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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

TIMBER COMMITTEE

(Eleventh Session, Rome, 5 to 12 October 1953).

Report of the Eleventh Session of the Timber Committee
held in Rome from 5 to 12 October 1953.

1. The Timber Committee held its eleventh session in Rome from October 5 to October 12 1953. Delegates participated from: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Rumania, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Western Zones of Germany, the USA, the USSR, and Yugoslavia (Annex I).
2. The Executive Secretary of ECE, Mr. Gunnar Myrdal,¹⁾ thanked Mr. Norris E. Dodd, Director-General of FAO, for his words of welcome and for the hospitality extended by FAO. He referred to the fact that, with the participation of the Soviet Union and other Eastern European countries, the Timber Committee had now become an all-European committee. He expressed his belief that the Committee, embracing all the important timber producing, importing and exporting countries in Europe, was particularly well equipped to carry out its tasks. Those tasks could be summarized as -
 - (a) to help raise European timber production and trade to appropriate levels, and
 - (b) to give European timber producers and consumers reasonable prospects of stability.

Emphasizing the importance of the future level of prices, he pointed out that it was the duty of the Committee to work towards a conciliation of the interests of consumers and producers. He believed that increased progress in various

1) The full text of Mr. Myrdal's speech has been circulated as Document TIM/76

technical fields could make a considerable contribution to that end by restoring some of timber's competitive power without depriving suppliers of the necessary incentives.

3. The Committee adopted the attached agenda as submitted by the Secretariat (Annex II). Delegates expressed their satisfaction at the fact that the Committee had now become fully representative of all major timber interests in Europe.

4. The Committee unanimously reelected Mr. F.M. du Vignaux (France) as Chairman and Mr. J.O. Söderhjelm (Finland) as Vice-Chairman.

5. Sawn Softwood

The Committee heard statements from each delegate about the European sawn softwood situation and outlook. It then reviewed import requirements and export availabilities for 1953 and 1954 and filled in the work sheets attached to this report as tables 1 and 2.

(a) Situation in 1952-1953

At its tenth session in October 1952, the Timber Committee had noted that prices had been restored to a level which offered the possibility of stabilization. The events of 1953 had shown the Committee's assessment of a year ago to have been reasonably correct. It was already clear, however, that the European timber trade in 1953 would exceed by some quarter of a million standards the volume envisaged by the Committee at its tenth session. This was due to increased purchases by the United Kingdom, where the removal of import restrictions in November 1952 had enabled the trade to build up its stocks. In consequence United Kingdom imports were now likely to exceed 1.4 million standards as against the 1.0 million standards expected a year ago. In Western Germany, the Netherlands, and Italy total imports for the year would come very close to earlier estimates. Elsewhere in Europe and in the Middle East and North Africa imports were likely to fall slightly short of the estimated figures.

The expectation of the tenth session that exporting countries would have no difficulty in shipping further amounts in the event of demand strengthening had also proved justified. Finland, Sweden, and Austria were likely to export 300-350 thousand standards more than the maximum figures indicated a year ago. Exports from the USSR would probably reach 280 thousand standards against the earlier

estimate of 150 thousand standards. Slight increases over the estimated figures were expected in exports from most other European sources - East and West. Canadian supplies would amount to 250-300 thousand standards while U.S. shipments were likely to fall below earlier expectations.

The fact that the market was easily able to satisfy the extra demand was facilitated by the return to an early opening of the buying season. The United Kingdom started making purchases as early as September 1952 and by January 1953 Sweden, for example, had sold more to that country than in the whole of the preceding campaign. Production was stimulated in the exporting countries although a substantial part of the increased exports was met from stocks. The early start to the buying campaign had not only allowed exporters to plan their production and importers to obtain better specifications; it had contributed in no small measure to the stability of the market.

The level of prices during 1953 remained almost unchanged. The delegate of the Soviet Union explained that the partial price reductions in August mentioned in the Secretariat Note referred to the sales of certain remaining goods intended for delivery in 1953 and should not be regarded as indicative of the general course of prices.

There was some discussion as to whether the existing price level offered the possibility of enduring stability. Several importing countries expressed concern about the steady advances in the replacement of timber by other materials, notably in the construction and packaging fields. In the United Kingdom consumption was still limited by licensing restrictions though the volume of timber consumed in 1953 was likely to exceed the level of previous years by some 10 per cent. With consumption restricted, timber had but a limited possibility of measuring its competitive power in that market. It was thus a matter of speculation how far lost ground could be recovered at existing prices if controls were removed. In other Western European importing countries, notably Belgium, Denmark, France and the Netherlands, the steady trend towards substitution continued.

The anxieties and hesitation expressed by Western European importers were fully understood by exporting countries, but it was pointed out that in several exporting countries production costs had risen more rapidly than had corresponding export prices and there was no reason to expect that the impending log buying season would result in raw material prices offering the possibility of reductions in the prices of finished goods. All members of the Committee agreed that technical improvements both in wood production and wood use should in time contribute to resolving this dilemma.

(b) Outlook for 1954

The Committee's estimates of aggregate import requirements in 1954 indicated that no marked change in the level of total demand was expected. United Kingdom needs were expected to fall now that stocks have been restored to a high level, but this would be to some extent offset by an increase of about 100 thousand standards in Western German requirements and smaller increases in several other importing countries. The somewhat wider margin between normal and maximum requirements than usual reflected uncertainty as to the duration of remaining controls in the United Kingdom. Should consumption controls continue, United Kingdom requirements had been estimated to reach 1.07 million standards; should consumption be decontrolled, import needs might rise to 1.28 million standards. Total European requirements would thus lie between 2.8 and 3.25 million standards as compared with 3.0 to 3.2 in 1953. Future requirements for European timber in the Middle East, North Africa, and other overseas countries were still uncertain but are not likely to exceed 300-400 thousand standards, bringing total import requirements to somewhere between 3 and 3½ million standards.

On the supply side, less was likely to be available in Finland and Sweden since the past year's sales had brought producers' stocks down to low levels. The maximum estimates for shipments from these two countries fell short of the 1953 figure by some 200 thousand standards. Smaller reductions were also expected in supplies from Austria, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. Shipments from the Soviet Union, however, were likely to reach 300-400 thousand standards, and a slight addition to available supplies could also be expected from Poland.

Total supplies in the year 1954 were estimated at between 2.8 and 3.3 million standards, leaving an apparent deficit of 200-300 thousand standards, a figure well within the margin of error of the estimates. It therefore seemed that supply and demand in the coming year would be well in balance. Though present estimates of supplies from European sources amounted to between 2.25 and 2.6 million standards, as compared with European requirements of 2.8 to 3.25 million standards, past experience suggested that in the event of European demand reaching the levels forecast, additional supplies might well be forthcoming to diminish this gap.

The need for imports from other continents would thus probably lie within the range estimated as likely to be available in Canada, the USA and Brazil for export to Europe. According to a statement by the Canadian delegate, his country's export availabilities were flexible, and there was no doubt that more could be shipped from Canada should the need arise.

The indications were that, after the fluctuations which have characterized recent years, the European timber trade might now enter on a more stable period.

6. Small Sized roundwood

(a) Pitprops

The situation revealed by the national statements showed that the high level of pitprop imports in 1952, together with some increase in domestic production in the main importing countries, had by the end of that year substantially improved the supply situation, which at the beginning of the year had been generally considered as rather serious. Successful efforts to further rationalize the use of wood in mines had, in many of the coal producing countries, led to some decline in the rate of consumption of pitprops per ton of coal produced; total consumption of pitprops in 1952 and 1953 therefore remained below the levels estimated earlier. Pitprop stocks consequently rose and remained high through 1953. The customary review of import requirements and export availabilities for 1953 and 1954 (see table 3 attached to this Report) showed that pitprop supplies in the importing countries for these two years appeared secured. The apparent deficit revealed by the figures given for 1953 was only 232,000 cu.m. or about one per cent. of total requirements. For the year 1954 an apparent surplus of 430,000 cu.m. was indicated. Over the two year period requirements and availabilities thus appeared in balance.

(b) Pulpwood

The review of pulpwood import requirements and export availabilities showed a different picture. With a fairly high level of pulpwood stocks in the main importing countries in 1953, import requirements were considerably below the level of actual imports in 1951 and 1952. Export availabilities also declined considerably compared with the levels of the two preceding years. The figures presented indicated a large apparent deficit for both 1953 and 1954 corresponding to some 20 per cent. of the total import requirements in 1953 and 35 per cent. in 1954 (see table 4 attached to this Report). The main exporting countries, particularly Sweden and Finland, had in 1951/52 increased their production of small sized roundwood above the normal level in the expectation of continuing favourable conditions in the market for wood pulp and pulp products and hence for roundwood. The recession in the pulp and paper market in 1952 led to large quantities of roundwood being available for export even from the pulp industries. Later a decline in the production of pulpwood in the main exporting countries led to reduced amounts being available for export.

(c) Conclusion

The review of the European situation for small sized roundwood, taken as a whole, showed a rather significant deficit between import requirements and export availabilities amounting to some 15 per cent. of import requirements in 1954. It seemed desirable therefore that there should be early progress in placing forward contracts which experience has shown stimulate production.

It should be borne in mind that the main production of roundwood in the exporting countries is limited to a relatively short period and there is little possibility of a rapid response to sudden changes in demand.

7. Joint Meeting with the European Forestry Commission.

To consider the Report of the FAO/ECE Joint Working Party, the Committee held another joint meeting with the European Forestry Commission. The Report of this Joint Meeting is appended and forms part of the present Report (Annex III).

8. International Timber Trade.

See page 10 of the Report of the Joint Meeting.

9. Timber Price Statistics

See pages 9 and 10 of the report of the Joint Meeting.

10. Other business

(a) ECE Programme of Work 1954/55. The Committee noted the decisions of the Eighth Session of the Economic Commission for Europe relative to its work. It authorized its officers, in consultation with the Secretariat, to examine the current work programme in the light of the decisions and criteria of the Economic and Social Council and on the basis of the established practice and working arrangements of the ECE; the revised programme, which should be grouped into appropriate priority categories, should take into account the wishes of the Committee expressed during the present session and have due regard to the budgetary implications of each item.

(b) Ninth Session of the Economic Commission for Europe. The Committee authorized its Chairman and Vice-Chairman to submit to the Ninth Session of the Economic Commission for Europe the usual report on the work of the Timber Committee during 1953.

11. Next Session: It was agreed that the regular autumn session of the Timber Committee should be convened in Geneva in October 1954. The Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, was authorized to convene a Spring meeting if special circumstances should arise which, in his view, made a Spring meeting necessary. The Committee expressed its thanks to the Austrian delegation for the invitation extended on behalf of the Austrian government to hold its next session in Vienna and asked the Secretariat to explore with the Austrian authorities the possibility of holding a future meeting in Vienna with due regard to the administrative and technical services required.

