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TIMBER COMMITTEE

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**REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES SINCE THE SIXTY-SECOND SESSION AND PROGRAMME OF
WORK TO 2008**

(Item 6 of the provisional agenda)

Note by the secretariat

The present document includes:

- an account of work carried out since the Committee's sixtieth session and a number of specific points drawn to the Committee's attention, which it may consider discussing; and
- the integrated programme of work of the Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission for review and endorsement by the Committee.

The Committee will be informed of activities since the sixty-second session and invited to comment, and to approve its programme for the period from 2006 to 2008. In addition, a draft of the Biennial Programme Plan for 2008-2009 will be submitted to the Committee for review and comments before the session.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Committee is expected to review implementation of the ECE/FAO integrated programme over the last year, and approve the programme for the period 2006 to 2008. According to the modalities agreed at the Strategic Review, the whole programme need not be reviewed and approved in detail by the Committee, as the strategic direction has been agreed for the period to 2008. The bureaux are responsible for overseeing implementation within the broad lines agreed.

2. The joint session in 2004 authorized the bureaux to monitor the implementation of the work programme and take day-to-day decisions. However, it was felt that the parent bodies should monitor progress at more frequent intervals than four years, including the activities of the teams of specialists. The joint session asked the bureaux to prepare a proposal on this and submit it for review by the parent bodies. The bureaux meeting in April felt that it was too early review the implementation of the programme adopted in October last year. As some teams will terminate their mandate in 2006, it is proposed to review the work of all teams at the Committee's session next year.

3. *The Committee is invited to discuss if this arrangement is suitable.*

4. At its meeting in April 2005 the bureaux reviewed progress in implementing the integrated programme, on the basis of a summary document prepared by the secretariat. They approved the activities and plans and provided guidance on issues which the secretariat drew to their attention (see bureaux report posted on the website).

5. The meeting in April also discussed the role of the bureaux in monitoring and guiding implementation of the joint programme of work. It agreed that the method used to monitor and guide implementation was appropriate and asked the secretariat to prepare similar documents in future years. A similar approach (overview documents, with summaries of events drawing attention to selected decision points) could also be used for the sessions of the Committee and the EFC.

6. The programme of work as drawn up during the strategic review is reproduced as annex I. As this was agreed for the period 2005-2008, no change should be necessary. Annex II presents in more detail, for the convenience of Committee delegates, work completed between October 2004 and July 2005 ("Completed" column) and activities in preparation or planned ("Forthcoming" column). For ease of use, only summary information is provided here: fuller information is available in the background documentation which may be downloaded from the website. The Committee is invited to endorse these proposals.

ITEMS FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE

7. A number of items deserve, in the secretariat's opinion, special attention and perhaps discussion by the Committee at its sixty-third session. These are briefly presented below.

FAO/ECE strategy for the sector in CIS and south-east Europe

8. A strategy for FAO and ECE activities has been drawn up and discussed with many stakeholders. It was endorsed by the bureaux in April 2005 and is reproduced TIM/2005/5/Add.1. It will provide guidance on the topic for the team of specialists which will hold its inaugural meeting in autumn 2005, and a framework and priorities for FAO and ECE activities.

9. *The Committee is invited to take note of the strategy, and provide any guidance it considers necessary.*

Follow-up to EFSOS

10. The study was published in paper format in March 2005 and has been distributed widely. There were a record number of downloads of the electronic version. The secretariat has concentrated on “marketing” EFSOS (press conference and press release, executive summary, presentations etc.), and on drawing it to the attention of its main target group, policy makers. One element of this was the workshop on the policy consequences of EFSOS, held in Budapest, which produced a number of conclusions and recommendations which are presented in document TIM/2005/5/Add.1. These conclusions will be presented for review to the Working Party in early 2006, but some of them are addressed to the policy level, and should be drawn to the attention of the Committee.

11. *Delegations are invited to take note of the conclusions of the Budapest workshop, and consider how they might be implemented in their countries. They are also invited to inform the Committee how EFSOS is being used in their country.*

12. One of the major conclusions of EFSOS concerned the importance of the cross-sectoral dimension. A workshop on Forests - Common Benefits, Shared Responsibilities, Multiple Policies will be held in Riga, Latvia in October 2005, in cooperation with MCPFE and the governments of Switzerland and Latvia. The programme of the workshop will be widely distributed in summer 2005: delegations are invited to ensure that their country is well represented at this path-breaking event, by experts from the forest/timber sector, but also from other relevant sectors, notably, energy, environment, rural development, and trade. The participation of experts from “other” sectors is a prerequisite for true inter-sector communication. The Committee will be briefed orally on the state of preparations for this workshop.

