

NEWSLETTER #29

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Comments and suggestions from the timber and forestry community are most welcome. Please write to us at: info.timber@unece.org

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Orman 2011: Forests in a Green Economy

JOINT FAO EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION AND
UNECE TIMBER COMMITTEE
IN KEMER, ANTALYA, TURKEY
10 to 14 (15) OCTOBER 2011

2011 UNECE/FAO PhD Thesis Award winner

To mark the International Year of Forests, in early 2011 the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) launched a PhD Thesis Award on Sustainable Forest Management in the UNECE region

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Joint 36th Session of the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) and the 69th Session of the UNECE Timber Committee

At the invitation of the Government of Turkey, the meeting will take place in Antalya from 10 to 14 (15) October 2011.

To underline its main thematic focus, the meeting has been named “**Orman 2011: Forests in a Green Economy**”. The Agenda and meeting documents can be found on the on the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Sections website: <http://live.unece.org/index.php?id=16262> and at the FAO European Forestry Commission website: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/efc/31913/en/>.

The Joint Session is open to Members of the FAO European Forestry Commission, to Members of the UNECE Timber Committee, and to observers to review the activities and the joint ECE/FAO Programme of Work on Timber and Forestry, discuss next steps for the 2013 Strategic Review of the Programme, learn about recent developments at the international level in the region, learn about climate change activities relevant for forests in the region; and discuss a number of other matters in support of the good and effective functioning of the two bodies.

The meeting will be conducted in English, French, Russian and Spanish.

We look forward to welcoming you at the FAO/UNECE joint meeting in Kemer, Antalya. ■



Orman 2011: Forests in a Green Economy

JOINT FAO EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION AND UNECE TIMBER COMMITTEE
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2011 UNECE/FAO PhD Thesis Award winner

To mark the International Year of Forests, in early 2011 the United Nations Economic Commission (UNECE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) launched a PhD Thesis Award on Sustainable Forest Management in the UNECE region, sponsored by Pictet, one of Switzerland's largest private banks.

On 10 October 2011, the first winner, Ms. Hongyu Ding from the University of Padova, will present her thesis and receive a prize of 10,000 USD dollars (which she has decided to donate to Somalia) during "Orman 2011: Forests in a Green Economy" in Antalya (Turkey) at the beginning of the Joint Session of the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) and the ECE Timber Committee (TC).

The winning doctoral dissertation on: "Economic Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and Human Well-Being: An Application to European Forest Ecosystems" seeks solutions to some of the most challenging environmental and socio-economic research questions faced today by biologists, climate scientists, economists and policymakers, through an innovative methodology, which goes beyond the conventional economic approach. The overall findings provide a better understanding of the magnitude of regional climate change threats to European forest ecosystems, thus supporting Sustainable Forest Management decision-making in Europe and contributing to the work of ECE and FAO.

Over thirty eligible PhD theses were received and evaluated by a Panel led by Professor Paschalis from the Warsaw University of Life Sciences (SGGW), Poland and five other, well-known European academics, all of whom were approved by the elected officers of the EFC and TC.

After assessing all the abstracts, five finalists were selected: Mart-Jan Schelhaas from the University of Joensuu, Berit Hauger Lindstad from the Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Yun Wu from the North Carolina State University, Bernhard Wolfslehner from the University of Life Sciences and Natural Resources of Vienna and the winner: Hongyu Ding from the University of Padova.

Ms. Honyu Ding, also known as Helen Ding, holds a BA in Economics and Finance and has a M.Sc. in Environmental Science. In addition to her doctoral studies, Ms. Ding has considerable research experience from her work at the Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM) on the economic valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services, the economic assessment of climate change impacts and the socio-economic impacts of biodiversity policy. In April 2011 she obtained her PhD degree from the department of economics at Cà Foscari University of Venice with her innovative winning thesis.

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Stakeholder meeting on forests and the green economy Geneva, 10-11 May 2011

On 10-11 May 2011, the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section organized, in cooperation with UNEP and ILO, a Stakeholder Meeting on Forests and the Green Economy, with the objectives to review and shape an Action Plan which will be reviewed at the joint session in Antalya and become a sectoral contribution to the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012.