IMPORTS OF SAWN SOFTWOOD
(Incl. boxboards)

IMPORTATIONS DE SCLAGES RESINEUX
(Y compris les planches de caisserie)

In thousands of standards

En milliers de standards

Principally Importing Countries	IMPORTS			Imports requirements in - Besoins d'importations en								Principaux Pays Importateurs
	IMPORTATIONS			1952		1953		1954				
	1937 a)	1952	January- June 1953 janvier- juin 1953	Normal	Maximum	Normal	Maximum	Normal	Maximum	Normal	Maximum	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Belgium-Luxembourg	175	106	29	120	140	130	145	110	125	130	145	Belgique-Luxembourg
Denmark	130 ^(b)	124	45	115	115	(160)	(160)	125	125	130	130	Danemark
France	218	84	34	70	100	100	130	90	100	100	130	France
Germany Western	(494	396	162	300	350	320	380	320	380	400	480	Allemagne occidentale
Germany Eastern	(	2 ^(g)	3 ^(g)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Allemagne orientale
Greece	62 ^(c)	45	16	(90)	(90)	(90)	(90)	(40)	(50)	(50)	(80)	Grèce
Hungary	125	6 ^(g)	3 ^(g)	(30)	(30)	(30)	(30)	(40)	(50)	(40)	(50)	Hongrie
Ireland	76	47	7	(80)	(80)	(80)	(80)	(50)	(60)	(50)	(60)	Irlande
Italy	200	236	140	220	230	230	300	250	300	275	330	Italie
Netherlands	389	274	107	285	285	320	320	310	310	300	320	Pays-Bas
Portugal	2	1	-	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	Portugal
Switzerland	10	13	5	15	20	20	25	12	15	15	20	Suisse
Turkey	2	36	25	(20)	(25)	(20)	(25)	40	50	40	50	Turquie
United Kingdom	2,490	1,031	698	980	980	1,000	(1,000)	1,420	1,430	1,070+	1,280*	Royaume-Uni
Other European countries	1 ^(d)	5 ^(h)	2 ^(h)	(10)	(10)	10	10	(50)	(50)	(50)	(50)	Autres pays européens
Other countries normally exporting	59 ^(e)	174 ⁽ⁱ⁾	41 ⁽ⁱ⁾	(150)	(150)	(150)	(150)	(120)	(120)	(120)	(120)	Autres pays normalement exportateurs
SUB-TOTAL A	4,433	2,580	1,317	2,490	2,610	2,665	2,850	2,982	3,170	2,775	3,250	SOUS-TOTAL A
Egypt	94 ^(c)	60 ^(c)	.. ^(j)	132	140	138	147					Egypte
French North Africa	40	43 ^(j)	23 ^(j)	110	120	110	120					Afrique du Nord française
Israel	54 ^(f)	30 ^(k)	..	(	(	(	(					Israël
Lebanon	(7	7	..	(40	(50	(40	(50					Liban
Syria	(	..	..	(	(	(	(					Syrie
Other Middle-Eastern and North African countries	..	43 ^(g)	17 ^(g)	..	..	..	..					Autres pays du Moyen-Orient et de l'Afrique du Nord
SUB-TOTAL B	195	183	40	282	310	288	317	220	250	250	300	SOUS-TOTAL B
Other overseas countries not mentioned above	..	70 ^(g)	16 ^(g)	(100)	(100)	(100)	(100)					Autres pays d'outre-mer non mentionnés ci-dessus
SUB-TOTAL C	..	70	16	100	100	100	100	50	75	50	100	SOUS-TOTAL C
GRAND TOTAL	4,628	2,833	1,373	2,872	3,020	3,053	3,267	3,252	3,495	3,075	3,650	TOTAL GENERAL

- SEE OVER -

+ If consumption licensing maintained
* If consumption licensing ended.

- NOTES AU VERSO -

- a) Source: European Timber Statistics 1913-1950
- b) Includes some quantities of sawn hardwood
- c) Includes sawn hardwood
- d) Spain
- e) Austria-Czechoslovakia-Finland-Norway-Poland-Rumania-Sweden-Yugoslavia-USSR.
- f) Palestine within its 1937 frontiers; includes sleepers
- g) Exporters' figures; imports from countries of Western Europe
- h) Iceland
- i) Austria-Norway-Sweden; and exporters' figures for Czechoslovakia-Poland-Rumania-Bulgaria-USSR (imports from countries of Western Europe)
- j) Imports from France only.
- k) January-September only. Includes sleepers

General remark

Estimated figures are in brackets

.. = not available

- = nil or less than half a unit

- a) Source: Statistiques européennes du bois, 1913-1950
- b) Y compris certaines quantités de sciages feuillus
- c) Y compris les sciages feuillus
- d) Espagne
- e) Autriche-Tchécoslovaquie-Finlande-Norvège-Pologne-Roumanie-Suède-Yougoslavie-URSS.
- f) Palestine, frontière de 1937; y compris les traverses
- g) Chiffres tirés des données des pays exportateurs; importations en provenance des pays d'Europe occidentale
- h) Islande
- i) Autriche-Norvège-Suède et chiffres tirés des données des pays exportateurs pour la Tchécoslovaquie-Pologne-Roumanie-Bulgarie-URSS (importations en provenance des pays d'Europe occidentale)
- j) En provenance de la France seulement
- k) Janvier-septembre seulement. Y compris les traverses

Remarque générale:

Les chiffres estimés sont entre parenthèses

.. = non disponible

- = néant ou moins d'une demi-unité

EXPORTS OF SAWN SOFTWOOD
(Incl. boxboards)

EXPORTATIONS DE SCLAGES RESINEUX
(Y compris les planches de caisserie)

In thousands of standards

En milliers de standards

Principal Exporting Countries	EXPORTS EXPORTATIONS			Exports prospects for: Prévisions d'exportations pour:								Principaux Pays Exportateurs
	1937 a)	1952	January - June 1953 Janvier - juin 1953	1952		1953		1954		Normal	Maximum	
				Normal	Maximum	Normal	Maximum	Normal	Maximum			
				Estimates made in Oct. 1952 Estimations faites en oct. 1952	Estimates made in Oct. 1952 Estimations faites en oct. 1952	Estimates revised in 1953 Estimations révisées en oct. 1953	Estimates made in Oct. 1953 Estimations faites en oct. 1953					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Austria	311	522 (fg)	.. (f)	420	460	440	500	530	550	480	520	Autriche
Czechoslovakia	108	54 (fg)	40 (f)	(30)	(35)	(30)	(35)	80	(90)	80	90	Tchécoslovaquie
Finland	1,020	592	238	550	560	450	500	600	600	450	500	Finlande
France	15 (b)	70	54	55	58	55	65	80	80	60	80	France
Germany Western	)	2	-	3	5	3	5	3	5	3	5	Allemagne occidentale
Germany Eastern												
Norway	40	8 (fg)	18 (f)	10 (k)	15 (k)	10 (k)	15 (k)	30	35	15	25	Norvège
Poland	316	24 (fg)	22 (f)	(50) (k)	(50) (k)	(70) (k)	(70) (k)	40	50	(60)	(70)	Pologne
Portugal	7	27 (fg)	11 (f)	(10)	(10)	(10)	(10)	(20)	(20)	(20)	(20)	Portugal
Rumania	292	13 (fg)	4 (f)	(50)	(50)	(50)	(50)	100	100	100	100	Roumanie
Sweden	876	716	398	625	650	600	625	775	800	650	700	Suède
Yugoslavia	199 (c)	104 (fh)	85 (f)	100	120	100	120	140	150	80	90	Yugoslavie
U.S.S.R.	1,292 (c)	129	27 (f)	150	150	150	150	280	280	300	400	U.R.S.S.
SUB-TOTAL	4,477	2,261	897	2,053	2,163	1,968	2,145	2,678	2,760	2,298	2,600	SOUS-TOTAL
Canada	499 (d)	460 (i)	158 (l)	550	550	200	400	260	290	400	500	Canada
United States	111 (e)	48 (j)	..	140	160	160	200	50	100	100	150	Etats-Unis
Other Sources	..	..	..	(20)	(30)	(25)	(35)	(60)	(100)	(50)	(100)	Autres provenances
TOTAL	5,087	2,769	1,055	2,763	2,903	2,353	2,780	3,048	3,250	2,848	3,350	TOTAL
IMPORTS				2,872	3,020	3,053	3,267	3,252	3,495	3,075	3,650	IMPORTATIONS
BALANCE				- 109	- 117	- 700	- 487	- 204	- 245	- 227	- 300	BALANCE

- SEE OVER -

- NOTES AU VERSO -

- a) Source: European Timber Statistics 1913 - 1950
- b) Includes some quantities of sawn hardwood
- c) Includes the Baltic States
- d) Exports to Europe only. Excludes boxboards
- e) Exports to Europe only. Includes sleepers
- f) Importers' figures; exports to countries of Western Europe
- g) Includes exports to Egypt, Israel and Turkey
- h) Includes exports to Egypt
- i) Exports to Europe only. Total exports: 1,726
- j) Exports to Europe only. Total exports: 276
- k) Committee estimate based on an indication given by the Polish delegate that 700,000 cu.m. of sawnwood, pulpwood and pitprops will be available for export
- l) Exports to Europe only. Total exports: 850

General remark:

Estimated figures are in brackets

.. = Not available

- = Nil or less than half a unit

- a) Source: Statistique européennes du bois 1913-1950
- b) Y compris certaines quantités de sciages feuillus
- c) Y compris les Etats Baltes
- d) Exportations vers l'Europe seulement. Non compris les planches de caisserie
- e) Exportations vers l'Europe seulement. Y compris les traverses
- f) Chiffres tirés des données des pays importateurs; exportations vers les pays d'Europe occidentale
- g) Y compris exportations vers l'Egypte, Israël et la Turquie
- h) Y compris exportations vers l'Egypte
- i) Exportations vers l'Europe seulement. Exportations totales: 1,726
- j) Exportations vers l'Europe seulement. Exportations totales: 276
- k) Estimation du Comité basée sur les indications du délégué polonais d'après lesquelles 700.000 m³ de sciages, de bois à pâte et de bois de mine seront disponibles à l'exportation
- l) Exportations vers l'Europe seulement. Exportations totales: 850

Remarque générale:

