REPORT OF THE THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION
held at Geneva from 9 to 13 October 1978

As approved by the Committee

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Annex II — Timber Committee programme of work for 1979-1983

Annex III — Tabular presentation of Timber Committee programme of work for 1979-1983
Introduction

1. The Timber Committee held its thirty-sixth session at Geneva from 9 to 13 October 1978. The session was attended by representatives from the following ECE countries: Austria; Belgium; Bulgaria; Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic; Canada; Czechoslovakia; Finland; France; Germany, Federal Republic of; Greece; Hungary; Ireland; Italy; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United States of America; Yugoslavia. 1/

2. The following United Nations and specialized agencies were represented: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); International Labour Organization (ILO); Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

3. The following intergovernmental organizations participated: the European Economic Community (EEC).

4. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: International Organization for Standardization (ISO); Organization of European Sawmilling Industries (OES); Tropical Timber Traders' Union of the European Economic Community (UCTT).

Adoption of the agenda (Item 1 of the agenda)

5. The provisional agenda (ECE/TIM/12), presented by the secretariat, was adopted.

Election of officers (Item 2 of the agenda)

6. The Committee elected Mr. V.P. Nemtsov (USSR) Chairman; it re-elected Mr. A. Proncilio (Italy) and elected Mr. D. Hair (United States of America) Vice-Chairmen. The Committee expressed its deep appreciation to Mr. P. Palmer (United Kingdom) for his services as Chairman of the Committee over the previous two years.

Matters arising out of the thirty-third session of the Commission (Item 3 of the agenda)

7. The Committee was informed of the Commission's discussion of its work and took note of the resolution and decisions of the Commission, on the basis of document TIM/R.37. The Committee agreed to take account of these discussions, resolution and decisions in its session and notably when deciding on its programme of work.

8. The Committee's attention was drawn in particular to operative paragraphs (a) and (b) of Commission decision H(XXXIII) - Problems of land use and land-use planning in the ECE region. With regard to operative paragraph (a), the Committee considered that appropriate attention was given to these problems in its programme of work, notably by project 14.5.2.4. - Forest resource analysis and 14.4.1. - Quantification and evaluation of the environmental benefits of forests. Certain aspects of project 14.1.5. - Trends, prospects and policies in southern Europe also concerned land use. With regard to operative paragraph (b), the Committee agreed to draw the Commission's attention to the following aspects of land use on which it felt it might usefully co-operate with other Principal Subsidiary Bodies:

1/ Further details on participation may be obtained from the secretariat: Timber Section, ECE/FAO Agriculture and Timber Division, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10 (Switzerland).
(1) regional and land use statistics (with the Conference of European Statisticians, the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental Problems and the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning);

(2) availability and suitability of marginal or abandoned agricultural land for other uses than agriculture, notably afforestation (with the Committee on Agricultural Problems);

(3) planning and management of water catchment areas (with the Committee on Water Problems, and other international bodies, for example the FAO Working Party on Management of Mountain Watersheds);

(4) integrated planning of areas for tourism and recreation (with the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental Problems and the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning).

Activities of other international bodies relevant to the work of the Committee (Item 4 of the agenda)

9. With regard to the activities of FAO relevant to the work of the Committee, the Committee was informed that Dr. Marco Flores Rodas, of Honduras, had been appointed Assistant Director-General in charge of the Forestry Department with effect from 18 September 1978. The Committee was informed of the results of the fourth session of the FAO Committee on Forestry which had taken place in Rome from 15 to 19 May. Also held in May was the nineteenth session of the Advisory Committee on Pulp and Paper, which reviewed in depth the action taken on the recommendations of the Expert Consultation on World Pulp and Paper Demand, Supply and Trade in Tunis in September 1977.

10. The Committee was also informed of the discussions of the eleventh session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe, which took place in Lisbon, Portugal, from 2 to 7 October 1978, on the long-term policy implications of the conclusions of the study European Timber Trends and Prospects, 1950 to 2000. Particular attention was given to the prospects for Europe's trade with other regions and for the development of its own forest resources to meet future needs for wood and other goods and services.