During the meeting, a range of stakeholders from several member States, other international organizations and non-governmental organizations reviewed key focus areas and objectives to improve the forest sector's contribution to a green economy:

- Sustainable wood consumption and production
- The low-carbon forest sector
- Green Jobs in the forest sector
- Valuation of and payment for forest ecosystem services
- Monitoring and governance of the forest sector.

Through an interactive discussion, chaired by UNECE/FAO secretariat staff as well as colleagues from the UNEP Green Economy team and the ILO Green Jobs group, stakeholders agreed on priorities for each of these areas and a list of actions to be taken by countries, organizations, civil society groups and the private sector. These actions are now incorporated into the Action Plan which provides a directory of actions that are being or could be implemented at the national and international levels to enhance the contribution of the forest sector to a green economy and its sustainability.

The Action Plan is available at the website of the upcoming joint session of the UNECE Timber Committee

and FAO European Forestry Commission "ORMAN 2011: FORESTS IN A GREEN ECONOMY:" <http://live.unece.org/index.php?id=16262>. Participants in the Antalya session are encouraged to review and contribute additional actions to the Action Plan. In this context, they are invited to reflect on the contribution of the forest sector to a green economy.

Following the Antalya session, an additional stakeholder meeting is being envisaged to be held in the context of the 2012 session of the Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, to define next steps and progress with the implementation of the Action Plan, and review its inherent links with the programme of work of the UNECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission. ■

Water and Forest week discusses how to preserve ecosystems through economic and other instruments

More than 150 participants attended the UNECE/FAO Water and Forest Week held on 4-8 July 2011 in Geneva.

In the first workshop "Payments for Ecosystem Services: What role for a green economy"; participants from governments, research and NGOs agreed that forests must be considered as a natural asset and a green infrastructure. The reform of harmful subsidies and an integrated land-use policy would assist in the maintenance and restoration of forest ecosystem services. Forest owners should be compensated for their wise stewardship, based on the demand for ecosystem services from society and business. The workshop was organized jointly by the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, the UNECE Water Convention, IUCN, the TEEB, ForestEurope, the French "Office National des Forêts" and Syndicat des Eaux des Moises, the Finnish Environment Institute and the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment. Studies on the values of forest services were presented with their importance to water, health and business. Examples of Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) in the

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UK, Finland, Sweden, Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia, USA and the Mediterranean were presented. PES should be based on clear tenure rights, promote innovative taxation and invest revenues on forest conservation and sustainable management.

During the second workshop on “Water and forest in drylands: a virtuous cycle- information exchange from the Mediterranean to Central Asia” participants discussed whether and how forests and afforestation in drylands could positively influence water availability and water quality and if PES is feasible. The workshop was organized jointly by the UNECE Water Convention, the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). It was also attended by participants from non-UNECE countries such as Afghanistan, Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia or Yemen.

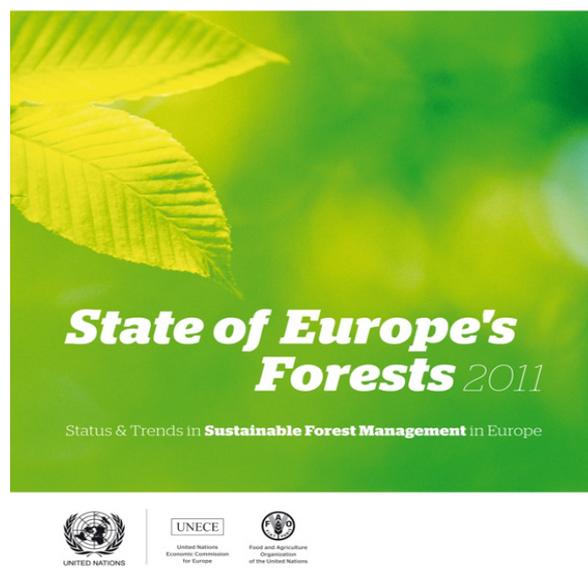
Managing forests and water in drylands means managing a scarce resource. Forests are often crucial e.g. to recharge aquifers and prevent erosion or sedimentation. Both the Mediterranean and Central Asian regions face many similarities: climate change, a forest under pressure because of its strong social value, an increasing need for clean and plentiful water. Case studies from Turkey, Tunisia, Central Asia, France, Kyrgyzstan and Algeria were presented. The workshop concluded that the relation between forests and water depends on many factors such as species, age and soil. Forests and water must be understood at the ecosystem and landscape level, considering land use, social, ecological and hydrological aspects. Therefore, compensating forest owners for managing their forests for water may help preserve forests. The workshop closed with a call for further exchange of experience on this important topic of water and forests in drylands. ■

