recently approved by the MCPFE. It noted that MCPFE worked closely with other organisations and that six Joint Committee activities had been included among the 41 international activities in the programme. This cooperation was mutually beneficial: the Joint Committee as a flexible technical body was able to further the MCPFE's objectives while it benefited from the MCPFE's political support. It was suggested that the Liaison Unit be invited to participate in sessions of the Joint Committee and its Steering Committee in order to ensure closer cooperation, as is already the case with the Joint Committee's parent bodies and their bureaux.

**Public relations of the Joint Committee (Item 5)**

(i) **Special topic at the joint session of the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission, Rome, October 2000 "Sustainable forest management practices: the work of the Joint Committee"**

24. The special topic was an opportunity to present, in more detail than was usually possible, the work of the Joint Committee to its parent bodies, and to hear their reactions and suggestions. In 1 ½

hours, Mr. Höfle would present the Joint Committee's activities and methods of work, stressing the Joint Committee's specific characteristics and comparative advantage, as well as its focus on the broad goals laid down by the parent bodies. It was suggested to present at the same occasion examples of particular Joint Committee activities which were of topical interest, such as the work on public participation in forest decision making. Time would also be available for an in-depth discussion by the parent bodies of the Joint Committee's work.

(ii) **Brochure**

25. Mr. Lövgren presented the new brochure that had been produced in 5,000 copies in English by the ILO. In accordance with the guidance provided by the Steering Committee, the brochure contained very little text and served mostly to attract attention and motivate people to find out more from the Joint Committee home page or the secretariat. FAO/ECE agreed that it would try to find resources to produce French and Russian versions, making maximum use of the layout and films already available. In addition, member countries were encouraged to publish versions in their national languages using the same lay-out (available on request from the secretariat) and indicating that these were unofficial translations. In due course, the Committee will discuss a second edition and any amendments to the contents and presentation of the brochure, in the light of experience gained with the brochure. The Joint Committee warmly thanked ILO for its important contribution.

(iii) **Website** (<http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/joint-committee>)

26. The secretariat presented the Joint Committee website which was intended to better disseminate the Committee's work and to facilitate and streamline communication between Joint Committee members and the secretariats. At present the website presented background information on the Joint Committee's mandate, objectives, history and methods of work, as well as information on forthcoming and past meetings, seminars and workshops, documents for downloading, mandates of teams, the Joint Committee directory, and links to other websites of international organisations, notably FAO and ILO, and also national organisations active in the Joint Committee's field of interest. The latter part of the website could be developed and delegates were asked to provide the secretariat with the addresses of relevant organisations and institutions in their own countries. The need for continuous update was stressed. The Committee agreed to establish a small working group to advise the secretariat on ways to improve the services provided through the website. The website should also be developed to facilitate access in the three official languages, if resources permit. The Joint Committee thanked Mr. Najera for his work in creating the website.

27. The working group suggested to the Committee that further development of the website be carried out with the active participation of member countries. Joint Committee contact points would be responsible for providing internet links relative to institutions in their respective countries, and of informing the secretariat of coming events and other forestry information of interest in their countries, such as publications, forest policy or legislation reforms, etc. This page should be updated regularly. The Committee endorsed the recommendations of the working group and agreed to review

developments of the website at Steering and Joint Committee sessions.

**Review of the activities in silviculture and forest management (subject area 1) and programme for 2001-2003** (Item 6) TIM/EFC/WP.1/2000/5 and Add.1

**(1.1) Forest fire prevention and control, team of specialists**

28. The Committee was informed of the activities of the team on forest fire, based on a report by the team leader Mr. J. Goldammer (Germany). The team continued to be active and was implementing its mandate, it will meet on 9 June in Kuopio (Finland), following Baltex Fire 2000, a follow-up meeting to the First Baltic Conference on Forest Fire held in Poland in 1998. The preparation for the next seminar on forest fire was one of the main items to be discussed. The Committee welcomed the fact that the seminar would take place in a country of the Mediterranean region, Turkey (subject to final confirmation), and requested the team to give more attention to the fire problems of countries in this region. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) of the United States Department of the Interior will continue to support financially, during the year 2000, the preparation of *International Forest Fire News*. The Committee welcomed this cooperation as well as the active participation of BLM in the activities of the team.