11. The Committee was also informed of the preparations for the Eighth World Forestry Congress, to be held in Djakarta (Indonesia) from 16 to 28 October 1978.

12. The Committee was informed that UNIDO was planning to hold a workshop on surface improvement of wood-based panels in Vienna in the second half of November 1979. The objectives of the workshop were to evaluate the situation and to increase the added value of exports from developing countries. The Committee noted that the topic of this workshop was closely linked with the Timber Committee's project 14.3.6. - Modernization in the wood-based panels industry for which a symposium was scheduled in Finland in 1980. The two activities, if properly co-ordinated, would be complementary. UNIDO invited the assistance of the Timber Committee in the preparation of its workshop. The Committee approved the suggestion that the secretariat would prepare a basic paper on the market situation for improved, especially surface improved, wood-based panels in the ECE region, provided sufficient resources and information were made available. This paper would be of value for both the UNIDO workshop and the Committee's own symposium. Countries and relevant international federations, such as FESYP, FEIC, FEROPA and NFC, were invited to assist the secretariat, notably in collecting relevant market data on these products.

13. The representative of UNCTAD informed the Committee that since the thirty-fifth session of the Timber Committee it had held three preparatory meetings on tropical timber. Four possible elements were being considered as a basis for an international arrangement or arrangements:
(1). tropical reforestation and forest management;
(2) increased further processing in the producing countries;
(3) research and development;
(4) improvement of market intelligence including the establishment of an
early warning system.

The secretariats of UNTCAD and FAO are at present engaged in the preparation of a
document showing how a scheme covering the above-mentioned elements may be orga­
nized and operated. This document will be presented at the fifth preparatory
meeting scheduled for early 1979.

Twelfth session of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILo Committee on Forest Working Techniques and
Training of Forest Workers, Sofia (Bulgaria) (Item 5 of the agenda)

14. The Committee was informed of the results of the twelfth session of the Joint
Committee, held in Sofia from 12 to 14 June 1978 at the invitation of the Government
of Bulgaria. It approved the Joint Committee's report, including its proposed pro­
gramme of work (TIM/EFC/WP.1/8). The Timber Committee was also informed of the study
tour in Bulgaria and the symposium on techniques and mechanization of reforestation
in mountainous regions, which preceded the Joint Committee session, on the basis of
the report of the symposium (TIM/EFC/WP.1/SEM.5/2).

15. The Timber Committee noted that the twelfth session was the first to be held
under the new structure of the Joint Committee, and considered that the greater flexi­
bility compared with the previous structure would prove effective in carrying out its
comprehensive programme of work. The Timber Committee reiterated its regret and
concern at the decision of FAO headquarters in Rome no longer, to provide professional
secretariat assistance on a regular basis for the Joint Committee's work, because
of its other heavy commitments, and hoped that this decision would only be of a
temporary nature and would be reconsidered in due time.

16. The Timber Committee noted that an active programme of work for the period 1979-
1983 had been drawn up, comprising nineteen projects, distributed between the Joint
Committee's three main subject areas. It also noted with great satisfaction that
countries had generously responded to the invitation of the Joint Committee to under­
take more of the work themselves, notably by offering to act as host for meetings.

17. The Timber Committee took note of the new bureau elected by the Joint Committee
and of the co-ordinators which it had appointed to guide its work, and expressed its
great appreciation to the outgoing Chairman, Mr. R. Brunet (France), who had so ably
led the Joint Committee through its difficult transitional phase.

18. The Timber Committee warmly thanked the Government of Bulgaria for the excellent
organization of the session, symposium and study tour.

19. The Timber Committee also heard an oral report by the secretariat on the
seminar on accidents in forestry operations held in Sekocin from 18 to 22 September
1978 at the invitation of the Government of Poland. It expressed its appreciation
to the Government of Poland for the most efficient organization of the seminar.