For more information please visit http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/forest_water_drylands_workshop.html

Or contact: (eve.charles@unece.org or Sonja.koepfel@unece.org)



Recent Publications



The State of Europe's Forests 2011

report provides an overview of the status and trends of forests and sustainable forest management in Europe in the period 1990–2010. It was prepared for the Forest Europe Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe Oslo, Norway 14-16 June 2011, as a continuation of pan-European reporting on forests. The report was jointly prepared by the Forest Europe Liaison Unit Oslo, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in collaboration with the European Forest Institute (EFI) and with significant support from the governments of Finland, France, Norway and Switzerland.

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The State of Europe's Forests 2011 report covers the 46 Forest Europe signatory countries and the European Union. The report describes in a highly structured and documented way the status and trends of Europe's forests, based on information supplied by governments and international data providers. The data presented has been provided by individual countries and by international organizations. Data quality and completeness has improved since earlier reports, but vary significantly, depending on the specific indicator and countries' conditions.

The State of Europe's Forests 2011 report consists of three substantive parts. Part I reflects changes in quantitative indicators over time for the six criteria, i.e. forest resources and their contribution to global carbon cycles; forest ecosystem health and vitality; productive functions of forests; biological diversity in forest ecosystems; protective functions in forest management; and other socio-economic functions and conditions. Part II focuses on qualitative indicators and provides an overview of the policies, institutions and policy instruments for sustainable forest management.

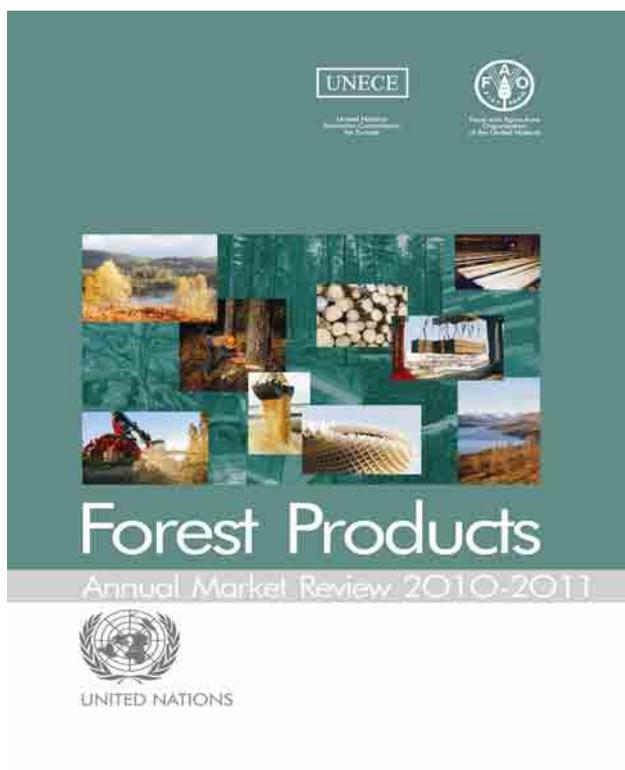
Part III of the report offers an experimental method to assess sustainability of forest management in Europe, providing preliminary results by country groups. The intention is that this approach will stimulate widespread discussion on the nature of sustainable forest management; how to assess it and facilitate further improvements. Furthermore, part III presents four future major challenges and opportunities for the forest sector, all highly complex: contributions by forests and forest management to climate change mitigation, wood for energy, protection of biodiversity and in amplifying a low-carbon, green economy.