**(1.2) Forestry information systems 2000, workshop Finland, May 2000**

29. Mr. Souheimo reported on the outcome of this workshop hosted by his country and which immediately followed the First World Symposium of Logistics in the Forest Sector. The workshop attracted a wide participation and in view of the quality of the papers presented, the Committee requested that the proceedings be made available at the website. The Committee warmly thanked Finland for the excellent organization of the workshop. Following the recommendations of the workshop and the continued growing importance and application of information systems in forestry the Committee agreed to maintain this activity in the programme of work and invited countries to consider hosting a follow-up meeting in two or three years. Cooperation with the Logistics Group should continue.

**(1.3) Afforestation, proposed seminar in Ireland, 2002**

30. The Committee welcomed the confirmation made by Mr. D. McAree (Ireland) to organize a seminar on afforestation in September 2002 in conjunction with the twenty-fourth session of the Joint Committee and requested the Irish authorities to present a tentative programme for the next session of the Steering Committee.

**Disaster preparedness in forestry**

31. The Committee supported the suggestion by the Chairman that the 'Acute Forest Damage Manual' produced by a team of specialists in the early 1990's should be reviewed by a new team in

the light of the experience of the 1999 storms. The revised manual should not only focus on operational aspects but also on the context which determined the range of options available to forest managers. A seminar to present, discuss and share the experience of the affected countries might be organised in 2004. The terms of reference of the team of specialists to be established is set out in annex III.

### **New roles and modes of operation of forest services**

32. The Joint Committee noted that the roles and modes of operation and financing of forest services were changing in many countries, notably those where the forest service had been privatized or put on a quasi-commercial basis. A closely linked question was how to compensate forest owners, public or private, for providing non-market goods and services. The Joint Committee considered these interrelated topics of great interest and that they should be the subject of a seminar. The Joint Committee asked Mr. H. Schipper to examine whether the Netherlands might host such a seminar, in view of its recent experience with a privatized forest service and with major importance attached to non-market services such as recreation and biodiversity. Mr. Schipper agreed to explore these possibilities, although he warned that funding might cause some problems.

### **Review of the activities in wood harvesting and transport (subject area 2) and programme for 2001-2003 (Item 7) TIM/EFC/WP.1/2000/6**

#### **(2.1) Environmentally sound forest roads and wood transport, activities to be determined by the Joint Committee**

33. Mr. J. Lorbach (FAO) noted that the rehabilitation of forest roads was a problem in many countries, the Committee asked FAO to keep under review development in this field and invited countries to look into the possibilities of hosting a seminar on this subject in 2002 or 2003.

#### **(2.2) Reducing the impact of forest operations on ecosystems, team of specialists**

34. The Committee was informed that the team leader Mr. I. Wästerlund (Sweden) would circulate a draft report to the team members, in June 2000, in order to finalize a report on the achievements of the team as soon as possible. In its final report, the team should try to draw conclusions from the work which should identify some guidelines of practical use. On the basis of the report the Steering Committee will consider whether further work is necessary on operational guidelines.

#### **(2.3) New trends in wood harvesting with cable system, workshop in Austria in June 2001**

35. Preparations for the workshop were well underway, and a tentative programme had been presented to the Committee.

#### **(2.4) Forest operations of tomorrow, seminar in France, September 1999**

36. The Committee was informed of the results of the seminar which attracted a high number of participants, including prominent key-note speakers from both private and public forestry. The proceedings have been published. The Committee thanked France and AFOCEL for hosting the seminar.

**(2.5) Harvesting of wood and non-wood products, seminar in Turkey, October 2000**

37. The meeting was informed of the preparations of the seminar. In view of the low level registrations received, close to the deadline, the Committee agreed to fax reminders to country contact points and to contact IUFRO in order to attract enough papers and greater participation.

**(2.6) Multi-functional forestry in protected and vulnerable areas, proposal for a workshop or seminar in Sochi, Russian Federation in October 2002**

38. Mr. G. Solntsev (Russian Federation) confirmed the organization of the seminar by the Mountain Forest and Ecology Research Institute in Sochi which will take place in October 2002. A tentative programme was made available. The Committee warmly thanked the Russian authorities.