13. Delegations are invited to review the follow up to EFSOS and provide guidance.

Social and cultural aspects

14. In the period since October 2004, two meetings have taken place in this work area:

- First international conference of forest training centres, Bastide des Jourdans, France, February 2005; and
- Seminar on forests: our cultural heritage in Sunne, Sweden in June 2005.

15. The conclusions and recommendations of these meetings, some of which are directed to the policy level, are reproduced in TIM/2005/5/Add.1.

16. An international seminar on Gender and forestry, arising out of the work of the team of specialist on the subject supported by FAO, will be held in Umea Sweden in 18-20 June 2006. The announcement will be distributed to delegations when it is available.

17. *Delegations are invited to take note of the conclusions and recommendations of the Bastide des Jourdans and Sunne meetings, discuss them and indicate to what extent they will take them into account at the national level.*

18. *Under this agenda item the Committee should therefore:*

- *take note of the activities under the integrated programme of work since September 2004;*
- *discuss selected decision points drawn to its attention;*

- *take note of FAO/ECE Strategy for the sector in CIS and south east Europe which is reproduced in full document TIM/2005/5/Add.1;*
- *approve the programme of work for 2006-2008 and endorse plans for forthcoming activities;*
- *take note and discuss conclusions and recommendations of meetings and seminars (see document TIM/2005/5/Add.1).*
 - *Budapest workshop on policy consequences of EFSOS*
 - *Conference of forestry training centres*
 - *Seminar on forests: our cultural heritage, June 2005, Sweden*

UN STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2008-2009 TIMBER SUBPROGRAMME

19. The UN is now starting the process of producing the strategic framework for its activities in 2008-2009, which should be transmitted to Headquarters by December 2005/January 2006 (precise instructions and timing have not yet been received). The proposal from UNECE should be reviewed and discussed at the intergovernmental level, both by PSBs and by the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work (GEPW), which plans to review proposals from all subprogrammes in January 2006. Naturally the proposals will take into account any ideas emerging from the ongoing process of UNECE reform. The Timber Committee will be invited to review a draft proposal, which will be prepared by the secretariat, basing itself on the ECE/FAO Strategic Review (which covers the period up to 2008), and then reviewed by the bureaux.

20. The secretariat proposes the following timetable:

- July: secretariat produces first draft and circulates to bureaux;
- August to 10 September: review by bureaux, revisions as necessary;
- 10 September: circulation of draft to Timber Committee delegations by e-mail.

21. Delegations are invited to review the strategic framework for the Timber Committee subprogramme which will be circulated in mid-September, agree on modifications and a version for transmission to the GEPW.

ANNEX I

UNECE TIMBER COMMITTEE AND THE FAO EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION INTEGRATED PROGRAMME OF WORK ON FORESTS AND TIMBER

Work area 1 Markets and Statistics	
Responsibility: E. Pepke and C. Prins	
	Programme elements
1.1	Statistics on production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products
1.2	Analysis of markets for forest products, notably topical and policy relevant aspects
1.3	Capacity building for forest products marketing in countries in transition
1.4	Monitoring and analysis of markets for certified wood products
1.5	Statistics on forest fires
1.6	Team of Specialists on Forest Products Markets and Marketing

Work area 2 Forest resource assessment and indicators of sustainable forest management in the region	
Responsibility: A. Korotkov	
	Programme elements
2.1	Regional indicators of SFM
2.2	Regional contribution to global FRA
2.3	Support to development of national systems for forest monitoring
	Servicing ToS FRA

Work area 3 Sector outlook studies: analysis and follow-up	
Responsibility: C. Prins	
	Programme elements
3.1	Implementation and follow up of EFSOS to be determined
3.2	Forest relevant cross-sectoral issues at the pan-European level
3.3	Sector policy aspects of increased use of wood energy

Work area 4 Social and cultural aspects of forestry	
Responsibility: C. Prins	
	Programme elements
4.1	Role of women in forestry
4.2	The social dimension of SFM in Europe, e.g. safety and health aspects
4.3	Role of contractors