Les chiffres estimés sont entre parenthèses

.. = non disponible

- = Néant ou moins d'une demi-unité

In thousands of cubic metres

En milliers de mètres cubes

COUNTRIES	1952			Jan.-June Janv.-juin 1953		1953								1954				PAYS				
	PRODUCTION	IMPORTS IMPORTATIONS	EXPORTS EXPORTATIONS	IMPORTS IMPORTATIONS	EXPORTS EXPORTATIONS	Normal requirements Besoins normaux		Indigenous production Production nationale		Imports requirements Besoins d'importations		Exports possibilities Possibilités d'exportations		Normal require- ments Besoins normaux	Indigenous production Production nationale	Imports require- ments Besoins d'importa- tions	Exports possibi- lities Possibi- lités d'exporta- tions					
						(Estimated in October - Estimés en Octobre)													Estimated in October 1953 Estimés en Octobre 1953			
						1952	1953	1952	1953	1952	1953	1952	1953						1952	1953		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18					
Austria	515	-	308	..	..	249	228	419	378	-	-	170	150	242	342	-	100	Autriche		
Belgium	845	378 ^(b)	89 ^(b)	23 ^(b)	21 ^(b)	1,000 ^(b)	1,000	850 ^(b)	850 ^(a)	250 ^(b)	250	100 ^(b)	100	1,000	850 ^(a)	250	100	Belgique				
Czechoslovakia	(600) ^(a)	- ^(c)	9 ^(e)	- ^(c)	- ^(e)	..	..	30 ^(a)	50 ^(a)	..	..	(30) ^(g)	50	..	50 ^(a)	..	50	Tchécoslovaquie
Finland	1,653	-	1,653	-	81	-	-	1,100	800	-	-	1,000	800	-	1,000	-	1,000	Finlande				
France	3,000	354	98	92	58	3,000	2,500	2,600	2,450	400	200	(60)	150	2,050	2,150	50	150	France				
Germany Western	3,100	900 ^(c)	60 ^(e)	116 ^(c)	18 ^(e)	3,600	3,400	2,600 ^(a)	2,500 ^(a)	(800)	950	-	50	3,150	2,500 ^(a)	600	50	Allemagne occid.				
Germany Eastern	(940)	1 ^(c)	83 ^(e)	- ^(c)	27 ^(e)	..	..	(100) ^(a)	(75) ^(a)	..	..	(100) ^(g)	(75)	..	(100) ^(a)	-	(100)	Allemagne orient.
Ireland	5	-	20	-	4	(2)	(2)	(14)	(12)	-	-	(12)	(10)	(2)	(12)	-	(10)	Irlande				
Italy	142	5	1	9	2	150	150	150	150	-	-	-	-	150	150	-	-	Italie				
Luxembourg	62	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	Luxembourg				
Netherlands	139	205	-	24	-	230	210	100	100	130	50	-	-	200	100	50	-	Pays-Bas				
Norway	145	- ^(c)	145 ^(e)	- ^(c)	45 ^(e)	-	-	50 ^(a)	100 ^(a)	-	-	50 ^(gh)	100	-	60 ^(a)	-	60	Norvège				
Poland	(2,000)	4 ^(c)	134 ^(e)	- ^(c)	44 ^(e)	..	..	(100) ^(a)	100 ^(a)	..	..	(100) ^(gh)	100	..	(100) ^(a)	..	(100)	Pologne
Portugal	(215)	-	245	-	82	(40)	(40)	(240)	(190)	-	-	(200)	(150)	(40)	(190)	-	(150)	Portugal				
Sweden	1,035	-	1,000	2	215	25	25	625	625	-	-	600	600	25	425	-	400	Suède				
Switzerland	2	-	2	-	1	-	-	20	10	-	-	20	10	-	10	-	10	Suisse				
Turkey	93	137	-	62	-	(205)	(225)	(70)	(90)	(135)	(135)	-	-	(225)	(90)	(135)	-	Turquie				
United Kingdom	875	3,049 ^(c)	- ^(e)	492 ^(c)	- ^(e)	3,000	2,679	800 ^(a)	933	2,300	1,772	-	-	2,782	942	1,840	-	Royaume-Uni				
U.S.S.R.	(13,000)	- ^(c)	301 ^(e)	- ^(c)	69 ^(e)	..	14,600	(400) ^(a)	15,000	..	-	(400) ^(g)	400	16,100	16,500	-	400	U.R.S.S.				
Yugoslavia	530	-	4	-	5	490	490	490	500	-	-	-	10	500	500	-	-	Yougoslavie				
TOTAL EUROPE	28,896	5,033	4,152	820	672	11,991	25,549	10,758	24,913	4,015	3,357	2,842	2,755	26,466	26,071	2,925	2,680	TOTAL EUROPE				
Canada	1,359	-	1,017 ^(f)	-	69 ^(f)	..	..	500 ^(a)	260	-	-	500 ^(g)	260	-	500	-	500	Canada		
United States	..	..	161 ^(e)	..	..	..	..	100 ^(a)	50	..	..	100 ^(g)	50	-	(100)	-	(100)	Etats-unis
Other countries	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	170 ^(a)	60	..	..	(170) ^(g)	60	-	75	-	75	Autres pays
TOTAL	30,255	5,033	5,330	..	741	11,991	25,549	11,528	25,283	4,015	3,357	3,612	3,125	26,466	26,746	2,925	3,355	TOTAL				

- SEE OVER -

- NOTES AU VERSO -

- A Production in countries of eastern Europe estimated on the basis of official figures for planned production or on the basis of official figures available for earlier years.
- a) Production equals exports.
 - b) Includes Luxembourg.
 - c) Exporters' figures; imports from countries of Western Europe.
 - d) Included in Belgium.
 - e) Importers' figures; exports to countries of Western Europe.
 - f) Total exports to Europe.
 - g) Exports to countries of Western Europe.
 - h) Committee estimate based on an indication given by the Polish delegate that 700,000 cu.m. of sawnwood, pulpwood and pitprops will be available for exports.

General remark:

Estimated figures are in brackets.

.. = not available.

- = nil or less than half a unit.

- A La production des pays d'Europe orientale est estimée sur la base de chiffres officiels de production prévue ou sur la base de chiffres officiels disponibles pour des années précédentes.
- a) Production = exportation.
 - b) Y compris le Luxembourg.
 - c) Chiffres tirés des données des pays exportateurs; importations en provenance des pays d'Europe occidentale.
 - d) Compris dans la Belgique.
 - e) Chiffres tirés des données des pays importateurs; exportations vers les pays d'Europe occidentale.
 - f) Exportations totales vers l'Europe.
 - g) Exportations vers les pays d'Europe occidentale.
 - h) Estimation basée sur les indications du délégué Polonais d'après lesquelles 700.000 m³ de sciages, de bois à pâte et de bois de mine seront disponibles à l'exportation.

Remarque générale:

Les chiffres estimés sont entre parenthèses.

.. = non disponible.

- = néant ou moins d'une demi-unité.

FOR 1953 AND 1954

In thousands of cubic metres

DE BOIS A PATE POUR LES ANNEES 1953 ET 1954

En milliers de mètres cubes

COUNTRIES	1952			Jan.-June Janv.-juin 1953		1953						1954				PAYS						
	A PRODUCTION	IMPORTS IMPORTATIONS	EXPORTS EXPORTATIONS	IMPORTS IMPORTATIONS	EXPORTS EXPORTATIONS	Normal requirements Besoins normaux		Indigenous production Production nationale		Imports requirements Besoins d'importations		Export possibilities Possibilités d'exportations		Normal requirements Besoins normaux	Indigenous production Production nationale		Imports requirements Besoins d'importations	Exports possibilities Possibilités d'exportations				
						Estimated in October - Estimés en Octobre																
						1952	1953	1952	1953	1952	1953	1952	1953						1952	1953	Estimated in October 1953 Estimés en Octobre 1953	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18					
Austria	1,198	a) 109	a) -	a) ..	a) ..	2,100	2,100	a) 2,100	2,100	a) -	-	a) -	-	2,200	2,200	-	-	Autriche				
Belgium	(200)	b) 144	a) 11	a) 12	a) 2	300	300	a) 200	200	a) 100	100	a) 10	10	300	200	100	10	Belgique				
Bulgaria	(50)	b) -	f) -	b) -	f) -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Bulgarie
Czechoslovakia	(1,900)	b) -	f) 99	b) -	f) 61	..	..	..	1)(100)	..	..	(50)	(100)	..	1)(100)	..	(100)	Tchécoslovaquie
Denmark	(10)	-	-	-	-	12	15	12	15	-	-	-	-	15	15	-	-	Danemark				
Finland	12,000	-	2,631	-	492	9,000	8,000	10,500	10,000	-	-	1,500	1,200	9,000	8,000	-	1,000	Finlande				
France	1,576	571	3	70	1	1,700	1,700	1,300	1,300	400	400	-	(-)	1,900	1,300	600	(-)	France				
Germany Western	2,057	b) 1,186	f) 8	b) 150	f) 7	4,300	4,200	2,800	3,500	(1,500)	700	-	-	4,500	3,500	900	-	Allemagne Occid.				
Germany Eastern	(1,850)	b) 1	f) -	b) -	f) -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Allemagne Orient.
Ireland	-	7	-	1	-	..	(5)	..	..	..	(5)	-	-	(5)	..	(5)	..	Irlande	
Italy	(500)	658	f) -	b) 258	f) -	1,100	1,150	470	470	630	680	-	-	1,415	600	815	..	Italie				
Hungary	(50)	25	f) -	b) 23	f) -	..	(30)	..	..	(30)	(30)	..	..	(30)	..	(30)	..	Hongrie
Luxembourg c)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Luxembourg c)				
Netherlands	24	274	-	45	-	280	280	25	15	140	180	-	-	280	20	260	-	Pays-Bas				
Norway	4,955	399	f) 12	b) 64	f) 2	3,700	3,560	3,810	3,740	150	100	k) 250	280	3,600	3,750	100	250	Norvège				
Poland	(2,500)	1	f) 149	b) -	f) 19	..	..	..	1) 200	..	..	k) (150)	200	..	1)(200)	-	(200)	Pologne
Portugal	(55)	-	f) 17	b) -	f) -	43	(43)	53	(53)	-	-	10	(10)	(43)	(53)	-	(10)	Portugal				
Rumania	(700)	b) -	f) 1	b) -	f) -	..	..	-	..	..	..	(10)	-	..	..	..	..	Roumanie
Sweden	19,000	781	183	36	22	(12,900)	13,500	(12,600)	10,000	(400)	200	(100)	100	13,500	12,500	200	100	Suède				
Switzerland	399	354	-	28	-	550	450	275	320	175	70	-	-	450	300	70	-	Suisse				
Turkey	(25)	74	-	27	-	(75)	(75)	(40)	(40)	(35)	(35)	-	-	(75)	(40)	(35)	-	Turquie				
United Kingdom	(115)	b) 464	f) -	b) 85	f) -	675	540	115	115	510	427	-	-	585	115	471	-	Royaume-Uni				
U.S.S.R.	(8,500)	b) 298	f) 7	b) 210	f) -	..	9,800	..	9,500	(250)	300	..	-	10,800	10,500	300	-	U.R.S.S.				
Yugoslavia	595	-	397	-	146	330	220	710	540	-	-	380	320	300	610	-	310	Yougoslavie				
TOTAL EUROPE	58,259	5,346	3,518	1,009	752	37,065	45,968	35,010	42,208	4,320	3,227	2,460	2,220	48,998	44,003	3,886	1,980	TOTAL EUROPE				
Canada	..	d) -	g) 752	i) -	j) 106	..	..	..	1) 425	..	..	300	j) 425	..	1) 500	..	j) 500	Canada
United States	..	c) -	h) 7	..	..	..	..	..	1) (25)	..	..	50	j) (25)	..	1) (25)	..	j) (25)	Etats-Unis
Other countries	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Autres pays
TOTAL	..	..	4,277	1,009	858	37,065	45,968	35,010	42,658	4,320	3,227	2,810	2,670	48,998	44,528	3,886	2,505	TOTAL		

Production: includes only roundwood prepared as pulpwood but excludes other categories of roundwood finally utilized as pulping material, excludes also wood waste utilized for pulping.