**Mobilisation of additional wood supply mainly from private forests**

39. A number of delegates expressed concern about the large dormant timber resources in European forests. On average, only 60 % of the annual increment was harvested. This meant limits to forest industry development. Most of this timber was in small privately owned forests. It was pointed out that there were several different dimensions to this topic, including the CO<sub>2</sub> - balance and rural development in addition to institutional arrangements, technology and extension approaches, that would motivate and enable forest owners to utilize these reserves. The Joint Committee agreed to prepare a seminar on the topic of 'Mobilization of additional wood supply, mainly from private forests' and requested the German delegate to explore the possibility of hosting this seminar in his country, possibly in conjunction with Interforst in 2004.

**Review of the activities in vocational training and applied ergonomics and programme for 2001-2003 (Item 8) TIM/EFC/WP.1/2000/7**

**(3.1) Forestry workforce network (FORWORKNET)**

40. Mr. P. Poschen (ILO) informed the Joint Committee that the growth of the network had slowed down significantly in terms of new members and countries. On the other hand, the number of copies of the newsletter distributed was increasing continuously. One of the measures to close the gap was to put the registration form on the web-site. The chairman underlined the relevance and quality of the newsletter. He suggested to use the forthcoming IUFRO congress as an opportunity to promote the network and requested Committee members to help with further dissemination in member countries.

(3.2) **Forestry training for target groups that are hard to reach, Seminar, La Bastide, France, April 1998**

41. The Committee was informed that the proceedings of the seminar had recently become available. One of the recommendations of the seminar was being implemented with the creation of a network of forestry training centres led by the La Bastide centre with financial support from the European Union.

(3.3) **Improving working conditions and increasing productivity in forestry, Seminar Banska Stiavnika, Slovakia, September 1998**

42. Mr. J. Ilavsky (Slovakia) recalled that this seminar organized in cooperation with IUFRO had been well attended and covered a broad range of topics. The proceedings had just been published and distributed.

(3.4) **Participation in forestry, Team of Specialists**

43. The team leader, Mr. M. Wenner (United Kingdom), gave an update on work progress. The team had originated from the Committee's earlier work on multiple-use forestry and social aspects. Membership of the team ensured a broad geographical coverage as well as a wealth of experience and diversity of perspectives. This was further enhanced by the inclusion of representatives of private forest owners, trade unions and environmental NGOs. He emphasized, that the work of the team would not have been possible without financial support from Switzerland and the Flanders region in Belgium for a coordinator and host facilities offered by Switzerland and the Swedish Forest Owners' Association.

44. The team had held two meetings of three days each in November 1999 and March 2000 and draft report was at present being reviewed and commented on by team members. The report contained a definition of participation, a review of the objectives pursued, an overview of methods for public participation and a discussion of participation in varying contexts such as private forest ownership and countries in transition. The report was expected to be finalized at the end of July. It would be published along with cases studies, a list of recommended reading and other material and presented to the Ministerial Conference.

45. The team's mandate continues to 2002 which will provide the opportunity to respond to possible requests for follow-up by the Ministerial Conference as well as to address work items in the mandate that have not been dealt with, including matters related to public awareness of forestry issues, and inputs for the agendas of forthcoming seminars.

(3.5) **Women in forestry, Seminar, Viseu, Portugal, 2-6 April 2001**

46. Mr. Teixeira introduced the draft programme set out in TIM/EFC/WP.1/2000/7 which focusses on improving the understanding of the present situation and status of women in forestry and on

strategies to improve equality of opportunity and adequate participation in decision making. IUFRO had offered to act as co-sponsor for the seminar. The Committee endorsed the programme and emphasized that balanced participation of men and women was essential for the success of the seminar. It also agreed to modifying the title of the seminar in line with a suggestion from IUFRO to: 'Women in forestry - strategies to increase women's participation in the forestry sector in Europe and North America'. An announcement would be prepared shortly by the host country and disseminated widely. Since even basic information on women in forestry was not available from statistical sources, the Committee supported the suggestion to collect such information through a questionnaire to be sent to member countries ahead of the seminar.

### **(3.6) Forestry meets the public, Seminar, Rütthubelbad, Switzerland, 8-11 October 2001**

47. Mr. Büchel presented the folder that was going to be mailed shortly as a first announcement and call for papers. He also requested delegates to provide suggestions for speakers. Mr. Pepke (FAO/ECE) clarified the mandate of team of specialists on public relations operating under the auspices of the European Forestry Commission/Timber Committee. That team had members from 27 countries and mostly focussed on promoting wood as a product. Information about the team, including its reports and publications was available on a home page on the Timber Committee web-site. The team was aware of the seminar in Switzerland and would participate in developing the programme.