Review of the Committee's activities since its thirty-fifth session (Item 6 of the
agenda)

(a) Preparatory meeting for the symposium on the effects of pollution on
vegetation

20. The Committee was informed of the results of the preparatory meeting on the
basis of its report (TIM/EPC.3/AC.5/2; AGRI/SEM.8/AC.1/2) and noted that this report
had already been approved by the other sponsoring body, the Committee on Agricultural
Problems. The Timber Committee reiterated the importance it attached to examining
in depth the effects of pollution on vegetation and approved the objectives proposed by the preparatory meeting as well as its proposal to limit the scope of the symposium to air-borne pollution. In this connexion the delegation of the USSR drew the Committee's attention to the problem of water pollution caused by forest work. The Committee agreed that this was an important problem and suggested that the question of water pollution by forestry and harvesting activities be brought to the attention of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers. The Timber Committee also approved the provisional agenda proposed by the preparatory meeting, with some minor modifications, which had been suggested during preparatory work for the symposium. These modifications are as follows:

Item 4 (c) to read "Effects of pollution on the quality of agricultural and forest products";

Item 4 (e) to read "Reaction of ecosystems to sub-necrotic pollution (including indirect effects such as change of species composition, changes in resistance to frost, drought, insects, fungi, etc.)";

Item 4 (h) to read "Capacity and efficiency of vegetation in reducing the effects of air-borne pollution in urban and industrial areas".

21. The Committee noted that the secretariat, in consultation with the officers of the preparatory meeting and the authorities of the host country, was contacting experts who would prepare basic papers or act as discussion leaders for each item. A programme with the names of the authors of basic papers would be issued at the end of 1978. Basic papers, which should not exceed 15 standard United Nations pages in length and should be written in one of the official ECE languages, should be received by the secretariat by 15 May 1979, accompanied by a one-page summary, which would be translated into the other two ECE official languages.

22. The Committee invited member countries to bring the symposium to the attention of experts to whom it would be of interest, stressing the importance and timeliness of the subjects to be dealt with. All interested experts were welcome to prepare voluntary papers and bring them to the symposium in a sufficient number of copies. It would be helpful to the organizers if those intending to prepare voluntary papers informed the secretariat of the fact at least a month before the meeting, sending five copies of the paper if possible. It would also be useful for other participants if voluntary papers were accompanied by a brief abstract.

23. The Committee accepted with gratitude the offer of the Polish authorities to act as host to the symposium and agreed that it be held in Warsaw from 20 to 25 August 1979 and be preceded by a study tour from 17 to 19 August. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the continuing co-operation with other international bodies active in the field, such as UNEP, which was contributing to the financing of the symposium, IUFRO, OECD and the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental Problems.

24. The Committee was informed that, in the interests of uniformity, it had been suggested that all ECE meetings previously referred to as "seminars" or "symposia" be referred to as "seminars". The Committee considered that there was a clear difference in meaning between "symposium" and "seminar", in that the latter was on a smaller scale with fewer participants and on a more restricted subject. "Symposium" was the correct expression to describe the meeting in question which would attract widespread attention. The Committee asked the secretariat to explore this matter further and, if possible, to continue to use the term "symposium".

(b) Preparatory meeting for the symposium on economic and technical developments in the furniture industry

25. The Committee took note of the report of the preparatory meeting for the above symposium, which was held from 28 to 29 March 1978 (TIM/INF.3/AC.5/2).
26. At the invitation of the Government of Poland, the symposium will take place in Poznan, from 5 to 9 November 1979. It will include a one-day study visit. A study tour before or after the symposium is also under consideration. A broad range of topics of importance for the development of the furniture industry of the ECE region will be discussed. The Committee considered that while the symposium should deal with technical questions, its emphasis should be on economic aspects, including raw materials. It is envisaged that the debates should be guided by discussion leaders/rapporteurs who would also assist the secretariat in drawing up the conclusions and recommendations of the symposium. The discussions should be based on two types of papers prepared by experts: basic papers, covering the main topic areas of the symposium, and voluntary papers on specific items.

27. The Committee approved the arrangements for the symposium and the programme as set out in the report of the preparatory meeting. It did not consider it necessary to merge items 4 and 5 as proposed in document TIM/R.45. The symposium could include built-in furniture, if papers were submitted covering this group of products.