- A Production in countries of eastern Europe estimated on the basis of official figures for planned production or on the basis of official figures available for earlier years.
- a) Includes Luxembourg
 - b) Exporters' figures; imports from countries of Western Europe
 - c) Included in Belgium
 - d) From Europe only. Total imports: 79
 - e) From Europe only. Total imports: 5418
 - f) Importers' figures; exports to countries of Western Europe
 - g) To Europe only. Total exports: 6358
 - h) To Europe only. Total exports: 43
 - i) From Europe only. Total imports: 54
 - j) To Europe only.
 - k) Committee estimate based on an indication given by the Polish delegate that 700,000 cu.m. of sawwood, pulpwood and pitprops will be available for exports.
 - l) Production equals exports

General remark:

Estimated figures are in brackets

.. = not available

- = nil or less than half a unit

Production: comprend seulement les bois ronds préparés comme bois à pâte. Ne comprend pas les autres catégories de bois ronds et les déchets de bois, utilisés pour la fabrication de la pâte.

La production des pays d'Europe orientale est estimée sur la base de chiffres officiels de production prévue ou sur la base de chiffres officiels disponibles pour des années précédentes.

- a) Y compris le Luxembourg
- b) Chiffres tirés des données des pays exportateurs; importations en provenance des pays d'Europe occidentale
- c) Compris dans la Belgique
- d) En provenance d'Europe seulement. Importations totales: 79
- e) En provenance d'Europe seulement. Importations totales: 5418
- f) Chiffres tirés des données des pays importateurs; exportations vers les pays d'Europe occidentale
- g) Vers l'Europe seulement. Exportations totales: 6358
- h) Vers l'Europe seulement. Exportations totales: 43
- i) En provenance d'Europe seulement. Importations totales: 54
- j) Vers l'Europe seulement.
- k) Estimation basée sur les indications du délégué Polonais d'après lesquelles 700.000 m³ de sciages, de bois à pâte et de bois de mine seront disponibles à l'exportation.
- l) Production = exportations

Remarque générale:

Les chiffres estimés sont entre parenthèses

.. = non disponible

- = néant ou moins d'une demi-unité

LIST OF DELEGATES

ALBANIA

Mr. Jonuz Mersini

AUSTRIA

Mr. Anton Ceschi, Conseiller Aulique
Mr. S. Duschek, Director of Forests
Mr. Joseph von Ehrfeld, Chairman, Federal Economic Council
(Timber and Forests)

BELGIUM

Mr. G. de Winter, Conseiller au Ministère des Affaires
Economiques et des Classes Moyennes

CANADA Observer:

Mr. Gordon H. Rochester, Commercial Secretary (Timber)

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Mr. Josef Kastner, Manager

DENMARK

Mr. Palle Høyer, Head of Office, Ministry of Commerce

FINLAND

Mr. Johan O. Söderhjelm, General Manager, Central
Association of Finnish
Woodworking Industries

FRANCE

Mr. F. Merveilleux du Vignaux, Directeur Général des
Eaux et Forêts
Mr. J.-P. Lévy, Directeur des Industries Diverses et des
Textiles au Ministère de l'Industrie et
du Commerce
Mr. H. Blétry, Chef du Bureau au Ministère des Affaires
Economiques
Mr. P. Rodary, Conservateur des Eaux et Forêts, Chef du
Service Economique à la Direction
Générale des Eaux et Forêts

ITALY

Mr. G. Sacchi, Directeur Général des Forêts et de
l'Economie de la Montagne
Mr. G. Favia, Inspecteur Général au Ministère de l'Industrie
Mr. G. Franciosi, Président, Compagnie des pâtes à papier
Mr. L. Funicciello, Inspecteur Supérieur des Forêts
Mr. B. Miozzi, Chef de Division au Ministère du Commerce
Extérieur
Mr. G. Spataro, Directeur à la S.p.A. Fratelli Feltrinelli

NETHERLANDS

Mr. A. Kouwenaar, Ministère des Affaires Economiques
Mr. Anton J. van Berkel, Ministère des Affaires
Economiques

NORWAY

Mr. Erling Mykland, First Secretary, Department of
Agriculture

POLAND

Mr. Edward Weiss, Conseiller Commercial à l'Ambassade de
Pologne à Rome
Mr. Ignacy Faberka, Plenipotent commercial of "Paged"
Mr. Józef Koziarz, Commercial Director of "Paged"

RUMANIA

Mr. Adalbert Harap, Professeur d'Université
Mr. Simion Daniel, Economiste, Conférencier universitaire
à l'Institut Economique
Mr. Virgil Catuneanu, Expert, S.C.E.

SWEDEN

Mr. Knut R. Ronge, Managing Director of Swedish Wood
Exporters' Association
Mr. Gösta F.N. Olhammar, Director, Federation of Forest
Owners' Corporations

SWITZERLAND

Mr. Hans G. Winkelmann, Directeur de l'Office Central
Forestier Suisse

UNITED KINGDOM

Mr. Morris M. Ord Johnstone, Assistant Secretary, Ministry
of Materials
Mr. George E. Hampson, Head of Timber Branch, National
Coal Board
Mr. Paul, Pulp and Paper Specialist
Mr. Thomas A. Storey, President, Timber Trade Federation
of the United Kingdom

WESTERN ZONES OF GERMANY

Mr. W. Mann, Ministerialdirektor, Chief of the Forestry
and Timber Division, Ministry of Food,
Agriculture and Forestry
Mr. F. Bockemühl, Oberregierungsrat, Ministry of Economics
Mr. F. Neef, Ministerialrat, Ministry of Economics

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mr. Joseph Greenwald, Permanent Delegate to ECE,
Geneva

U.S.S.R.

Mr. Vlas Nichkov, President of "Exportles"
Mr. German Motovilov, Forester
Mr. Valentin Polezhaev, Economist, Ministry of Foreign
Trade

YUGOSLAVIA

Mr. L. Marković, Directeur de recherches, Institut de
Recherches Forestières
Mr. S. Šurić, Institut Fédéral du Plan

Agenda

The Eleventh Session of the Timber Committee will be held at the Headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization, Rome (Viale delle Terme di Caracalla) from Monday, 5 October, 1953, at 10.30 a.m., to Monday, 12 October 1953.*

1. Adoption of Agenda.
2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman
3. Sawn softwood market review in 1953 and prospects in 1954.
 - (a) Statements by delegations
 - (b) Statistical situation
 - (c) Conclusions
4. Small-sized roundwood market review in 1953 and prospects in 1954.
 - (a) Statements by delegations
 - (b) Statistical situation
 - (c) Conclusions
5. Timber Price Statistics
6. Examination of conclusions of the FAO/ECE joint Working Party on the European Timber Trends and Prospects in respect of international timber trade.
7. Consideration of the conclusions of the joint FAO/ECE/Working Party on the Study of European Timber Trends and Prospects, and of the measures to be taken. (To be discussed at the Joint Meeting with the European Forestry Commission of the Food and Agriculture Organization, 8 - 10 October)
8. Date and place of next meeting.
9. Other business.

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* Item 7 will be discussed at the Joint Meeting with the European Forestry Commission of the Food and Agriculture Organization, 8 - 10 October.

Second Joint Meeting
(Rome, 8 - 12 October 1953)
of the

Timber Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe
and the European Commission on Forestry and Forest Products
of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

FINAL REPORT

In accordance with the recommendations made in October 1953 by the Joint Meeting of the Timber Committee of ECE and the European Forestry Commission of FAO, a second meeting of these two bodies was convened to Rome by the Executive Secretary of ECE and the Director-General of FAO from 8 - 12 October 1953.

The meeting was attended by government delegates from 23 countries (Appendix 1).

After hearing a statement by Mr. Dodd, Director-General of FAO (Appendix 2), the Joint Meeting elected Mr. du Vignaux, Chairman of the Timber Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe, as its Chairman, Mr. Saarⁱ (Finland), Acting Chairman of the European Commission on Forestry and Forest Products, as its Vice-Chairman, and Mr. Duschek (Austria) as its Rapporteur.

The first Joint Meeting had recommended that the second meeting should be called in order "to consider and implement as required" the Study on European Timber Trends and Prospects and to review in particular, on behalf of participating Governments, proposals for future action. Accordingly, the meeting adopted the attached agenda (Appendix 3) and based its deliberations primarily on the Report of the Joint Working Party on European Timber Trends and Prospects (Appendix 4), which was introduced by Mr. Duschek in his capacity of chairman of that Working Party.

Delegates of the Joint Meeting were unanimous in congratulating the Joint Working Party for having produced a balanced and clear summary of the conclusions emerging from the Study on European Timber Trends and Prospects and indicated general agreement with the contents of that report. The Joint Meeting then agreed to retain at this point the following conclusions with regard to the European timber situation and outlook:

(a) Europe's consumption of industrial timber will tend to rise. Yet, even if relative timber prices revert to the level of early 1950, the increase in

consumption is likely to be smaller than the rate of Europe's industrial growth. This increase is likely to affect pulpwood primarily; for sawlogs and pitprops, only small increases can be expected.

Material assembled by the Secretariat upon the request of the Joint Working Party tends to show that in most parts of Western Europe the present level of timber prices in relation to alternative materials and to the general index of wholesale prices is substantially higher than at the beginning of 1950. There has been insufficient time to analyze these price statistics well enough to draw definite conclusions, but it appears that in most of Europe's importing countries the sharp rise in prices which constitutes one of the alternative assumptions contained in the Timber Trends Study has already taken place. If, in Western Europe, the cost of timber to the consumer were to remain at its present level, it must therefore be expected that increases in consumption would be confined to pulpwood only and that requirements for sawlogs would remain near their recent level.

(b) According to felling estimates communicated to the Secretariat during 1951, the output of industrial wood in Europe outside the USSR during the next 10-20 years would tend to remain close to the level reached in 1950. A special investigation made by the Secretariat at the request of the Joint Working Party shows that since 1951 upward revisions in felling estimates have been made in Sweden, Western Germany, and a few other countries with the result that the output of industrial wood in Europe outside the USSR indicated by the Study as 155 million cubic metres "according to present plans" can now be estimated at 163 million cubic metres. Yet, even this figure is only slightly higher than the actual output of 1950 and remains substantially below the amount of industrial wood which Europe might be expected to consume 10 or 20 years hence.

The Joint Meeting endorses the view expressed in the Study that it would be possible to raise European fellings to a certain degree above the 1950 figure in accordance with sound forestry practice. It believes that particular importance should be attached to intensified silviculture, to afforestation and reforestation, and to improved transport facilities to give better access to forest areas. The formulation of appropriate programmes to raise forest production must always be made according to economic and social circumstances.