48. Mr. Pepke presented an overview of the activities of the FAO/ECE Team of Public Relations Specialists in the Forest and Forest Industries Sector. Much of the presentation is available on the Team's website. The Team is aware of the Joint Committee's planned seminar, "Forestry meets the public," and will offer their assistance to ensure its success. Members from Switzerland of the Joint Committee and the PR Team have initiated cooperative efforts.

### **(3.7) Partnerships in forestry, Seminar, Flanders, Belgium, 2002**

49. Mr. Poschen reported that an outline had not yet been prepared due to a change in staff in the host organization. The team of specialists on participation would provide an input and a draft programme would be presented to the next session of the Steering Committee. In view of the other events scheduled for 2002, the seminar in Flanders should take place in the first half of the year.

### **Biodiversity - from concept to practice, proposed seminar 2003 or 2004**

50. Following a suggestion by the chairman, the Committee requested Mr. G. Nordanstig (Sweden) to prepare an outline for a seminar on the above topic for the next session of the Steering Committee. It also requested that he explore the possibilities of hosting such an event in Sweden, given the country's vast experience and success with motivating forest owners and providing the extension and training to put new forest management concepts into practice.

### **Traditional forest related knowledge**

51. An issue of possible future interest was identified: traditional forest related knowledge in the European context. Mr. Nordanstig agreed to prepare a preliminary outline for the Steering Committee.

#### **Adoption of the programme of work (Item 9)**

52. The Joint Committee adopted its programme of work, on the basis of the draft programme, its review of activities and a number of suggestions for new work made during the discussions. The programme is set out in annexes I and II.

53. The Committee noted that when additional resources are made available to teams of specialists, the work of the teams are greatly facilitated. This had been notably the case with the teams on socio-economic aspects and on participation thanks to the generous support of Switzerland and the Flanders region. Often timely delivery and high quality outputs were impossible without support for coordination, facilitation of metes and reporting. In view of the excellent experience gained, the Committee asked the secretariat to invite country authorities or institutions to support Joint Committee activities. Detailed information on the type of activity, time frame and scale of support needed should be made available.

#### **Any other business (Item 10)**

54. The Joint Committee warmly thanked the Swiss authorities for hosting the study visits on Wednesday 7 June and for the generous hospitality provided to participants. A report on the study visits is set out in annex IV. The Russian delegation showed a video on the Sochi Mountain Forestry and Forest Ecology Research Institute, which will host a seminar in 2002 (see para. 38).

55. The Committee was informed that the report of the team of specialists on multiple use forestry had been issued as a discussion paper (ECE/DP/18) and thanked the team leader Mr. Nordanstig for the excellent work.

56. The Joint Committee expressed its appreciation to the secretariat for the efficient organization of the session as well as for the good quality of the documents prepared and for their timely delivery.

#### **Election of officers (Item 11)**

57. The Joint Committee reelected the Steering Committee to hold office until the end of the twenty-fourth session. The composition and distribution of responsibilities of the Steering Committee is the following:

		<b>Responsibility</b>
Chairman:	Mr. H. Höfle (Germany)	Overall coordination
Past Chairman:	Mr. P. Efthymiou (Greece)	Liaison southern Europe

Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. V. Korobov (Russian Federation) Mr. D. McAree (Ireland)	Liaison Russian Federation Liaison European Union & North America
Coordinators:	Mr. J. Suoheimo (Finland) Mr. S. Rzadkowski (Poland) Mr. M. Büchel (Switzerland)	Subject area 1 Subject area 2 Subject area 3
Special Coordinators	Ms. E. Horvathné Sandor (Hungary) Mr. J. Ilavský (Slovakia)	Women in forestry, Liaison central /eastern Europe Liaison Timber Committee, European Forestry Commission & central/eastern Europe

**Date and place of the next session** (Item 12)

58. The Joint Committee agreed to hold its twenty-fourth session in conjunction with the seminar on Afforestation in September 2002, at the invitation of the Irish authorities.