28. The Committee invited countries to communicate proposals to the secretariat for experts who would could act as discussion leaders, or prepare basic or voluntary papers. These proposals should reach the secretariat by 31 December 1978.

(c) Informal teams on stress grading and finger-jointing of coniferous sawn timber, and enquiry on standard dimensions of sawn softwood entering international trade

29. The Committee was informed, on the basis of TIM/R.38 and an oral report, of the work of the informal teams, which had met in joint session twice since its thirty-fifth session, to prepare proposals on research, quality control and marking questions linked with the ECE recommended standards on stress grading and finger-jointing of coniferous sawn timber. With regard to research, a satisfactory exchange of information on projects in hand had taken place. Some countries, however, had not yet transmitted the relevant information and the Committee requested these countries to send to the secretariat information on their research programmes in the field of stress grading and finger-jointing as soon as possible. This exchange of information was considered important to avoid the unnecessary duplication of research effort.

30. With regard to quality control of both stress graded and finger-jointed coniferous sawnwood, the Committee agreed with the opinion of the informal teams, based on a report by a sub-group, that there were great difficulties in reaching multilateral quality control agreements. It endorsed the informal teams' opinion that attention should be focused on providing a framework for bilateral agreements. The Committee noted that the informal teams had recommended that an ECE application form for trans-frontier recognition be drawn up which would be sent by a country intending to export stress graded or finger-jointed coniferous sawnwood to another whose approval it was seeking for these products and the related quality control schemes. The form would describe testing and sampling methods, type of samples, number of tests, methods of calculation, etc. A preliminary draft for such a form had been prepared by a subgroup for the informal teams. The Committee requested the informal teams to develop a draft application form, taking into account the comments of other interested bodies, such as CIE W.18, IUFRO and the ECE Working Party on the Building Industry (notably the ad hoc meeting on approval and control rules, scheduled for 22 to 26 January 1979). The draft application form should be presented to the Committee's thirty-seventh session.

31. The Committee also requested the informal teams to continue their work on marking systems for stress graded and finger-jointed timber and to draw up a proposal for its thirty-seventh session.
32. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the informal teams that a seminar on the technical and economic aspects of the production and use of finger-jointed sawnwood for structural purposes be held. It also accepted with gratitude the offer by the Norwegian authorities to act as host to the seminar, possibly in 1980. The Committee considered that the seminar could be prepared in conjunction with the work of the informal teams and requested the secretariat to make the necessary arrangements, in co-operation with the Norwegian authorities and the members of the informal teams. A draft programme for the seminar should be presented to the Committee's thirty-seventh session.

33. The Committee again urged member countries to incorporate the provisions of the ECE recommended standards in their own standards and requested them to report to the secretariat by 30 April 1979 on progress in doing so, on any difficulties encountered and experience gained in applying the standards.

34. The Committee noted with appreciation that there had been continuing close co-operation with other international bodies, notably the ECE Committee on Housing, Building and Planning, ISO, CIB W.18, IUFRO Division 5 and the R & D Liaison Committee of the European Softwood Conference. The Timber Committee was informed of the work of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning within the programme of harmonizing building regulations in the ECE region. Progress had been made in the field of structural safety and the use of structural materials; in the unification of fire-safety requirements; and in the harmonization of approval and control rules for buildings and building materials. The draft recommendations prepared by the informal teams concerning cross-frontier recognition could be considered by the ad hoc meeting on approval and control rules mentioned above.

35. The Committee noted that the recommended standards would probably need revision in 2-3 years in the light of experience gained in their application. All organizations working in the field should allow for the inclusion of any necessary revisions in documents or standards under preparation.

36. The representative of ISO informed the Committee that ISO TC55 was preparing draft proposals on strength indices and grading rules for sawn softwood, and that ISO would be pleased to continue to receive details of any further revisions or additions to the ECE recommended standards. The Committee noted with pleasure that in preparing these draft proposals ISO was drawing on work already carried out in the preparation of the ECE recommended standard on stress grading. The Committee was confident that the results of work within the two bodies could be harmoniously combined through continuing close contact.