The discussions revealed that the various measures discussed in the Study under the name of a dynamic forest policy are being increasingly applied by a great number of European countries and that these measures could be expected to raise the output of industrial wood from European countries somewhat beyond the latest felling estimates of 163 million cubic metres a year. The Joint Meeting also noted that the five-year plan for 1951/55 provides for an increase in Soviet timber cut by 56 per cent over 1950.

(c) If nothing were done to modify the production trends revealed by the Study and confirmed by latest felling estimates, the traditional gap between Europe's requirements (including an allowance for exports of sawn timber, pulp and paper to other regions) and supplies of industrial wood from European forests outside the USSR would tend to widen. As indicated in the Study, this does not mean that Europe might suddenly be faced with a catastrophic timber shortage. There are two reasons for this qualification: first, the possibility of additional supplies from outside the area covered by the Study, and, second, the possibilities of substituting other materials for timber although such substitution might be contrary to sound technical considerations. Demand will always depend in the last analysis on the relative price of timber. It is however the deliberate policy of all European governments to make the fullest use of the region's natural resources in order to achieve the highest possible living standards for its inhabitants. It is therefore desirable to maintain timber in the important role it has traditionally played in Europe's economy and therefore:

in the short run

- (i) to increase forest output through a variety of measures, many of which are already being applied in different countries;
- (ii) to increase imports of sawn softwood from the Soviet Union and other regions;

in the long run

to extend afforestation and improve forest management in order to provide for long-term increases in consumption.

The Joint Meeting therefore addresses the following recommendations to the governments of Europe, to the Executive Secretary of ECE, and to the Director-General of FAO.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I. Annual Review of National Felling Estimates and Actual Cut

Considering that the implementation of a dynamic forest policy can frequently change annual felling estimates, and calls for an annual review by the ECE Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission of felling estimates and figures for actual cut, the Joint Meeting RECOMMENDS:

That Governments submit to these agencies annually a table modelled on the one annexed hereto (Appendix 5).

II. Revision of Working Plans and National Felling Estimates

The Joint Meeting has examined the information obtained from the inquiry requested by the Joint Working Party designed to make possible a comparison of present national felling estimates with the estimates made in 1950/51 on which the Timber Trends Study was based.

This examination shows that the application of a dynamic forest policy, including new national inventories, has already enabled a certain number of countries to raise their estimates appreciably. However, as indicated above (see page 3), a gap remains.

The Joint Meeting thus believes that European countries should again examine their working plans and national felling estimates with the object of exploring the possibilities of increased fellings by the various methods suggested in the Study, taking into account the conclusions of that study relating to the probability of a modification in the relative needs of industry for wood of various dimensions. Increased fellings must naturally be envisaged within the framework of a sound silviculture. While recognizing that this end may be attained by different means in each country and even in each forest, the Joint Meeting particularly draws attention to the enormous possibilities offered in this respect by thinnings in all forests where, for various reasons, intensive silviculture has not yet been practised.

Consequently, the Joint Meeting RECOMMENDS:

That Governments re-examine, in the light of the above considerations, the possibility of obtaining increased fellings.

III. National Forest Inventories

The Joint Meeting deems necessary accurate national estimates of annual cut and the collation of such estimates for all countries of Europe; this calls for national forest inventories brought up to date at suitable intervals. It expressed satisfaction with the measures taken in certain countries to overcome the obstacles inherent in the taking of such nation-wide inventories and with the methods described by the Soviet Delegation in which maximum use is made of aerial photography enabling the Forest Services of the USSR to accomplish a tremendous task.

Consequently, the Joint Meeting RECOMMENDS:

That national forest inventories using modern techniques be undertaken immediately in all European countries where they have not yet been made and be repeated at regular intervals; they should include, where they play an important part, trees outside the forest;

The findings be communicated to the Joint FAO/ECE Secretariat as soon as they become available;

And 1 January 1957 be the date by which all European countries should have submitted national inventories completed since 1947.

IV. Afforestation and Reforestation

The Joint Meeting heard the findings of the study by the Working Party on Afforestation and Reforestation on the present status of European programmes for afforestation, reforestation and forest improvement. It noted that these programmes, despite the efforts made by some countries, fall from 30-35 per cent short of the proposed goals of the Timber Trends Study and noted on the other hand that there are still 8 million hectares of idle lands not covered by the plans. It noted the obstacles to expanding such programmes which arise mainly from the fact that the afforestation plans must be integrated into economic and social programmes for raising the living standards of rural and mountain populations and, in particular, into soil utilization programmes, which involve many highly complex problems. In certain instances, however, it is lack of adequate financing that impedes the realization of valuable projects on a vaster scale or slows down progress.

In this connection, the Joint Meeting noted with satisfaction the statements

of the Executive Secretary of ECE and the Director-General of FAO offering to put their services at the disposal of governments wishing to explore the possibilities of international financing of such projects.

The Joint Meeting, therefore, RECOMMENDS:

That all governments make every effort to expand to the maximum their programmes for afforestation, reforestation and forest improvement, and provide the necessary funds and facilities for this work.

V. Intensified Silviculture

The Joint Meeting is convinced that possibilities of increasing forest yield lie not only in the development of research, but in the wider application to forests of the findings thereof. To this end, it deems it necessary that the Forest Services be expanded and provided with adequate funds for investment in projects promoting not only timber production but the protection of agriculture and the well-being of populations.

The Joint Meeting, therefore, RECOMMENDS:

That all governments back the efforts to intensify silviculture by providing adequate staff and funds,

and invites governments to support the development and improvement of appropriate means of transportation, especially in mountainous regions, as essential for the intensification of silviculture.

VI. Technical Improvements

It is the opinion of the Joint Meeting that there are many other means of increasing forest yield aside from those mentioned above; on a number of these an exchange of views has already taken place in various Committees or Working Parties of FAO and ECE. Some are of interest to the International Union of Forest Research Organizations which works in close collaboration with FAO. Each of these agencies should pursue work in its sphere and avoid overlapping.

The Joint Meeting believes that particular attention should be devoted to studies aimed at reducing waste in the forest and at ensuring the fuller use of by-products of the wood-using industries; it considers that much can be accomplished in this field in a short space of time. Work should also be undertaken with regard to:

seed certification and exchange;
increasing logging efficiency;
grading rules;
improving the quality of sawn timber and other forest products;
improving wood utilization; and
the use by industry of types and sizes of wood not hitherto normally used.

The Joint Meeting, therefore, RECOMMENDS:

That the Executive Secretary of ECE and the Director-General of FAO give high priority to the above-mentioned projects.

VII. Forestry and Forest Products Statistics

The Timber Trends Study has revealed once again the inadequacy of forestry and timber statistics for international use and has shown the advantages that could be gained from the development of periodic information on wood consumption by end uses, of internationally comparable statistics on the production and consumption of sawn timber, plywood, fibreboards and other forest products, of adjusted conversion factors, etc. The Study demonstrates the need for a long-term programme designed to achieve a progressive improvement in the statistical information available to European governments and other interested bodies for following current developments. Such a programme, which should take into account the existing position and the proposals adopted in recent years by the ECE Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission, would also afford a continuing check on the forecasts contained in the Study and facilitate reconsideration of production and consumption policies.

The Joint Meeting therefore invites the joint FAO/ECE Secretariat to prepare, as soon as practicable, a long-term programme for European forestry and forest products statistics.

This draft programme should be submitted by the Secretariat to governments for study and should in due course be considered by experts on European forestry and forest products statistics.

The Joint Meeting gave special attention to the problems of timber price statistics and had before it a Note containing regular price series compiled by the Secretariat and certain preliminary data relating to the development of relative timber prices.

The delegates expressed their appreciation of the note prepared by the Secretariat and went on to discuss the material and price series it contained. The desirability of presenting index series graphically was emphasized and delegates asked that further consideration be given to comparisons between timber prices and other economic indicators (including the cost-of-living index). The Joint Meeting considered that the question of price differentials between timber qualities deserved further study; further efforts should be made to supplement official price series for certain countries by statistics drawn from less official sources.

The Joint Meeting therefore invites the Executive Secretary of ECE and the Director-General of FAO to convene a working party of experts for the purpose of reviewing the material on timber prices collected by the Secretariat and of establishing, in co-operation with the Secretariat, a selected range of European timber price statistics as part of the regular work programme of the Timber Committee and its Secretariat and deciding upon the series most suitable for regular publication in the FAO/ECE quarterly bulletin "Timber Statistics for Europe".

VIII. Trade in Timber

The Joint Meeting reviewed that section of the report of the Joint Working Party which dealt with the need for increased imports of sawn timber. It noted a Canadian statement that the estimate contained in the Study for prospective North American export availabilities was too low and that from 400 - 500 thousand standards might be made available should it prove that Europe had need of that amount.

It also heard a statement from the Executive Secretary of ECE who announced his intention of convening a further trade consultation in Geneva next spring. He promised in the course of that consultation to draw attention to the conclusions reached by delegates to the Timber Committee of ECE and to the European Forestry Commission of FAO meeting in joint session and also to bear those conclusions in mind in the course of his regular contacts with European governments. He also stated that the Secretariat would continue to explore the possibilities of long-term arrangements between exporters and importers.

The Meeting expressed its satisfaction with the statement made by the Executive Secretary of ECE.

IX. Further Procedure

The Joint Meeting addresses its thanks to the Director-General of FAO and to the Executive Secretary of ECE for having provided the necessary opportunities for joint consideration of policy problems of concern to all those who are connected with the conservation of forests and with the production, conversion, and distribution of forest products. It invites the joint Secretariat of ECE and FAO to keep the European forestry and timber situation under continuous review and to publish from time to time revised statements and appraisals of the European timber situation. In this connection the Joint Meeting expresses its appreciation of the work done by the Secretariat in the preparation of the Study and in assembling a unique range of timber statistics and records its view that the Study is an indispensable work of reference. The Joint Meeting requests the Executive Secretary of ECE and the Director-General of FAO to convene joint working parties as needed in pursuance of the recommendations made in this report, and, if and when needed, to call another joint meeting of the European Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission in consultation with their respective chairmen and vice-chairmen.

SECOND JOINT MEETING OF TIMBER COMMITTEE OF ECE AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON
FORESTRY AND FOREST PRODUCTS OF FAO

LIST OF DELEGATES

A. ECE Timber Committee

See Annex I to this Report.