**Adoption of the report** (Item 13)

59. The Committee adopted its report, on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

## ANNEX I

### PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE JOINT FAO/ECE/ILO COMMITTEE ON FOREST TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING FOR 2001-2005

#### Programme in subject area 1 Silviculture and forest management

(e.g. multiple-use forestry, ecological and economical issues, marketing, information systems)

#### 1.1. Forest fire prevention and control

Activities of the team of specialists, including the publication, twice yearly, of International Forest Fire News; the team will organize a seminar in Turkey; the team will make recommendations on the harmonization of forest fire statistics and reporting requirements for the European Union and ECE/FAO. The team will report to the twenty-fourth session of the Joint Committee in 2002.

Duration: to 2002

#### 1.2 New roles and modes of operation of forest services

It is proposed that a seminar on the changed functions of more independent forest services and the closely linked topic of how to finance supply of non-market goods and services from public or private forest owners be held in the Netherlands, in 2003 or 2004. An outline will be presented to the next session of the Steering Committee in 2001.

Duration: to 2004

#### 1.3. Afforestation

Seminar in Ireland in September 2002. A detailed proposal to be submitted to the Steering Committee.

Duration: to 2002

#### 1.4 Information systems in forestry

A third seminar on the topic will be held, about 2004/5. Duration: to 2005

#### 1.5 Disaster preparedness in forestry

A team will be formed to consider how the existing *Damage Manual* should be altered to take account

of the experience of the 1999 storms. A seminar to present, discuss and share the experience of the affected countries might be organised in 2004.

Duration: **to 2004**

### **1.6 Close to nature forestry**

It is proposed that a seminar on close to nature forestry should be held in Slovakia in 2003 or 2004. An outline will be presented to the next session of the Steering Committee in 2001. (See, also programme activity 3.6, Biodiversity: from concept to practice)

Duration: **to 2004**

## **Programme in subject area 2 technology, wood harvesting and transport**

(e.g. forest engineering, ecologically and economically sound operations in silviculture, wood harvesting and transport)

### **2.1. Environmentally sound forest roads and wood transport**

FAO will keep under review and compile information on developments in the sector. A seminar or workshop to be held in 2002 or 2003 (country and precise scope to be determined).

Duration: *to be determined by the Steering Committee*

### **2.2. Reducing the impact of forest operations on ecosystems**

The activities of the team of specialists on reducing the impact of forest operations on ecosystems will be terminated. A report will be issued presenting the achievements of the team.

Duration: **to 2000**

### **2.3. New trends in wood harvesting with cable system**

Workshop on new trends in wood harvesting with cable system, June 2001, Ossiach, Austria.

Duration: **to 2001**

### **2.4. Mobilisation of additional wood supply mainly from private forests**

It is proposed that a seminar on the above topic be held in Germany in 2003 or 2004, possibly in conjunction with Interforst.

Duration: **to 2004**

### **2.5. Harvesting of non-wood forest products**

A seminar on harvesting of non-wood forest products will be held in Manemen, Turkey from 2-8 October 2000, in cooperation with IUFRO.

Duration: **to 2000**

### **2.6. Multi-functional forestry in protected and vulnerable areas**

Workshop on multi functional forestry to be organized by the Mountain Forestry and Forest Ecology Research Institute in Sochi, Russian Federation in October 2002. A tentative programme was presented at the twenty-third session of the Joint Committee.

Duration: **to 2002**

## **Programme in subject area 3 vocational training and applied ergonomics**

(e.g. for workers, supervisors and managers, including applied ergonomics and occupational safety and health)

### **3.1. Forestry workforce network**

Activities of the Forestry workforce network, publication of *FORWORKNET Update* by ILO, two or three times per year.

Duration: **continuing**

### **3.2. Forestry meets the public**

Seminar in Rütthubelbad, Switzerland, from 8-11 October 2001.

Duration: **to 2001**

### **3.3 Participation and partnerships in forestry**

A team of specialists, under the leadership of Mr. M. Wenner (UK), will clarify the concept of "participation" and develop the conceptual framework for participatory forest management (involvement of the public), awareness of the forest and use of forest products and services by the public and draw up a report to the Joint Committee and the MCPFE on participatory management and proposals for follow-up actions.

Duration: **to 2002**

### **3.4. Partnerships in forestry**

Seminar on Partnerships in Flanders, Belgium in 2002.

Duration: **to 2002**

### **3.5. Women in forestry**

Seminar on the role of women in the forestry sector in Europe and North America, Viseu, Portugal from 2 to 6 April 2001. A detailed programme was submitted to the twenty-third session of the Joint Committee.