37. The Committee was also informed of the results of an enquiry into the most common dimensions of sawn softwood entering international trade, carried out under project 14.2.6. (TIM/R.38/Add.1). The Committee noted that the reduction of the number of sawnwood dimensions was also under discussion in commercial circles, in particular within the European Softwood Conference. At present it appeared premature for the Committee to undertake further action until there was a wider degree of consensus as to the desirability of reducing the number of standard dimensions and the possible methods of doing so. In this context, the Committee noted the valuable contribution which the European Softwood Conference was already making through its R & D Liaison Committee. In order to ensure that the work being carried out by the two bodies would be to their mutual benefit and that unnecessary duplication of effort was avoided, the Committee considered it most desirable that its contacts with the European Softwood Conference be placed on a more formal and reciprocal basis.

(d) Study tour in Poland

38. The Committee was informed of the study tour in Poland which had been held from 17 to 24 May 1978. There had been 43 participants from 14 countries. The participants were able to study typical features of forestry and timber processing industries and to visit nurseries and national parks.
The Committee thanked the Government of Poland for a particularly interesting and well-organized study tour and also for the generous hospitality extended to the participants.

(e) Preparations for the seminar on energy aspects of the forest industries

The Committee was informed, on the basis of document TIM/SEM.7/1, of the state of preparation for the above seminar which was scheduled to take place in Udine (Italy) from 13 to 17 November 1978. A programme of study visits to industrial plants in the Udine region was also planned in connection with the seminar. It recognized that energy problems were of growing importance and that changes in the energy situation could have profound repercussions for the forest and forest industry sector. The seminar would provide a valuable opportunity for these problems to be discussed.

The Committee was informed that the number of registrations received so far had been disappointingly low. It strongly urged all delegations to take immediate steps to ensure that their countries were adequately represented at the seminar.

The Committee agreed to decide at its thirty-seventh session in 1979, on the basis of the seminar's results, what further work it might undertake in the energy field.

(f) Medium-term survey of the sawlog and sawnwood sector (including results of the enquiry on the structure of the sawmilling industry)

The secretariat introduced the first part of the study on the market for sawnwood and sawlogs (Supplement 2 to volume XXXI of the Timber Bulletin for Europe). The purpose of the study was to make an in-depth analysis of the production and consumption of and trade in coniferous and broadleaved sawnwood and sawlogs. It analysed recent developments in the light of general economic trends in the ECE region and of the projections contained in the study on European Timber Trends and Prospects, 1950 to 2000. The second part of the study will deal with the structure and capacity of the sawmilling industry and with raw material consumption. The secretariat informed the Committee of the replies received to date to the questionnaire circulated to countries (TIM/R.39 and TIM/R.39/Add.1).

The Committee agreed that the replies received provided useful information on the sawmilling industry and that the second part of the study, when completed, should be issued as a supplement to the Timber Bulletin for Europe. It requested those countries which had not yet replied to the questionnaire or whose replies were incomplete to communicate all necessary data to the secretariat by 31 December 1978 in order that the final version could be issued on schedule.

The Committee requested the Joint FAO/UN/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics to review the enquiry on the capacity and structure of the sawmilling industry to ensure that it corresponds as closely as possible both to the data that countries are actually in a position to supply and also to those that are of use to governments and industry. The Committee will determine, on the basis of the Working Party's suggestions and of the results of the first study, whether such studies should in future be undertaken on a regular basis.