Work area 5 Policy and cross sectoral issues	
Responsibility: C. Prins	
	Programme elements
5.1	Contribution to the regional dimension of the global dialogue
5.2	Monitoring recent developments in policies and institutions
5.3	Trends in policies and institutions for the sector in CIS and south east Europe
5.4	Trade and environment issues:
	5.4.1 – extent and cause of illegal logging and trade
5.5	Forest fires
5.6	Sectoral and cross-sectoral communication
5.7	Preparation of forest and forest products country profiles
	Servicing ToS CIS/SEE

ANNEX II
WORK COMPLETED BETWEEN OCTOBER 2004 AND JULY 2005 IN THE UNECE
TIMBER COMMITTEE AND FAO EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION
INTEGRATED PROGRAMME OF WORK ON FORESTS AND TIMBER

Work area 1 Markets and Statistics			
Responsibility: E. Pepke and C. Prins			
	Programme elements	Completed	Forthcoming
1.1	Statistics on production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products	Inter-secretariat Working Group (IWG) met. Stats published electronically on TC/EFC website and FAOSTAT. <i>Trade of Roundwood and Sawnwood by Species</i> and <i>Trade of Secondary Processed Wood and Paper Products</i> published electronically. Forest Products Statistics, 2003 on website.	Collect, validate and disseminate market statistics and forecasts. Improve links to previously non-reporting countries. Forest Products Statistics, 2004 on website.
1.2	Analysis of markets for forest products, notably topical and policy relevant aspects	Two presentations: “Hardwood markets in 2003-2005” “Global forest products market and resource trends”	<i>Forest Products Annual Market Review, 2004-2005</i> Annual TC Market Discussions, Statement. Analyses & presentations to AHEC, European Softwood Conference, Journée Résineux
1.3	Capacity building for forest products marketing in countries in transition	Draft donor proposal with Metla and EFI partners	Presentation of proposal to potential donors. Preparations of workshop in the Czech Republic aimed at Caucasus and central Asian countries on building capacity in sharing forest and market information, 24-28 October 2005, Prague, Czech Rep.
1.4	Monitoring and analysis of markets for certified wood products	Forest Certification Update 2003 issued. Participate in ITTO certification workshop.	Produce CFP market analysis in FPAMR. Preparations for the policy forum on forest certification: do governments have a role? At TC session 2005
1.5	Statistics on forest fires		2004 fire statistics to be published on the website in 2005
1.6	Team of Specialists on Forest Products Markets and Marketing	Market-Related Outputs Survey. Established a Current Issues Forum website.	Study effectiveness of wood and forest promotion campaigns. Improve country market forecasts and statements for the TC Market Discussions. Study government procurement policies effects on markets. Meetings in 2005: - Brisbane 8-13 August 2005 - Geneva 26 September 2005

Note: More detailed information on forthcoming activities in Work Area 1 maybe found at the Committee's website: <http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/WorkArea1.html>, which is updated regularly.

Work area 2: Forest resource assessment and indicators of sustainable forest management in the region			
Responsibility: A. Korotkov			
	Programme elements	Completed	Forthcoming
2.1	Regional indicators of SFM	Preparation for contribution to MCPFE 2007/08 reporting has started. "Road Map", approved by the Joint Working Party. Enquiry for the countries' reporting on C&I for SFM is being elaborated. Review of outline by the Team MCPFE Advisory Group met in July	Preparation with the MCPFE Liaison Unit, the report on the state of Europe's forests for the Warsaw Ministerial Conference
2.2	Regional contribution to global FRA	FRA national correspondents and contact points mobilised; Organization of two sub-regional FRA 2005 workshops (<i>Budapest - Hungary, Wyszkiow - Poland</i>), in October and December 2004.	Final review and analysis of drafts of the FRA 2005 Country Reports. Regional input into the preparation of the main global FRA 2005 Report.
2.3	Support to development of national systems for forest monitoring	Establishing and maintaining the cooperation with EU COST E43, EEA, MCPFE, and directly with countries (NFI) – mainly FRA National Correspondents ...	Input from the ToS to countries' for SFM reporting.
	Servicing ToS FRA	The ToS held inaugural meeting in April 2005. Programme approved	Implementation of Programme/ Action Plan.

Note: More detailed information on forthcoming activities in Work Area 2 maybe found at the Committee's website: <http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/WorkArea2.html>, which is updated regularly.