Duration: **to 2001**

### **3.6 Biodiversity: from concept to practice**

It is proposed that seminar be held on forestry to optimise biodiversity, notably with regard to extension services for private forest owners, in Sweden in 2003 or 2004. An outline will be presented to the next session of the Steering Committee in 2001. (See, also programme activity 1.6, Close to nature forestry)

Duration: **to 2004**

### **3.7 Traditional forest-related knowledge**

A proposal for an activity to be presented to the Steering Committee in 2001.

Duration: **to 2002**

ANNEX II

**TABULAR PRESENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK**  
(Incorporating discussions of Monday/Tuesday)

		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
	Joint Committee (JC) Steering Committee (SC) sessions	SC, 15th session, Portugal, March	JC, 24th session Ireland , September	SC, 16th session	JC, 25th session	SC, 17th session

**Subject area 1: Silviculture and forest management**

1.1	Forest fire prevention and control	Continuing IFFN, Newsletter, twice a year)	Seminar in Turkey			
1.2	New roles and modes of operation of forest services			Seminar in Netherlands (proposed)(2003 or 2004)		
1.3	Afforestation		Seminar in Ireland, September			
1.4	Information systems in forestry					Seminar
1.5	Disaster preparedness	Revision of <i>Manual</i>			Seminar	
1.6	Close to nature forestry			Seminar in Slovakia (proposed) (2003 or 2004)		

**Subject area 2: Technology, wood harvesting and transport**

		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
2.1	Environmentally sound forest roads and wood transport		Seminar or workshop in 2002 or 2003 <i>(to be determined)</i>			
2.2	Reducing the impact of forest operations on ecosystems	Final report				
2.3	Wood harvesting with cable systems	workshop in Austria June				
2.4	Wood supply from private forests			Seminar in Germany (proposed) (2003 or 2004)		
2.5	Harvesting of non-wood products	Issue proceedings				
2.6	Multi-functional forestry in protected and vulnerable areas		workshop in Sochi, Russian Federation, October			

**Subject area 3: Vocational training and applied ergonomics**

		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
3.1	Forestry workforce network	Continuing publication of <i>FORWORKNET</i>				
3.2	Forestry meets the public	Seminar in Switzerland, October				
3.3	Participation and partnerships in forestry (team of specialists)	Activities of the team of specialists				
3.4	Partnerships		Seminar on Partnerships in Flanders, Belgium			
3.5	Women in forestry	Seminar in Portugal, April				
3.6	Biodiversity: from concept to practice			Seminar in Sweden (proposed) (2003 or 2004)		
3.7	Traditional forest-related knowledge	Proposal of activity to the Steering Committee				

## ANNEX III

<b>MANDATE OF THE TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS IN FORESTRY (CONTINGENCY PLANNING IN FORESTRY)</b> <i>Reference to programme of work: 1.5</i>	
<b>A.- TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	
<b>ESTABLISHED BY:</b>	The Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training.
<b>References:</b>	Report 23rd session Joint Committee: TIM/EFC/WP.1/2000/2, para. 31
<b>MANDATE:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Collect information about problems and solutions in dealing with storm damage, in particular the damage by "Lothar" on 26 December 1999.</li> <li>2. Identify areas where international cooperation, exchange of information or research is most urgently needed.</li> <li>3. Update the damage manual of the Joint Committee, taking particular account of problems relating to damage inventory, organisation, management, harvesting techniques, transport, and safety.</li> <li>4. Define alternative strategies for disaster preparedness in line with the character (time, size, region, timber species. . .) and the type (forest fire, insect attack, windfall. . .) of the event.</li> <li>5. Establish a website where the information collected is easily available and regularly updated.</li> <li>6. Determine if a seminar might be appropriate (when and where?) in order to present the experiences gained after 1999 and to exchange views and information.</li> </ol>
<b>DURATION:</b>	To 2002
<b>APPROVED BY</b>	Joint Committee, 23rd session
<b>REPORTING:</b>	The team reports to each session of the Joint Committee and of the Steering Committee
<b>EXPECTED OUTPUT IN THE NEXT 18 MONTHS:</b> Present the first version of the updated manual to the twenty-fourth session of the Joint Committee	
<b>B.- INFORMATION SHEET (as of June 2000)</b>	
<b>TEAM LEADER:</b>	to be appointed
<b>COUNTRY MEMBERS to be appointed</b>	<b>COUNTRIES WHICH MIGHT HAVE SPECIAL RELEVANT EXPERIENCE:</b> Austria, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States