The Working Party should also examine the scope and orientation of the Committee's studies on the structure and capacity of the wood-based panels industries (project 14.1.3.1.) in the light of the availability of statistical data and of the quality of the replies received to the previous enquiries. It should put forward recommendations for consideration by the Committee at its thirty-seventh session including, if it deemed it necessary, proposed amendments to the questionnaire.
Market review and prospects (Item 7 of the agenda)

47. The Committee heard a brief statement from each delegation on recent developments in their country's economy and in the main forest products markets which supplemented countries' written statements. The Committee took note, during its discussion, of the Annual Forest Products Market Review (Supplement 1 to volume XXXI of the Timber Bulletin for Europe), prepared by the secretariat, and of the brief comments on recent developments in the market made by the secretariat in TIM/R.40. It drew up tables of countries' estimates for 1978 and 1979 of domestic requirements, production, imports and exports of sawn softwood, hardwood logs and sawnwood, particle board, plywood, fibreboard, pulpwood and coniferous logs. A summary table is presented in annex I.

48. The Committee's discussion of the markets for the main forest products (sawn softwood, hardwoods, wood-based panels, pulpwood and coniferous logs) followed the approach, adopted by the Committee at the suggestion of the office-holders for the preceding year, of having a small group of experts as a discussion panel for each main product sector.

49. In reviewing the general economic situation in the ECE region which underlay the development of the forest products markets, the Committee noted that although economic expansion continued in all countries of the region, its pace varied between countries, and between sectors of the economy.

50. In North America and the majority of western European countries, the slowing down of the expansionary trend in the second half of 1977 was followed by a slight upturn in rates of growth in the first half of 1978. Expansion of GNP in real terms in 1978 in western Europe was expected to be somewhat above the 2% recorded in 1977, mainly owing to stronger growth in some larger economies, including those of France and the United Kingdom. There have been more recent signs of an improving situation in some others. In North America, GNP in 1978 was expected to be nearly 4% higher than in 1977, in spite of a possible temporary slowing down in the United States later in the year. In general, however, there appeared to be greater confidence in North America than in western Europe in the prospects for continued economic expansion.

51. Trends in the investment goods and the consumer goods sectors were reflected in demand for forest products. In western Europe activity in building construction has remained at a low level in 1978 in a majority of countries, one exception being the Federal Republic of Germany, where dwelling construction recovered quite well in the first half of 1978. In some other countries, building activity was said to have shown signs of a revival since the beginning of the second quarter of 1978. Dwelling construction in the United States continued in 1978 at a good level only marginally below the rate of 1977, though some slowing down was considered likely in 1979; non-residential building has been stronger in 1978 than in 1977. A well maintained level of activity in the furniture and other wood goods sectors, such as packaging, helped to sustain the forest products market in 1978 in many western European countries.

52. In eastern Europe and the USSR, economic expansion in 1978 is proceeding broadly in accordance with plans, with growth rates of Net Material Product between 5% and 6.5%.

53. As far as prospects for 1979 were concerned, the Committee noted that it was difficult to discern factors that would materially change present trends and bring the economies back on a path of sustained growth. In western Europe, there were some indications of a certain improvement in the overall situation. On the other hand, there was concern over the persistence of balance of payments problems in some countries, as well as high levels of unemployment and inflation in most.
Although inflation rates in Western Europe have tended to decline, there has been a recent acceleration in North America. The understanding reached at the meeting of the leaders of seven major market economy countries in Bonn on 16 and 17 July 1978 on a comprehensive strategy towards more stable developments in the economic and monetary fields was seen as an encouraging sign for the world economy.

54. The forest products markets reflect the differing regional and sectoral conditions. In North America, demand for most assortments of forest products has been brisk in 1978 and prices for many products have shown a rising trend, strongly so in some cases; consumption in 1978 will for most products be above the 1977 level. For 1979, the United States forecasts a decline in consumption of sawn softwood and plywood, reflecting the easing back in dwelling construction activity, but some further growth is expected for other products.

55. For Europe (excluding the USSR) the Committee forecasts moderate increases, generally less than 4%, in the consumption of most forest products in 1978 over 1977, the exception being sawn softwood, the consumption of which is expected to decrease marginally to 72.1 million m³. For 1979 the Committee expects consumption of all forest products, including sawn softwood, to increase over the forecasts for 1978 at rates which are higher than for 1978 over 1977 except that the rates of increase for particle board and fibreboard will be lower. In the case of hardwood, the share of tropical species in domestic requirements of both logs and sawnwood is expected to decrease, more strongly in the case of logs. European consumption of pulpwood, including round pulpwood and mill residues, is estimated to recover in 1978 by 8% to 157 million m³, after the 5% drop in 1977. The forecast for 1978 is about 1 million m³ above the previous record consumption level of pulpwood in 1974. A further 5% rise, to 165 million m³, is anticipated for 1979. Consumption of coniferous logs in Europe is expected to remain stable at 117 million m³ in 1978, with a rise of 2% to 119 million m³ in 1979.