B. European Forestry Commission, FAO

President: Mr. Eino Saari
Vice-Chairman: Mr. H.G. Winkelmann
Secretary: Mr. R.G. Fontaine (FAO)

The Representative of the Director-General of FAO: Mr. M. Leloup, Director,
Forestry Division

Delegates

AUSTRIA Mr. S. Duschek, Director of Forests

BELGIUM Mr. R. Craps, Secrétaire de la Commission des Forêts au
Comité National Belge FAO

CANADA Mr. G.H. Rochester, Commercial Secretary (Timber)

DENMARK Mr. A. Howard Grøn, Professor at the Royal Agricultural
and Veterinary College

FINLAND Mr. N.A. Osara, Director-General, State Board of Forestry
Mr. E. Saari, Professor of Forest Economics, University of
Helsinki

FRANCE Mr. A. Oudin, Inspecteur Général des Eaux et Forêts, Directeur
de l'Ecole Nationale des Eaux et Forêts de Nancy
Mr. J. de Vaissière, Conservateur des Eaux et Forêts, Chef du
Service de la Forêt Privée à la Direction Générale des Eaux
et Forêts
Mr. A. Dubois, Président de la Fédération Nationale des
Syndicats de Propriétaires forestiers

FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF
GERMANY Mr. W. Mann, Ministerialdirektor, Chief, of the Forestry Timber
Division in Western Germany, Federal Ministry of Food,
Agriculture and Forestry
Mr. F. Eidmann, Chief, board of Forest Management

- IRELAND Mr. S.M. O'Sullivan, Chief Forestry Inspector
Mr. T. McEvoy, Forestry Inspector
- ITALY Mr. G. Sacchi, Directeur Général des Forêts et de l'Economie
de la Montagne
Mr. A. Pavari, Directeur de la Station de Recherches
Forestières de Florence
Mr. L. Funicciello, Inspecteur Supérieur des Forêts
Mr. G. Giordano, Professeur à l'Université Forestière de Florence
Mr. G. Mariani, Inspecteur Supérieur des Forêts
- NETHERLANDS Mr. F.W. Malsch, Director of the State Forest Service
Mr. H. van Vloten, Directeur du Centre Expérimental Forestier TNO
Mr. A.A. Pannebakker, Member of the Forestry Section of the
Federation of Agriculture
- NORWAY Mr. A. Langsaeter, Director-General of Forestry
- PORTUGAL Mr. J. Alves, Chef de Division à la Direction Générale des
Eaux et Forêts
- SPAIN Mr. Miguel Ganuza del Riego, Director del Instituto Forestal de
Investigaciones y Experiencias
Mr. E. Gonzalez-Vazquez, Inspector General de Montes
Mr. C. Paraza, Ingeniero de Montes
Mr. J.M. Sanz-Pastor Fernandez de Pierola, Ingeniero, Jefe de
Division Hidrologico-Forestal del Tajo
Mr. M. Navarro Garnica, Ingeniero Jefe de Brigada del Patrimonio
Forestal del Estado
- SWEDEN Mr. W. Plym Forshell, Deputy Chief of the Royal Board of Private
Forestry
- SWITZERLAND Mr. Hans G. Winkelmann, Directeur de l'Office Central Forestier
Suisse
Mr. C. Lanz, Ingénieur des Forêts
- UNITED KINGDOM Sir Henry Beresford-Pearse, Deputy Director General, Forestry
Commission
Mr. A. Watt, Conservator of Forests, Forestry Commission
- UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA Mr. Joseph Greenwald, US Resident Delegate, US Consulate, Geneva
- YUGOSLAVIA Mr. L. Marković, Directeur de Recherches, Institut de
Recherches Forestières
Mr. S. Surić, Institut fédéral du Plan

Observers

O.E.C.E. (Organisation Européenne de Coopération Economique): Mr. R. Février

C.E.A. (Confédération Européenne de l'Agriculture): Mr. H. van Vloten

Union Internationale des Instituts de Recherches Forestières: Mr. A. Pavari

Commission Internationale du Peuplier: Mr. R.G. Fontaine

Commission Internationale du Châtaignier: Mr. A. Oudin

Opening Address of Norris E. Dodd, Director-General of FAO
delivered on 8 October 1953

Gentlemen:

I regard it as a great privilege to open this second joint session of the European Timber Committee of ECE and the European Forestry Commission of FAO. As most of you know, a basic principle in FAO's approach to Forestry has been that forest management, forest industries and trade in forest products must be regarded as an inseparable whole. From the very beginning our programme has been designed to promote this uniform approach from trees to lumber and pulp, and my colleague, Marcel Leloup, the Director of the Forestry Division, has seen to it that the organization of his division recognizes no difference between forestry and forest products.

We also adopted this broad approach when we established regional forestry commissions for Latin America, the Far East, and the Near East. In Europe, however, various considerations made it desirable to establish a forestry commission under FAO, and a Timber Committee under ECE. One of the reasons for that approach was the intensity in Europe of international activities in all fields of forestry as well as in the timber industry and trade.

However, to avoid duplication, we worked out from the beginning a complete merger between FAO and ECE in organizing the Timber Committee's secretariat. Later the Timber Trends Study showed us that this contact at the secretariat level was not enough. The Study's policy conclusions also made necessary joint consideration at the governmental level of problems concerning foresters, industrialists, and the timber trade as a whole. A first joint session of our two bodies was called, and in my opinion what we have learned since then suggests that it might be worthwhile continuing along the same lines. This is a purely personal suggestion since I do not want to anticipate your deliberations when you reach this particular point on your agenda. Meanwhile, the present joint session has been called primarily for a well-defined purpose. Last year's joint session recommended that Mr. Myrdal and I convene a session of eminent experts to establish a working party to consider proposals for future action on the basis of the Timber Trends

Study. After due consultation with all member governments of FAO and ECE, we designated a group of 21 experts to meet in Geneva from 25 June to 1 July 1953. They produced a report which we have communicated to all governments represented here today and which is now before this meeting, and I am anxious to congratulate them for having done an excellent job. I particularly wish to express gratitude to Dr. Duschek, the Chairman of the Working Party, and also to Professor Groen and Mr. Nichkov for the outstanding contributions they made toward the formulation of this fine report. In my opinion it has succeeded in bringing out with striking clarity the broad general conclusions which emerge from the Study, and which can be accepted without committing governments or experts to agreeing with the figures or other details contained in the Study. Mr. Myrdal and I continue to bear the full responsibility for these matters.

I would like to repeat once more that our Study should not be regarded as the final word, but rather as a basis for discussion. The few months which have gone by since it was released have already produced so much debate that we can say that one of our primary purposes has been entirely fulfilled. And if, as I hope, your meeting is able to agree with the experts on the broad conclusions emerging from this Study, Mr. Myrdal and I will feel that the effort undertaken by our secretariats was well worthwhile.

Personally, I find the Working Party's conclusions all the more convincing because they remind me so much of the world's food problem. FAO's investigations show clearly that the world's food needs are rising faster than food supplies, and hence all members of FAO agree about the imperative need to step up food production. It is only natural that the demand for industrial wood of various kinds should also rise under the double impact of increasing populations and rising living standards. I was interested to note, however, that the Study expects the demand for industrial wood to rise only about half as fast as gross European product. This makes the forestry problem somewhat easier to solve than the food problem, but even so the fact remains that we must have a gradual but continuous increase in European timber supplies. Considering the stability of Europe's wood production during the first half of the twentieth century, we must assume that this necessary increase in

supplies will not come about by itself. This is the main consideration which has led the authors of the Study to conclude that the time has come to consider two major sets of action, i.e. a dynamic forest policy and measures to increase imports, especially of sawn timber.

This matter of imports has already been discussed earlier this week in the Timber Committee where it belongs, and I do not want to dwell on it any further. I am anxious, however, to stress how happy we are that these discussions about timber imports could be held not only in the presence of all major European importers and exporters, but with the active participation of delegates from Canada, and the Soviet Union, the two big reserves on which the rest of Europe is bound to fall back if it wants to meet its timber bill.

As for the dynamic forest policy, I would like to tell you that I believe in it for two reasons. In the first place, personal observation for many years has convinced me of the enormous possibilities of securing increased food supplies through the application of science to the production of crops, livestock, and by the elimination of waste. It is only natural and, indeed, also urgent that the experience gained in agriculture should now be extended to the production and processing of trees.

The second reason for my belief in a dynamic forest policy is that I have just returned from a visit to Austria where I was able to look over a particularly striking example of a dynamic forest policy in action. I have seen in nurseries established for the country's reforestation programme, poplars that grew up to 10 feet during their first year. I have talked with a large forest owner and industrialist who told me that his hectare yields were already one cubic meter above the Austrian average, but that five years from now he expects his entire estate to have an annual yield exceeding 4 cubic meters per hectare. I have seen new paper machines and modern pulp factories which will turn out better and cheaper paper than before and still use 30% sawmill waste. This is important because Austria's pulpwood resources are no longer sufficient to cover the needs of her industry. I visited the new sawmill of the State Forests, and went over cost calculations which show that the new machinery and layout will make it possible to reduce manufacturing cost per cubic meter to only 40% of what it was around 1950

and of what it still is in the majority of the country's sawmills. And I have seen the manufacture of chipboards, a product which was scarcely known when the Timber Trends Study was written. These are likely to replace plywood panels, since they are equal in quality and can be sold at about 70% of the price of plywood.

I have given you this somewhat detailed list of my Austrian impressions because I know that similar developments are going on in a great number of European countries. In recent years great progress has been made in increasing forest output, reducing production cost in forest industries, and improving the quality of the finished product as it reaches the consumer. These developments show conclusively that the hopes which the Study attaches to a dynamic forest policy are not exaggerated.

They also show that FAO and ECE have invented nothing except the name in advocating a dynamic forest policy. This was deliberate because Mr. Myrdal and I had given clear-cut instructions to write a Study which should be not only sound but also realistic.

It has therefore been somewhat surprising that when comments on the Study have been critical, they have attacked first the dynamic forest policy in certain of its aspects, and then criticized the Study's attempt to estimate the future trends of European timber demand and supply. I fully agree with Gunnar Myrdal that every businessman is compelled to make forward estimates day by day and that governments and international organizations are bound to do the same, especially when they deal with a long-term proposition such as forestry. It would be foolish to deal with forest programmes or with changes in the European timber market without first making an attempt to find out where things are going. If, for instance, the Study had shown that the European demand for industrial wood is falling, it would clearly have become important to discourage unwarranted investments, both with regard to reforestation and intensified forest management and in the industrial field. Let me simply mention that the forest investment programme in Austria has absorbed in the past three years the equivalent of some \$100 million and that it is planned to continue the present investment policy, although on a somewhat lower level. Clearly, it was the responsibility of FAO and ECE to provide information for judging whether investments of such magnitude appeared to be justified.

The Study's principal conclusion, as I read it, indicates that European demand for industrial wood can be expected to rise, especially for pulp and paper, but to some degree even for sawn timber. This, of course, is provided timber prices can be kept under control and do not rise to levels where it becomes easy to replace wood by various other materials. Accordingly, we now have something to tell not just our Austrian friends, but all European governments, bankers, and businessmen. This is that investment in forestry and forest industries appears to be a sound and necessary proposition and that it should be directed toward the two-fold purpose of increasing supplies and reducing costs in production, conversion, and distribution.