The overall aim of the report is to provide policy and decision-makers and stakeholders with up-to-date information on the status and trends in forests and sustainable forest management in Europe. As it presents the most recent, objective and harmonized data on sustainable forest management in Europe, it can also provide a solid basis for future political commitments on forests and forest related issues

Electronic and paper versions of the report as well as supplementary material and source data to the State of Europe's Forests 2011 report are accessible from www.forestseurope.org and www.unece.org/timber (<http://live.unece.org/forests-welcome/areas-of-work/forestsforestresourceswelcome/forestsfroutputs/state-of-europes-forests-2011.html>). ■

The Forest Products Annual Market Review 2010-2011

After two years of declining wood production and consumption across the UNECE region, 2010 saw a rebound in demand in all three subregions i.e. Europe (6.6%), the CIS (6.3%) and North America (4.1%). Demand improved across all product categories. Trends in the first half of 2011 lent support to a continued, albeit modest, rise in consumption. Whether or not this rising trend will continue will depend on the extent to which economic recovery continues or stalls in the coming months. The *Review* will form the basis for market discussions that will be held on 12/13 October 2011, during the joint meeting of the UNECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission in Turkey. UNECE member countries are currently compiling market statements along with forecasts of how they expect markets to develop in 2012 and 2013. These reports and the discussion in Turkey will feed into the annual Timber Committee Market Statement, that will be issued later in October. To consult, please see at http://www.unece.org/press/pr2011/11tim_p05e.html ■

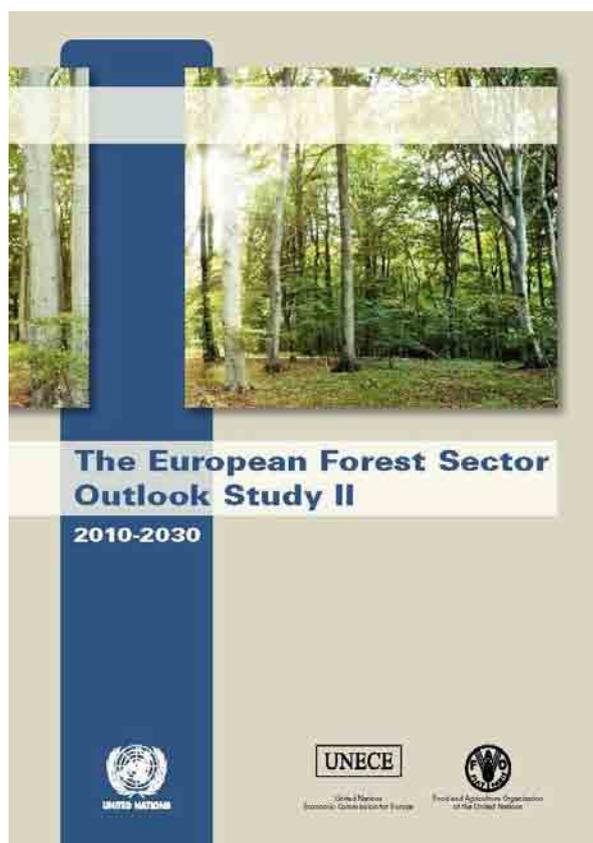


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Forest policymakers at a crossroads: UNECE/FAO outlook study identifies possible scenarios for the future of European forests



Europeans have high expectations of their forests which must meet increasing and sometimes conflicting environmental, social and economic demands. Policy makers must balance the conservation of biodiversity, the need to sequester and store carbon, adaptation to a changing climate and the provision of opportunities for recreation and leisure, while supplying wood for energy and raw material use.

The European Forest Sector Outlook Study II (EFSOS II), which covers the EU 27, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, provides pictures of the consequences of today's policy choices for the forest of tomorrow.

If no major policies or strategies are changed in the forest sector, consumption of forest products and wood energy will grow steadily and wood supply will expand to meet this demand. Forest area is expected to continue to expand, increasing by 6%, or 12 million ha by 2030, an area slightly larger than Bulgaria. In 2030 demand for wood will be 20% higher than in 2010 with slower growth from the forest products industry and faster growth for energy. To meet this demand, all components of supply will have to expand, especially harvest residues.

Forests are the largest terrestrial carbon stock and one of the few ways man can influence sequestration of carbon from the atmosphere. It is important that this stock be protected while guaranteeing wood supply. What is the right balance between these partly conflicting objectives? EFSOS II finds that the best strategy is to combine forest management focused on carbon accumulation in the forest (longer rotations and a greater share of thinnings) with a steady flow of wood for products and energy. In the long term however, the sequestration capacity limit of the forest will be reached, and the only potential for further mitigation will be regular harvesting, to store the carbon in harvested wood products or to avoid emissions by substituting wood for non-renewable materials and energy sources.