56. References to currency fluctuations were a common feature of the general discussions. The Committee noted that over the last few years the trade in forest products had been increasingly affected by variations in exchange rate parities. These uncertainties have created difficulties in establishing a normal forward market. Changes in exchange rate parities have also led to distortions in some countries' competitive position in the international forest products markets. The Committee concluded that a return to more stable international monetary conditions would be an important step towards restoring confidence in the international markets for forest products.

57. The Committee considered that the arrangements made for its examination of the market situation and prospects, including the setting up of panels of experts to lead the discussions, have proved effective and should be retained at future sessions. It invited the office-holders to review, however, whether further refinements to the arrangements were needed. The Committee noted that, in accordance with procedures agreed upon by the Commission to control the volume of documentation, only a brief general record of its market discussions could be included in its report. In view of the importance attached by governments to the authoritative statement by the Committee on the forest products market, it felt strongly that the report which it adopted should in future reflect its discussions more fully. It requested the secretariat to give consideration to this matter.

Special lecture (Item 8 of the agenda)

58. In accordance with project 14.3.2, the special lecture was devoted to wood preservation. A panel of three speakers from the Western European Institute for Wood Preservation was introduced by Mr. N. Burgers, Secretary-General of the same organization. The theme was "Preservation - an aid to forest utilization", and the speakers and the topics they covered were: Dr. F.J. Levy, reader in wood science, Imperial College, London and President, British Wood Preserving Association (Fundamental Research in Wood Preservation); Mr. W.J. Evans, Director, Rentokil Ltd., United Kingdom (A Practical Assessment); and Mr. J. Bick, Director, British Wood Preserving Association (Wood Preservation and the Environment).
59. These presentations were followed by a discussion, which touched on both technical and economic aspects and during which it was pointed out that preservation, used in the right circumstances, could further the rational and economic use of wood, conserve forest resources and improve the competitive position of wood. It was suggested that a meeting be held to examine these questions in greater depth, notably by assessing the current position, from a technical and economic point of view, and identifying trends and priority areas for future action. The Committee agreed to discuss this suggestion under item 10 of its agenda - Programme of work 1979-1983.

60. The Committee expressed its warm appreciation of the excellent presentations of the speakers, and requested that their papers be published as a supplement to the Timber Bulletin for Europe.

Activities of other Principal Subsidiary Bodies of ECE of interest to the Timber Committee (Item 9 of the Agenda)

61. The Committee was informed on the basis of document TIM/R.42, of the activities of other Principal Subsidiary Bodies of ECE dealing with problems of concern to it. The Committee took note of the document and agreed to take the information presented into account when discussing its own programme of work.

Programme of work for 1979-1983 (Item 10 of the agenda)

62. The Committee considered its programme of work on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat (TIM/R.43) which took into account the programme approved by the Committee at its thirty-fifth session, the resolution, decisions and discussions of the Commission at its thirty-third session and the results of meetings of the Committee's subsidiary bodies. The Committee also took into account its own discussions under other items of the agenda.

63. The Committee felt that it would be most desirable for the ad hoc meeting of experts on trends, prospects, and policies in southern Europe (project 14.1.5.), scheduled for 1979, to be held in one of the countries principally concerned, so that some of the problems to be examined could be shown to the participants. The meeting is being convened jointly with the FAO European Forestry Commission and should take place before the next session of that body, scheduled for late September 1979. The Committee invited the secretariat to approach potential host countries as soon as possible. If no country could act as host, the meeting should be held in Geneva.