Work area 3 Sector outlook studies: analysis and follow-up			
Responsibility: C. Prins			
	Programme elements	Completed	Forthcoming
3.1	Implementation and follow up of EFSOS to be determined	EFSOS main report published and "marketed" Budapest workshop on policy consequences of EFSOS Presentation at the EU Standing Forestry Committee in Luxembourg	
3.2	Forest relevant cross-sectoral issues at the pan-European level		Workshop in Latvia, September 2005
3.3	Sector policy aspects of increased use of wood energy	Discussion of information availability at Working Party	Report in 2006 to the WP request to define a minimum standard for wood energy statistics and identify means of collecting these data

Note: More detailed information on forthcoming activities in Work Area 3 maybe found at the Committee's website: <http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/WorkArea3.html>, which is updated regularly.

Work area 4 Social and cultural aspects of forestry			
Responsibility: C. Prins			
	Programme elements	Completed	Forthcoming
4.1	Role of women in forestry	- Inaugural meeting of team on 23 April 2004 in Rome - Meeting held on 22-23 November 2004 in the Ministry for Environmental and Nature Conservation, Düsseldorf, Germany - Slovakia, 17-18 June 2005	- Final meeting: Italy, Rome, April 2006 - Seminar on Gender and forestry, arising out of the work of the team of specialist, Umea Sweden, 18-20 June 2006.
4.2	The social dimension of SFM in Europe, e.g. safety and health aspects	- Conference of forestry training centres - Seminar forests and our cultural heritage, June 2005, Sweden	
4.3	Role of contractors	Team active, Inaugural meeting on 3 May 2004 in Rome	Workshop in Krakow, with ENFE

Note: More detailed information on forthcoming activities in Work Area 4 maybe found at the Committee's website: <http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/WorkArea4.html>, which is updated regularly.

Work area 5 Policy and cross sectoral issues			
Responsibility: C. Prins			
	Programme elements	Completed	Forthcoming
5.1	Contribution to the regional dimension of the global dialogue	Presentation of regional forestry commissions at COFO	As decided, if necessary
5.2	Monitoring recent developments in policies and institutions	Policy discussion of long term challenges at joint session	Prepare for EFC session 2006
5.3	Trends in policies and institutions for the sector in CIS and south east Europe	Strategy for the sector in CIS and south east Europe was adopted FAO/CEPF/IUCN Workshop in Croatia, June 2005 on "Policy Options for Improved Forest Land-Use in South-East Europe"	First team meeting, autumn, Budapest Capacity Building in Sharing Forest and Market Information Workshop, Prague and Krtiny, Czech Republic, 24-28 October 2005
5.4	Trade and environment issues:		
	5.4.1 – extent and cause of illegal logging and trade	Workshop September 2004 is input to other work, notably EFI study for MCPFE	So far not requested to contribute to St. Petersburg ministerial conference
5.5	Forest fires	Team of specialists central to preparations of COFO ministerial. IFFN distributed at COFO	
5.6	Sectoral and cross-sectoral communication	FCN advised on Branch communication strategy	FCN meeting Latvia autumn 2005
5.7	Preparation of forest and forest products country profiles	Country Forestry profile for Bulgaria.	Country profiles for Serbia & Montenegro, Uzbekistan
	Servicing ToS CIS/SEE		Team is being established, inaugural meeting to be held in Budapest, Hungary at a date to be determined

Note: More detailed information on forthcoming activities in Work Area5 maybe found at the Committee's website: <http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/WorkArea5.html>, which is updated regularly.

Infrastructure			
Responsibility: C. Prins			
	Programme elements	Completed	Forthcoming
<i>Intergovernmental processes</i>			
	Timber Committee sessions	62 nd Session, 5-9 Oct 2004	63 rd Session, 27-30 Sept 2005
	EFC sessions	32 nd Session, 5-9 Oct 2004	33 rd Session, 23-26 May 2006 Bratislava, Slovakia
	Bureaux sessions	1-2 April 2004 (Extended Bureaux Meeting) 7 May 2004 28-29 April 2005	April 2006
	Sessions of Statistics Working Party	27 th Session, 22-24 March 2005	March 2006
<i>Communication</i>			
	Dissemination of outputs: Yearbook, website, publications	Yearbook discontinued Website being improved Publications discussed by Statistics Working Party	
	Communication of results of integrated programme	Communication strategy discussed at bureaux meeting	
<i>Fund raising</i>			
	Fund raising	Fund raising strategy discussed at bureaux meeting	