We in FAO and ECE are very happy that the eminent experts who met last July reached similar conclusions, and it is our sincere hope that the delegates at this session will be able to confirm the experts' findings on behalf of their governments. In this way, there should be no need to devote further time to a more detailed discussion of the Timber Trends Study which should rather be regarded as a work of reference. The Study has been deliberately confined to the formulation of a few broad suggestions, and has not presented detailed recommendations since it was felt that these should only come after a thorough discussion among experts from the various countries. It is our hope that this discussion can now begin and that you will be able to devote as much time as necessary to some of the principal points which the Working Party has taken from the Study, and which, it felt, called for international attention and action. I expect that these discussions will take you beyond the contents of the Study, and I hope that they will lead to the formulation of a limited number of realistic proposals. These proposals, I hope, will be for action by FAO, by ECE, and, above all, by governments and by the businessmen who own the forests and the factories or who are engaged in timber, pulp, and paper trade. Each of these proposals will raise a number of intricate problems if they are to lead to tangible results. Once, however, the trends have been defined and the targets set, these problems must be solved. I feel sure that the framework of the

United Nations and its Specialized Agencies should provide an excellent forum for exploring in detail what actions should now be taken.

Reforestation, logging techniques, forest inventories, the revision of working plans, long-term trade arrangements - they are big problems which will remain with us for a long time. For we can only hope to solve them gradually through continuous effort. But the men assembled here today, Mr. Chairman, possess all the qualities to tackle them effectively, and for that reason I shall not take up more of your time. I wish you on behalf of FAO, as well as on behalf of Gunnar Myrdal and the staff of ECE, the best of success.

JOINT MEETING OF TIMBER COMMITTEE AND EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Agenda

The Second Session of the Joint Meeting will be held at the Headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization, Rome (Viale delle Terme di Caracalla) from Thursday, 8 October, at 10.30 a.m., to Monday, 12 October, 1953.

1. Adoption of Agenda.
2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman.
3. Development of relative timber prices.
4. Revision of working plans and felling programmes.
5. Forest inventories.
6. Afforestation and Re-forestation.
7. Trade in timber.
8. Other problems.
9. Other business.
10. Date and place of next meeting.

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
TIMBER COMMITTEE

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS
EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

JOINT WORKING PARTY ON EUROPEAN TIMBER TRENDS AND PROSPECTS

Report of the First Session
held in Geneva
from 25th June to 1st July, 1953.

1. The Joint Session of the Timber Committee of ECE and the European Forestry Commission of FAO, held in October 1952 in Geneva, recommended:
"the establishment of a Working Party composed of eminent experts in the fields of forest policy, timber production, woodworking industry and timber trade, to be selected by the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Secretary of ECE, after consultation with member Governments, on the grounds of their personal qualifications and with due regard to achieving a fair geographical distribution.

"The Working Party should be convened early in 1953 by the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Secretary of ECE, and should consider, with the assistance of the Secretariat and on the basis of the information contained in the Timber Trends Study and of the discussions at the previous session, proposals for future action, so that the Secretariat may make recommendations for submission to member Governments well in advance of the next joint session, at which the report will be considered and implemented as required.

"It is understood that, prior to consideration by the Joint Session, the proposals of the Working Party will not commit the FAO European Forestry Commission, the ECE Timber Committee or member Governments."

2. In accordance with this decision a First Session of the Working Party was convened in Geneva from June 25 - July 1. Complying with the request of the Executive Secretary of the ECE and the Director-General of FAO, European Governments had made the following specialists available:

*Has been circulated under the symbol TIM/71
FAO/EFC/51

AUSTRIA	Mr. S.Duschek, Head of the State Office of Wood Economy for Upper Austria
BELGIUM	Mr. H.Colleaux, Inspecteur Principal des Eaux et Forêts
DENMARK	Mr. A.H. Grøn, Professor of Forestry
FINLAND	Mr. J.O. Söderhjelm, Central Association of Finnish Woodworking Industries
FRANCE	Mr. F.M. du Vignaux, Directeur Général des Eaux et Forêts Mr. P.Rodary, Conservator
GERMANY (Western)	Mr. W.Mann, Chief, Forestry Division in Western Germany Mr. F.Eidmann, Chief, Board of Forest Management in the Land Nord-Westfalen
ITALY	Mr. G.Sacchi, Directeur Général des Forêts
NETHERLANDS	Mr. A.Kouwenaar, Director, Ministry of Economic Affairs
NORWAY	Mr. A.Langsaeter, Director, Forestry Service Mr. Ø Nossen, Research Manager, Forest Industries' Economic Institute
SWEDEN	Mr. K.R.Ronge, Managing Director, The Swedish Wood Exporters' Association
SWITZERLAND	Mr. A.Schlatter, Inspecteur Général des Forêts, Chasse et Pêche Mr. J.Keller, Inspecteur Fédéral des Forêts, Chasse et Pêche
UNITED KINGDOM	Mr. T.A.Storey, President of the Timber Trade Federation Mr. F.Urmston, Vice-President of the Timber Trade Federation Mr. C.Snelling, Managing Director, Inveresk Paper Co.
U.S.S.R.	Mr. V.N.Nichkov, President of V/O "EXPORTLES"
YUGOSLAVIA	Mr. V.Jelovac, collaborateur scientifique de l'Institut des Forêts de la République Populaire de Slovenie Mr. T.Peles, Délégué de l'Industrie du Bois de la Yougoslavie en Suisse

Mr. du Vignaux and Mr. Schlatter had to leave Geneva at the end of the first week and were replaced by Messrs. P. Rodary and J. Keller respectively. Mr. Söderhjelm was delayed in Finland and joined the group only on June 29.

3. The Working Party elected Mr. S. Duschek as its Chairman.
4. The first five meetings of the Working Party were devoted to a review of the conclusions emerging from the Study. The members commended the Secretariat for the changes made in the light of the discussions and the suggestions that had been put forward at the joint session of the ECE Timber Committee and European Forestry Commission held in October 1952. At the same time it was stressed that it would be impossible for experts to accept or reject the voluminous material and calculations contained in the Study; the experts therefore noted with satisfaction that the Executive Secretary of ECE and the Director-General of FAO assume the sole responsibility for the entire Study.
5. The Working Party concluded that the following points made in the course of the discussions should be recorded:

(a) Mr. Nichkov intimated that several figures contained in the Study with regard to the Soviet Union called for correction and supplied the following information and clarifications:

1950

Forested area - 700 million hectares
Average annual growth per hectare - 1.2 cu.m.
Total timber reserves - 60,000 million cu.m.
 including mature timber 41,000 million cu.m
 with an exploitable reserve of 39,000 million cu.m
Timber felled in 1950 approximately 300 million cu.m (solid)

Production in 1950:

Sawn timber - 49.5 million cu.m
Plywood - 658,000 cu.m.
Pitprops - 12.8 million cu.m (solid)
Pulpwood - 7.5 million cu.m (solid)

Mr. Nichkov objected to the Study's definition of Europe as excluding the Soviet Union and the Secretariat recognised the validity of this objection. It was explained by the Secretariat that within the framework of the Study the Soviet Union had been considered as a separate unit merely for statistical

reasons and because the major part of the forest resources of the Soviet Union lies beyond the boundaries of the European continent. Consequently the relevant passages of the Study (especially page 2) should be read in the light of the statement made by Mr. Nichkov and the explanations given by the Secretariat.

(b) The Working Party devoted some time to a discussion of the reasons for and the effects of the replacement of sawn timber by other materials. It endorsed the view of the Study that substitution is the result of a variety of factors; among these technological progress and changes in consumer preference stimulated by the publicity given to other materials frequently act irrespective of price considerations. The Working Party considered that a certain degree of further substitution for sawn timber in building, packaging and similar uses must be expected whatever the future trend of prices. Nevertheless it believes that irrespective of future technical developments wood will always remain an important raw material and will keep its position in the long run.

The Working Party agreed that the relative cost of timber to the consumer as compared to those of alternative materials was a factor of decisive importance. The British experts expressed the view that this price relationship might well prove to be of more importance in determining the level of timber consumption during the next decade than the volume of industrial activity as a whole referred to in the Study.

(c) The attention of the Secretariat was drawn to the fact that the Study's indications concerning a future rise in timber prices and a possible shortage of wood supplies had aroused widespread comments and apprehension. The Working Party noted that all discussions in the Study concerning the future level of wood prices referred to relative prices, i.e. the relation of wood prices to those of alternative materials, e.g. steel, concrete, etc. and that changes in relative prices referred to changes as compared with those existing prior to the outbreak of the Korean War, i.e. in the first months of 1950.

A recent Secretariat investigation indicates that despite the fall in prices which has occurred since 1951 the sawn timber prices prevailing in the United Kingdom and Netherlands in the first quarter of 1953 are still about 20% higher in relation to those of substitute materials than they were in the first quarter of 1950. It thus appears that the increase in the relative price of timber to which the Study refers under certain conditions has already taken place.

The Working Party was uncertain whether the first quarter of 1950 constitutes the most appropriate basis for discussions of future price developments. It was therefore recommended that the Secretariat carry out a thorough analysis of the price development for forest products in the postwar years in relation to the general price level and as far as possible in comparison with the last pre-war years. The Secretariat agreed to undertake this investigation as soon as possible within the limits of available information.

(d) Mr. Snelling, speaking as a British pulp and paper expert, went on record with his belief that the Study's estimates of Europe's future pulp and paper requirements were much too high and that Europe's pulp and paper exports (2 million tons of pulp equivalent in 1950) would decline in the coming years because of the continued expansion in North American pulp production, and the trends towards self-sufficiency in pulp and paper in Latin America, India and other parts of the world.

He also reported continued offers of pulpwood from Canadian sources and expressed his belief that increasing amounts of pulpwood would become available also from other sources, including the Soviet Union.

The Secretariat, on the other hand, stressed that European exports of pulpwood had fallen in the post-war period to less than half their pre-war volume, and that there was a growing tendency among exporting countries to curtail sales of pulpwood in favour of more manufactured products. Mr. Nichkov indicated as his personal opinion that the Soviet Union was not likely to export substantial amounts of pulpwood in the near future, although a revival of that trade in due course should not be excluded.

The Secretariat also drew attention to the fact that investment plans assembled during 1951/2 showed that European pulp producers had planned to raise mill capacity to a level that coincided very closely with the estimate of future pulp requirements (including unchanged overseas exports) contained in the Study. The Secretariat had therefore concluded that no national or international action with regard to the pulp and paper industries appeared necessary.

6. Though the Working Party clearly could not commit itself to the statistics and individual estimates contained in the Study, its members, with the exception of Mr. Snelling, expressed agreement with the following general trends emerging from the Study:

(a) Europe's consumption of industrial timber will tend to rise during the coming decades. Even if relative timber prices revert to their pre-Korean level, the increase in consumption is likely to be much smaller than the rate of Europe's industrial growth. The increase is likely to affect primarily pulpwood, for which requirements are likely to rise pretty well in line with gross European product; for sawlogs and pitprops, however, only very small increases can be expected.

If relative timber prices in Western Europe remain at or rise above their present level, it is likely that increases in consumption will be confined to pulpwood only, and that requirements for sawlogs would remain at their recent level or even fall slightly below.

(b) The working plans for European forests outside the U.S.S.R. communicated to the Secretariat during 1951 would tend to maintain the output of industrial wood during the next 10 - 20 years close to the level reached in 1950.

