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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

Joint Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training
Twenty-third session, Geneva (Switzerland), 5-8 June 2000)

**Implications of activities of other international organizations, notably
the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe**

(Item 4 of the Provisional Agenda)

Note by the secretariat

This document briefly reviews cooperation with other international organizations, notably IUFRO, FAO *Silva Mediterranea* and EFI; and with the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forest in Europe (MCPFE). Delegates are invited to supplement the information provided during the session.

The attention of the Joint Committee will be drawn to the points of decision included in the text (bold, italic type).

Introduction

1. The present note briefly reviews contacts with the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), with the FAO AFWC/EFC/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea*, with the European Forest Research Institute (EFI), and cooperation with the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forest in Europe (MCPFE). Delegates are invited to supplement the information contained in this note during the session.

International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)

2. Since the last Joint Committee meeting in Zvolen in 1998, the number of member organizations for IUFRO has slightly declined from 720 to 681. At the same time, the number of represented countries has gone down from 115 to 106. IUFRO still maintains its well developed website and can be reached at: <http://iufro.boku.ac.at>

3. The coordination with IUFRO continues to work rather well. Planned and recently held IUFRO meetings which should be taken into account are listed below. The main points of convergence with the Joint Committee appear to be in the areas of sensitive/protected areas, reforestation/afforestation and information management.

Division 1 "Silviculture"

- √ Forest Ecosystem Restoration - Ecological and Economical Impacts of Restoration, Processes in Secondary Coniferous Forests; Vienna, Austria, 10-12 April 2000
- √ Mediterranean Silviculture with Emphasis on *Quercus suber*, *Pinus pinea* and *Eucalyptus sp.*; Seville, Spain, 15-19 May 2000
- √ Restoration of Bottomland Hardwood Forests; Oxford, Mississippi, USA, 23-25 May 2000

Division 4 "Inventory, Growth, Yield, Quantitative and Management Sciences"

- √ Symposium 2000: Information Management in Forest Enterprises; Munich, Freising, Germany, 6-8 April 2000
- √ Artificial Intelligence Workshop; USA, planned

Division 8 "Forest Environment"

- √ Conference on Land Stewardship in the 21st Century: The Contributions of Watershed Management; Tucson, Arizona, USA, 13-16 March 2000
- √ The Determination of Avalanche Dangers - Hazard Mapping in Avalanching Areas - Workshop; St. Anton, Austria, 2-7 April 2000
- √ International Symposium on Management of Flood-plain Forests in Southern Moravia; Zidlochovice, Czech Republic, 13-16 May 2000

IUFRO task force meetings

- √ Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management at the Forest Management Unit Level; Nancy, France, 21-25 March 2000 (IUFRO Task Force on Sustainable Forest Management, ECOFOR, EFI)
- √ Multipurpose Management of Mountain Forests: Concepts, Methods, Techniques; Pralognan-la-Vanoise, France, 25-30 June 2000 (IUFRO Task Force on Forests in Sustainable Mountain Development, European Observatory for Mountain Forest (OEFM))

4. The next IUFRO World Congress will be held in Malaysia, 7-12 August, 2000. The Congress title is "Forests and Society: The Role of Research". The responsibility for its scientific programme lies with the IUFRO Executive Board, which has established a Congress Scientific Committee (CSC) for this purpose. The practical organisation is in hands of the Congress Organizing Committee (COC) in Malaysia.

Every indoor day of the Congress will start with a keynote address given by a renowned personality. Each keynote address will be supported during the week by a series of Sub-Plenary Sessions based on an open call for papers and invited papers. The Group Sessions will consist of a small number of synthesis papers or will be organized as panel discussions. There will be more than 120 Group Sessions and more than 600 specific papers will be presented in these sessions during the Congress week.

All divisions will also hold business meetings. Changes in the programme of activities for the future as well as in office-holders are very likely and will have to be monitored by the Joint Committee. Further information about the Congress can be downloaded at: <http://iufro.boku.ac.at/iufro/congress/>

Points for decision: The Committee is invited to take note of the IUFRO programme and to suggest topics for and ways of cooperation.

FAO AFWC/EFC/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions, *Silva Mediterranea*

5. One of the network activities for *Silva Mediterranea* is the promotion of forest fire prevention in the Mediterranean basin through the development of the following activities:

- √ Exchange of information on the national programmes of forest fire protection;
- √ Training and establishment of data bases on forest fires;
- √ Documentation about preventive silviculture;
- √ Study of socio-economic conditions of forest fire risk.

Specific outputs planned for the near future are:

- √ A series of training videos will be prepared and distributed
- √ A Handbook on Forest Fire
- √ Data base on forest fires

Another network activity is silviculture of species: *Cedrus sp*, *Pinus pinea* and *Quercus suber*.

Points for decision: *The Joint Committee may wish to:*

- S provide guidance to its Team of Specialists on Forest Fires concerning cooperation with Silva Mediterranea; and*
- S ask the organizers of the seminar on afforestation in Ireland in 2002 to liaise with Silva Mediterranea on ways to reflect the concerns and experience of that region in the seminar programme.*

European Forest Institute (EFI)

6. The European Forest Institute continues to evolve in membership and resources. Currently there are 131 member organisations from 35 countries represented, including research institutes, universities, non-governmental organizations, and industry. Roughly one quarter of these organizations are from eastern Europe and EFI also has 9 members from outside Europe. The current director is Mr. Fergal Mulloy.

7. At the moment, there do not seem to be any activities organized by the EFI that would be of interest for the Joint Committee.

Points for decision: *for information*

Cooperation between the Joint Committee and the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forest in Europe (MCPFE)

8. The Joint Committee's parent bodies cooperate in a number of ways with the MCPFE to encourage sustainable forest management in Europe. The Joint Committee also contributes to this overall goal in many ways, but notably by offering a flexible mechanism for consultation and consensus seeking at the interface between policy and technical/management approaches. In particular:

- S The Joint Committee team on socio-economic aspects of sustainable forest management prepared the report on *People, Forests and Sustainability*, which was the basis for resolution L1 of the Lisbon Ministerial Conference;*
- S The team on participation in forest decision making is performing a similar role in drawing up a report, which will be input for future work by MCPFE.*

9. Many Joint Committee activities are in areas which have been identified by MCPFE as being important for sustainable forest management in the region. These include: environmental education, occupational training, safety and health, reducing environmental impact of forest operations, forest fire management and control, and the role of women in forestry

Points for decision: *The Committee may wish to discuss if cooperation with the MCPFE is appropriate.*