<b>MANDATE OF THE TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON 'PARTICIPATION AND PARTNERSHIPS IN FORESTRY'</b> <i>Reference to programme of work: 3.4</i>	
<b>A.- TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	
<b>ESTABLISHED BY</b>	The Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training
<b>References</b>	Report 22nd session Joint Committee: TIM/EFC/WP.1/28, (mandate modified by Timber Committee in September 1999)
<b>MANDATE</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clarify the concept of "participation" and develop the conceptual framework for participatory forest management (involvement of the public), awareness of the forest and use of forest products and services by the public</li> <li>2. Draw up a report to the Joint Committee and the pan-European process on participatory management and proposals for follow-up actions</li> <li>3. Assist in the preparation of the proposed seminars in Switzerland on Public relations and environmental education in forestry, and in Belgium on Partnerships.</li> <li>4. Collect and even initiate case studies.</li> </ol>
<b>DURATION</b>	to 2002
<b>APPROVED BY</b>	The Joint Committee's 22 <sup>nd</sup> session
<b>REPORTING</b>	The team reports to each session of the Joint Committee and of the Steering Committee
<b>EXPECTED OUTPUT IN THE NEXT 18 MONTHS</b> Report to the Steering Committee in 2001.	

<b>B.- INFORMATION SHEET (as of June 2000)</b>	
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	
<b>Past</b>	A workshop (November 1999 in Switzerland) to launch the activities of the team in coordination with the past team on socio-economic aspects. The team met in Växjö, Sweden in March 2000 to develop concepts and address main issues of the participatory process. Assist in the preparation of the Joint Committee seminars on Forestry meets the public; on Partnerships; and on Women in forestry.
<b>Ongoing</b>	Draw up a report to the Joint Committee and the MCPFE on participatory management and proposals for follow-up actions.
<b>Future</b>	A report on Public participation framework and recommendations to be completed and published in August 2000. Focus on the mandate on "Raising awareness" to be pursued into the Timber Committee ToS on Public relations.
<b>References</b>	TIM/EFC/WP.1/AC.1/1999/2; TIM/EFC/WP.1/2000/2
<b>TEAM LEADER</b>	Miles Wenner (United Kingdom)
<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, IFBWW, WWF/IUCN.

## ANNEX IV

### Study Visits in Switzerland Thursday, 7 June 2000

#### STUDY VISIT 1

#### Wood heating plant with a heat-power converter at the military quarters of Biere (VD)

Backed by a federal programme to encourage the use of wood as a renewable source of energy the Federal Office of constructions renovated the old heating installation of the military quarters of Biere in 1997. It was a pilot project that had the particularity of making a dual use of wood - as a construction material for the building in which the heating system is situated and as fuel for the installation itself. The use of a heat-power converting system in the heating installation generates heating water and electricity for the military quarters. A convention signed by the military instances, the municipality of Biere and a private firm regulates the production of coarse wood chips, the stocking and delivery of the chips for the heating installation.

#### Producing heat and electricity with wood

Roughly 13,500 m<sup>3</sup> of coarse wood chips are used each year, corresponding to 80% of the fuel used by the furnace. In support a burner using extra light oil covers the remaining 20% at peaks and during the summer months (only 300,000 litres of extra light oil per annum).

**Heat production** - The functioning of the heating installation is as follows:

- S** In summer and up to an outside temperature of 12°C the oil burner using Low-Nox oil (1.0 MW) covers the needs for heating and hot water of the military quarters. Below this temperature the wood furnace with radiator oil (1.8 MW) and the ORC turbo generator are taken into service manually.
- S** Below outside temperatures of -1°C the second wood furnace using hot water (1.4 MW) is automatically started up. In these conditions both wood furnaces and the heat recuperators (1.44 MW) produce 80% of the energy needs of the military quarters.
- S** The second oil burner (1.4MW) is only turned on when outside temperatures sink below -8°C. Two heat accumulators (of 45m<sup>3</sup> each) allow to balance peaks in consumption.
- S** The heating installation is completed by a heat recuperators for the gases and smoke emanating from the furnace with radiator oil (460 MW).