The Working Party endorsed the view expressed in the Study that it would be possible to raise European forest output to a certain degree above the 1950 figure without damaging the forests, particularly through a revision of working plans. It also concurs with the Secretariat in considering afforestation and reforestation as the most important single measures to achieve a continuous increase of the output from European forests in the medium and long term.

The discussions revealed that the various measures discussed in the Study under the name of a dynamic forest policy were being increasingly applied by a great number of European countries and that these measures, including the recent revisions of working plans in Western Germany, Sweden and Yugoslavia, were likely to raise the supply of industrial wood from European forests above the minimum figure attributed by the Study to "present plans".

The Working Party noted the statement of Mr. Nichkov that the 5-year plan 1951/55 provides for an increase in Soviet timber production by 56% over 1950.

(c) If nothing were done to modify the production trends set out in the Study (based upon working plans communicated to the Secretariat in 1950/51), the traditional gap between Europe's requirements (including an allowance for exports of sawn timber, pulp and paper to other regions) and supplies of industrial wood would tend to widen. It therefore appears necessary:

in the short run

- (i) to increase forest output through a variety of measures, many of which have already been initiated in different producing countries;
- (ii) to increase imports of sawn softwood from the Soviet Union and other regions;

in the long run

to extend national afforestation plans and improve forest management in order to meet long-term increases in consumption.

7. The Working Party therefore recommends -

That the Secretariats of FAO and ECE submit to governments the following proposals for action:

A. INCREASED PRODUCTION.

Under the heading of "a dynamic forest policy" the Study indicates a variety of measures designed to increase the output of European forests both during the present decade and in the long run, and attempts to appraise their potential effect. Not all these measures are appropriate for all countries. Many of them, as indicated

in the Study, are already being applied since foresters in most countries have long been attempting to introduce various aspects of dynamic forest policies and would, in fact, have in many cases achieved even greater results than have already been recorded, had greater financial and other facilities been placed at their disposal. The Working Party recommends therefore that European governments give greater support to these endeavours in view of the importance not merely of maintaining the output of Europe's forests at its present level, but of achieving continuous increases in line with rising demand. In addition, the following special proposals are submitted for consideration by European governments and for discussion at the forthcoming joint and separate sessions of the Timber Committee of ECE and the European Forestry Commission of FAO.

(i) Forest Inventories.

Modern forest inventories covering the entire area of a country under public and private ownership should be undertaken without delay in all European countries and repeated at regular intervals. The results should be reported to the joint FAO/ECE Secretariat as they become available and the Working Party regards 1st January 1957 as a desirable target date by which the results of inventories carried out during the period 1946/56 should be available.

On the basis of these inventories, the Joint FAO/ECE Secretariat is invited to undertake a re-appraisal of Europe's forest resources and capacity.

(ii) Revision of Working Plans.

The data used in the Study were collected during 1951, and since that time the felling targets and plans of several countries have undergone an upward revision. The Working Party recommends that all countries participating in the work of FAO and ECE communicate to the Secretariat by September 1, 1953, their latest felling estimates or programmes and invites the Secretariat to prepare a statement comparing these revised programmes with the data contained in the Study.

The Working Party further recommends that all European forest authorities examine again the possibility of revising working plans and felling programmes with a view to increasing their forest production in the medium and long term by the various means suggested in the Study; these revised working plans should include measures to increase the output of medium-size trees as against

large diameter timber wherever such an adjustment is compatible with sound forestry principles and the achievement of progressive yields.

These revisions should be regularly reported to the European Forestry Commission by its members. It is recommended that an early session of that Commission, as one of its principal items, reviews the results of revising felling targets and programmes and discusses the possibilities of further revisions.

(iii) Afforestation and Re-forestation

In order to avoid an European shortage of forest products in the long run, it is of great importance that all European Governments formulate national plans for re-forestation and afforestation (FAO/53/4146), which include also forest improvement. A Secretariat Note on this subject, which was prepared by the Forestry Division of FAO, shows that most European countries have already formulated plans and are engaged in implementing them. The Working Party suggests that Governments enquire whether existing plans could be extended, and whether their implementation could be accelerated. It is expected that the European Forestry Commission of FAO will follow these developments closely through its standing Working Party on Re-forestation and Afforestation.

The attention of the Working Party was drawn to the existence of wide areas, not covered by present afforestation programmes, which might be suitable for tree growth although they are at present lying idle or used for other less productive purposes. It was suggested that the Secretariat, in consultation with experts, should draw up a well annotated questionnaire designed to explore the potential area of land available in each European country for additional afforestation programmes, together with the technical, silvicultural and economic conditions under which trees could be planted under a long-term programme. The enquiry should be undertaken only after considerable preparation and preliminary discussion with national experts. The Working Party, although aware that the enquiry would not be applicable to several European countries, believes that there exist in the southern half as well as in other parts of the European continent considerable possibilities of raising Europe's forest area. When completed the results of the enquiry should be explored with a view to determining the possibilities of international support (e.g. by means of a special international loan) for such a long-term afforestation programme.

(iv) Other proposals

In order to supplement the above measures, the Working Party invites the Executive Secretary of ECE and the Director-General of FAO to draw the attention of Governments to the need for intensified scientific and practical investigations designed to:

- (a) Improve the quality of the growing stock;
- (b) Increase the efficiency of logging operations;
- (c) Improve the quality of sawn timber and other forest products;
- (d) Reduce waste in forests and improve the utilization of waste from the wood-converting industries;
- (e) Utilize for industrial purposes species and assortments which up to now have not been in regular use.

The Working Party recommends that these objectives and proposals for national and international action to achieve them (including methods for introducing the application of technical improvements such as the establishment and expansion of research facilities, training courses for specialists and workers, creation of schools, exchange of fellowships, etc) be taken up for discussion at the forthcoming October joint session of the European Forestry Commission and the ECE Timber Committee.

B. INCREASED IMPORTS OF SAWN TIMBER

The Working Party reviewed the prospects of Europe's trade in sawn softwood and agreed that as an approximation these were pretty well reflected by the figures given in Table XXVII/6 of the Study. However, Mr. Storey and Mr. Urston regarded the estimate of 200,000 standards given as North America's prospective export availabilities as far too low, and expressed their hope that Pacific Coast export availabilities to Europe might attain twice that amount or even more. Experts from the exporting countries indicated that even if this expectation came true it would not upset the overall balance shown in the table, since the figures given with regard to the export availabilities from European sources, including the U.S.S.R., might well be on the high side.

The discussions confirmed that a gradual and substantial increase in imports of sawn softwood from the Soviet Union would be desirable. The final Table in the Study places the eventual level of Europe's import needs from the Soviet Union at

one million standards, and the members of the Working Party agreed that this constitutes a reasonable order of magnitude. They noted a statement from Mr. Nichkov that the raw material resources and production possibilities of the Soviet Union will permit of a considerable increase in the export of timber from the Soviet Union, provided that mutually advantageous conditions of trade exist.

The Working Party was unanimous in stressing the importance of achieving greater stability in the European timber market than it had enjoyed since the end of the war. It believed that the elimination of timber rationing and consumption controls and a progressive increase of sawn timber supplies from the Soviet Union could make important contributions in that direction. The Timber Committee of ECE, in continuing its work, should give particular consideration to these and any other measures which might help to achieve greater stability in Europe's timber markets. In that connexion it might wish to explore further the possibility of long-term arrangements between exporters and importers. A group of interested countries might be convened to give further thought to these possibilities.

Meanwhile, the experts draw the attention of the Executive Secretary of ECE to the conclusions outlined above regarding the desirable trend of Soviet timber deliveries to Western Europe and the related problems of satisfactory counterpart, and suggest that he keep these findings also in mind in his continuing explorations regarding East-West trade and report them to any trade meeting to be held within the framework of ECE.

C. IMPROVED STATISTICS

Work on the Timber Trends Study has revealed once again the inadequacy of forestry and timber statistics, and has shown the advantages that could be gained from the development of periodic information on wood consumption by end uses, internationally comparable statistics on production and consumption of sawn timber, plywood, fibreboards, etc., adjusted conversion factors, systematic timber price statistics, etc. The Working Party recommends that the Joint FAO/ECE Secretariat should prepare, as soon as practicable, a long-term programme for European forestry and timber statistics. This programme should take account of the existing position and of the proposals adopted in recent years by the ECE Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission. It should be designed to achieve a progressive improvement in the statistical information available to European governments and

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other interested bodies for following current developments. It will also afford a continuing check on the forecasts contained in the Study and facilitate reconsideration of production and consumption policies. This draft programme should be submitted by the Secretariat to governments for study and should in due course be considered by a specially convened meeting on European Forestry and Timber Statistics.

Report on the Working Party on European Timber
Trends and Prospects

Appendix A.

General Statement by the United Kingdom Experts
(Messrs. T.A. Storey, F. Urmston, C. Snelling)

The British experts wish to make the following comments:

Much of the statistical detail quoted in the Timber Trends Study, and consequently the conclusions arising therefrom, are of necessity speculative, and cannot be otherwise. The British experts admit that in general they do not possess the sources of information or other facilities which would permit a detailed appraisal of much of the data submitted, but state that any fears of a forthcoming timber shortage which may have arisen as a result of the publication of the Study are in complete contravention of their commercial experience.

Apart from the validity of the figures submitted by the Secretariat, however, the view of the British experts is that many of the development proposals in the Study must involve an expansion of high cost timber production. Such a development they would consider an unnecessary step which would provide no solution, since costly timber reduces consumption and stimulates the use of substitutes. When, however, the most serious effort towards exactitude has been made, any calculation of supply and demand respecting timber seven years hence must remain largely hypothetical. The British experts see no reason for assuming that the market need fear a gap between production and consumption of such magnitude as to justify embarking in a major project of capital expenditure such as would be involved in the general adoption of a dynamic forestry policy.

On the other hand, they believe that there is likely to be an adequate market, at reasonable prices, for such increase in production as the exporting countries may find practicable within the bounds of their own capital investment priorities. In not opposing proposal for action A (iii), Afforestation and Reforestation, page 9 of this report, the British experts make it quite clear that they are not in any way, by inference or otherwise, giving support to any later proposal to seek international help in the form of loans etc. for the purposes set out in the report.

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The British experts' general scepticism respecting many of the figures submitted extends particularly to table XXVII/6 on page 312 of the Study, which they consider much too speculative for any inference to be drawn from it. In particular they consider the export possibilities for sawn timber from the Pacific coast are very seriously under-estimated, and may well be doubled, or set at a figure even higher.

SIGNED (on behalf of the British Experts)

J.A.STOREY.

Geneva,
1st July, 1953.

Draft Questionnaire on
Estimates and Fellings

Country:

Categories of wood	Year 1953		Year 1954		Year 1955	Probable modification of programmes for the coming years
	Volume estimated in programmes	Actual cut	Volume estimated in programmes	Probable volume of actual cut	Volume estimated in programmes	
Industrial wood						
Fuelwood						
Total						