Wood is by far the largest source of renewable energy in Europe now, and if it is to play its part in reaching renewable energy targets, supply would have to increase by nearly 50% in twenty years. Achieving this would require an unprecedented mobilisation of high volumes of all types of wood and would have significant environmental, financial and institutional costs. In addition, 30 million m³ of wood would need to be imported from other regions or large areas of agricultural land would have to be put under short rotation coppice. ■

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Should biodiversity be the key priority for policymakers, for instance by setting aside more land for conservation and changing forest management to favour biodiversity, the supply of wood from European forest in 2030 would be around 16% less than in the reference scenario. This would necessitate reduced consumption of products and energy and/or increased imports from other regions and/or intensified use of other sources like landscape care wood, recovered wood and short rotation coppice.

The forest sector is often seen as prudent and conservative. EFSOS II imagines the consequences of a more innovative approach to product design, supply and marketing as well as to forest management. Innovation could create, defend or expand markets, create new opportunities (for instance, in so-called “biorefineries”, producing a wide range of organic chemicals from wood) reduce costs and increase profitability. Forest management also needs innovative approaches, for instance in payment for ecosystem services.

According to EFSOS II results, Europe is, and will remain, in all scenarios, a net exporter of wood and forest products. Projections also show a steady rise in prices of forest products and wood over the whole period, driven by expanding global demand and increasing scarcity in several regions. There are also win-win opportunities in developing the use of harvest residues, recovered wood and landscape care wood (from urban and highway trees). These sources have the potential to increase by 50%, reducing waste disposal problems for society as a whole.

The EFSOS II scenarios are based on the results of several modelling approaches, each with its own strengths, weaknesses and assumptions. The methodological core of EFSOS II is the Wood Resource Balance which maps the supply and demand of all woody biomass streams in the EFSOS region. Demand for material uses was derived from econometric analyses while demand for wood energy was estimated based on existing trends and taking into account policy targets. The potential wood supply from the forest was derived using the European Forest Information Scenario Model (EFSICEN) which calculates potential supply under a given management regime and provides outputs such as tree species distributions, felling/increments ratios and carbon stocks. The EUwood study provided the basis for potentials of wood supply from outside forests (landscape care wood and post post-consumer wood). To solve potential discrepancies between supply and demand, the Global Forest Sector Model (EFI-GTM) was employed. This model makes projections of global consumption, production and trade of forest products in response to factors such as economic growth, energy prices, trade regulations, exchange rates, availability of resources and consumer preferences.

EFSOS II is the result of a collaborative effort among numerous specialists from international organizations and other institutions. ■

The study is available at: <http://live.unece.org/forests/outlook/welcome.html>

For further information please contact:

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Mobilizing wood resources in Romania - a participative workshop Bucharest, 8 to 9 November 2011

The UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber section is one of the co-organizers and supporters of a workshop that will be held on 8 & 9 November 2011 at the Romsilva headquarters in Bucharest, Romania. The initiative for this multi-stakeholder workshop, designed to help mobilize green resources, lies with Proforest <http://www.proforestromania.ro/>, the Romanian Ministry of Environment and Forests, Romsilva (the National Forest Administration) and the Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering at the University of Brasov. The findings and the results from the workshop will be used as input into the preparation of a national strategy and action plan, intended to lead to mobilization of wood resources on a sustainable basis. By identifying the challenges and problem areas, it is hoped that stakeholders will be able to help define an integrated approach that will achieve a long-lasting increase in overall wood availability, while respecting the well-established principles and practice of sustainable forest management.