The functioning of the heating installation is managed by a computerised system. Dust filters are installed on both furnaces to comply with the regulations of the Ordinance on air protection.

#### Power generation

The wood heating plant with a heat-power converting system works with an ORC (Organic Rankine Cycle) turbo generator using organic fluids (silicone) with a high molecular mass. The performance of this system is roughly 1.5 times higher than with conventional technologies. It is the first installation of this kind in Switzerland. 1,121 MW h of electricity are produced every year by

this heat-power converter. However, as the heat-power converter works all day during the heating season it produces a surplus of power during periods of the day with low consumption. This surplus (approx. 70 MW h/a) is fed into the public power supply.

### **Supply in wood chips**

As mentioned above the heating system of Biere uses approx. 14,000m<sup>3</sup> of wood chips or 80% of the fuel used by the system. At the heating plant, the wood chips are stocked in a chip loft of 800m<sup>3</sup>. Depending on meteorological conditions, the chip loft allows an autonomous functioning for 8-10 days.

The weekly delivery of wood chips is ensured by the municipality of Biere and a private firm. This firm harvests the wood, makes the chips, stores and delivers it to the military quarters. The wood chips are kept in a wooden storage shed with a volume of 4000m<sup>3</sup> built especially for the purpose. The prices of the wood chips were negotiated through the intermediate of the federal office responsible for combustibles. In fact, not the quantity of wood chips delivered but the kWh produced by the heating system are accounted. This extraordinary system has the advantage of favouring the transparency in accounting and makes the management of the supply easier (heterogeneity of chips).

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## **STUDY VISIT 2**

### **Forest damage caused by Lothar in the region of Châtel-St-Denis**

#### **Extent of the damage**

The three successive storms Kurt, Lothar and Martin (December 1999) caused unprecedented damage in several European countries. In Switzerland, nearly 12 million cubic metres of wood were thrown or broken, of which 1.3 million cubic metres in canton Fribourg alone. This represents the quantity of wood usually harvested in 6 years. These unregulated fellings would suffice to build 25,000 houses out of wood and heat them for two years. They would provide housing for half the inhabitants of the canton.

#### **Actions undertaken, by order of priority**

In a first step, important lines of communication had to be cleared, followed by the forest roads. Rapidly the harvesting and commercialisation of easily accessible wood was taken in hand, particularly in the plain. After 3 months, a third of the volume thrown had been "saved", considerably more than anticipated. The first estimates had not accounted for the massive use of mechanised systems such as processors and the employment of forestry teams from less affected regions of Switzerland and even from abroad.

Action	Schedule	Focus
Clearance of main lines of communication	26 to 29 December	Roads, train lines, electricity
Clearance of forest roads	January to May 2000	

Removal of dispersed damage	January 2000 to ???	Preventing secondary damage
Removal of concentrated damage	February 2000 to April 2001	Preservation of the market value of wood
Reconstitution of destroyed stands	February 2001 to ???	Plantation in places, maximum use of natural regeneration
Control of secondary damage	???	Bark beetle, gales
Prevention of further damage	???	Regeneration, structuring of stands

### Decisions for action

The decision of whether to act or not lies within the responsibility of the forest owner. However, as harvesting is often leading to deficits, the forest service can not blindly offer subsidies for all interventions. For this reason an "aid for decision-making" was decreed by the federal authorities. It is based on the following elements:

	Wood is utilised	Wood is left lying in the forest
<b>Natural hazards</b>	<b>S</b> blocked torrents: urgent utilisation, use of helicopter possible <b>S</b> danger of erosion or of landslides aggravated by lying wood	<b>S</b> zones where avalanches break loose areas with rock-fall
<b>Phytosanitary risks</b>	<b>S</b> danger of bark beetle epidemics	<i>not applicable</i>
<b>Nature protection</b>	<i>not applicable</i>	projects for the creation of nature reserves
<b>Economic value of wood</b>	<b>S</b> revenue from wood sales covering extraction costs	<b>S</b> extraction costs higher than expected revenue
<b>Social function</b>	<b>S</b> forests with high recreational value	<i>not applicable</i>
<b>Silviculture</b>	<b>S</b> regeneration hindered by lying trees (plain)	<b>S</b> regeneration facilitated by lying trees (mountains)

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