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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
Timber Committee

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
European Forestry Commission

JOINT FAO/ECE WORKING PARTY ON FOREST ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS

Twenty-fourth session

to be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva
4-6 March 2002, starting at 10.00 hrs on Monday 4 March

Provisional agenda

(TIM/EFC/WP.2/2002/..series)

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| 6. | Any other business | |
| 7. | Election of officers | |
| 8. | Adoption of the report | |

Note – Working Party documents will be distributed to the official list as in previous years. However, the provisional agenda and other session documents will be available on the Timber Section's website:
<http://www.unece.org/trade/timber>

EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

General

During the strategic review of the ECE/FAO integrated programme of work in the field of forest and timber (see TIM/2001/2 and 8), it was agreed that the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics should provide guidance for work areas 1, 2 and 3 of the integrated programme. In order to carry out this guidance function satisfactorily, and act as an interface between the technical and the intergovernmental levels, the Working Party should henceforth meet annually. This was in response to the concerns expressed by the Working Party at its session in 2001 (see TIM/EFC/WP.2/2001/8, notably paras. 44-53).

Thus the session in 2002 represents a new challenge to the Working Party: to carry out its revised functions in an effective and efficient way, fulfilling the oversight function which the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission cannot carry out at their annual sessions, while leaving sufficient autonomy and flexibility to the technical teams and correspondents in the Working Party's areas of responsibility.

The provisional agenda has been drawn up to allow the Working Party to concentrate on the revised guidance function. It will be possible to spend nearly one day on each of the work areas, with formal parts of the agenda kept to a minimum.

Documents will be issued in advance to the regular mailing list, and will also be available for downloading from the Timber website (<http://www.unece.org/trade/timber>).

The secretariat proposes the following timetable:

Monday 4 March	Items 1-2
Tuesday 5 March	Item 3, 4 (start)
Wednesday 6 March	Items 4-8

The Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics will meet on Thursday and Friday.

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure and established practice, the first item on the agenda is the adoption of the agenda.

Items 2-4: Guidance of work areas

For each of the work areas, the Working Party will be informed of activities, results and plans for the next two years, and invited to review and comment on these activities and plans, and to approve the detailed section of the integrated work programme referring to each work area.

Item 5: Inter-organization co-operation on forest and forest products statistics

Delegates will be informed of the activities of Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics

Item 6: Any other business

At the time of writing the secretariat has no matters for discussion under this item

Item 7: Election of officers

The Working Party is expected to elect a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen. At its twenty-second session, the Working Party elected Mr. D. Brooks (USA) Chairman and Messrs M. Gecovic (Slovakia) and E. Sollander (Sweden) Vice-Chairmen to hold office until the end of the twenty-fourth session.

Item 8: Adoption of the report

The Working Party will be invited to adopt the report of its session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat. However, in order to use meeting time in the most efficient way possible, and in view of the detailed nature of some of the discussions which may take place, it may not be possible to present a full draft report at the end of the session, so that it may be necessary to for the Working Party bureau to finalise the report after the session.