The workshop, featuring several high level speakers from key organizations, including the Romanian Ministry of Environment and Forests; DG Environment, Brussels; CEPF Brussels; Forest Europe, and the European Forest Industry Federation (CEI-Bois), will be highly participative in nature. It is hoped, therefore, that it will attract participants from a broad range of stakeholder interests. ■

For more information or to register an interest in taking part in this significant event, please contact:

Mr Daniel Paul Dima

Proforest

Email: Romania.danielpauldima@proforestromania.ro

Regional International Conference on "Wood energy for sustainable rural development in Serbia: Presentation and discussion of final results (TCP/YUG/3201)" in Belgrade from 19 to 21 October 2011

From 19th to 21st October 2011 Regional international conference titled "**Wood energy for sustainable rural development in Serbia: Presentation and discussion of final results (TCP/YUG/3201)**" will be held in Belgrade. Organized by FAO, Ministry of agriculture, trade, forestry and water management of the Republic of Serbia, as well as the Faculty of Forestry of the University of Belgrade this conference is the final phase of activities within the project Wood Energy for Sustainable Rural Development in Serbia, financed by FAO. The project was realised between 2009-2011 and involved research into all segments of wood and woody biomass consumption in Serbia, including the most comprehensive surveys of woody biomass consumption ever undertaken in Serbia. These results are expected to attract strong interest from professionals and the public alike. The project was managed by the following expert team: Miguel Trossero and Florian Steierer from FAO, Dušan Jović as national coordinator and Prof. Dr Branko Glavonjić as special adviser.

About 80 representatives from Serbian ministries and governmental agencies; enterprises from the forestry and wood processing sector; Serbian public enterprises for electricity production, mining; gas distributors; the Association of district heating plants; the oil industry of Serbia; pellets and briquettes producers are expected to take part in the Conference. Representatives of the 1,300 charcoal producers in Serbia, will also be present. As well as participants from Serbia, representatives of governmental institutions and companies from the forestry and wood processing sectors from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and TŕyR Macedonia are expected to attend. In addition to the project team members already mentioned, all domestic and international consultants who were engaged in the Project, as well as representatives of associations and enterprises from EU countries and representatives of UNECE/FAO will take part. ■

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Staff

Ed Pepke

After a long and fruitful career, Ed Pepke retired from the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, earlier this year. Ed contributed enormously to supporting a dedicated network of forest product marketing specialists from the member states, international organizations, universities and the private sector.

Many of you are familiar with the Forest Products Annual Market Review, a popular and respected publication on the latest events and trends in the UNECE region (i.e. North America, Europe and the CIS). You will also be aware of the high-profile market discussions that take place annually at the Timber Committee meetings. And there were many other forums and workshops that Ed organized, contributed to and supported on the sustainable and ethical use of forest products.

Although his tenacity and leadership will be missed within the UNECE/FAO, Ed continues to work in the forest products marketing sector. He's Senior Timber Trade Analyst at the European Forest Institute.

You can contact Ed at: Ed.Pepke@efi.int ■

Anastasia Tolmatsova and Miika Malmström

Every year, the Forestry and Timber section benefits greatly from the loan of two interns from the Department of Forest Sciences at the University of Helsinki, who act as marketing assistants during the preparation of the Forest Products Annual Market Review. Affectionately referred to as the 'Finnterns', this year we were fortunate to be joined by Ms Anastasia Tolmatsova and Mr Miika Malmström. Arriving on 11 May, Ana and Miika were thrown in at the deep end and, in no time, they proved themselves to be articulate, highly competent and highly motivated, showing initiative and delivering work of a high standard. Their contribution as team members was indispensable and, without their hard work, the Review would not have been produced by the deadline. Miika's analytical skills and inquisitiveness proved to be a real asset, as did Ana's outgoing personality and Russian language skills. All too soon, however, we reached the end of their assignment and had to bid them farewell. It was a pleasure for everyone in the team to share the work with two such pleasant and sociable people, who were excellent ambassadors for the University of Helsinki and Finland. All of us wish them both continued success in their future careers. ■



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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS 2011

10-14 (15) October

Kemer, Antalya, Turkey

Joint FAO European Forestry Commission and UNECE Timber Committee

19-21 October

Belgrade

Wood energy for sustainable rural development in Serbia

3 November

Brussels

EFI/UNECE/FAO Improving International Forest Products Price Information

8-9 November

Bucharest

Mobilizing wood resources in Romania

21-25 November

Geneva

Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe

30 November-1 December

Bled, Slovenia

Forest Products Marketing Workshop

December

Geneva

Seminar on Forest Policy in Europe and closing ceremony of the International Year of Forests 2011

More on the meetings homepage: <http://timber.unece.org/index.php?id=324>

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