64. The Committee agreed to merge its projects on selected problems in rationalizing the transport and handling of forest products (project 14.2.2.) and on the rationalization of the flow of forest products from the forest to the consumer (project 14.2.8.) into one project in view of the complementarity of the problems dealt with. For the special lecture scheduled for its thirty-seventh session, the Committee requested the secretariat to approach countries which might be able to provide speakers.

65. The Committee agreed to postpone the ad hoc meeting to revise the FAO Classification and Definitions of Forest Products (project 14.2.7.1.). It noted that the revision should take into account work on classification and definitions being undertaken by the UN Statistical Commission, the Customs Co-operation Council and other bodies, which was still in hand. The Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics should consider the matter again at its twelfth session in June 1979, and recommend, on the basis of information about progress achieved in other international bodies, when the ad hoc meeting previously scheduled for 1979 should take place.
66. The Committee discussed the possibility of future work in the field of wood preservation (project 14.3.2.) in the light of the special lecture (see paras. 58-60). It noted that very competent national and international professional associations existed, whose work the Committee should not attempt to duplicate. It was suggested, however, that the Committee might have a useful role to play in bringing together wood preservation interests with the timber trade and industry and government representatives at an international level. The Committee requested the secretariat to explore this question further with other interested bodies and report back to the Committee.

67. The Committee should decide at its thirty-seventh session, on the basis of the secretariat's report, whether it should undertake further work on wood preservation.

68. The Committee agreed that an informal preparatory meeting in 1979 should be held to fix the objectives, scope and programme of the symposium on modernization in the wood-based panels industries (project 14.3.6.). The Committee invited FAO, UNIDO and industry associations such as FESYP, FEIC, PEROPA and NFC to participate in the symposium from the preparatory stages onwards.

69. The Committee approved the programme (TIM/14.44) proposed for the seminar on the utilization of tropical hardwoods (project 14.3.3.), which had been drawn up by the secretariat in close consultation with the authorities of the host country and experts nominated by countries. At the invitation of the Government of the Netherlands, the seminar will take place in Amsterdam, from 15 to 18 May 1979. It will include a one-day study tour. The seminar will provide a forum for experts from the tropical timber importing countries and exporting countries to discuss a broad range of subjects related to the utilization of tropical hardwoods. The discussions, to be guided by discussion leaders, will be based on papers prepared by selected experts (basic papers and voluntary papers on particular issues). The Committee asked countries to communicate to the secretariat proposals for experts to act as discussion leaders, and for experts willing to prepare basic or voluntary papers. In view of the limited time, such proposals should reach the secretariat not later than 10 November 1978.

70. On the basis of these proposals and of contacts with experts which were already being made, the list of papers for the seminar would be drawn up by the secretariat in co-operation with the authorities of the host country.

71. The Committee was informed that the USSR had offered to act as host to the Symposium on reduction of waste and development of use of residues in forestry, the wood-processing industries and in forest products utilization in 1982 (project 14.4.2.). It accepted this offer with gratitude and requested the host authorities to make the necessary arrangements with the secretariat and report back to the Committee's thirty-eighth session, by which time it should be possible to draw up proposals for the scope, programme and organization of the symposium.

72. The Committee was informed that items to be dealt with by the twelfth session of the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, scheduled for June 1979, included the effects of taxation on forest management and wood supply (project 14.3.4.), labour statistics (project 14.5.2.5.) and end-use statistics (project 14.5.2.6.), for each of which enquiries had been circulated during 1978. It urged countries that had not yet replied to these enquiries to do so, so that comprehensive reports could be presented by the secretariat to the Working Party.

73. The Committee reviewed progress made in the chemical processing of wood (other than for pulp and paper) and the potential of the use of wood for chemical products (project 14.3.7.) on the basis of a report prepared by a consultant (TIM/R.43/Add.1), comments received from the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO) (TIM/R.46) and a report by the USSR (TIM/R.47). It noted that there had been a marked increase in interest in the use of wood for chemical products in recent years and an expansion in the amount of research being undertaken in this field. While at present chemicals were being produced from wood on a large scale in only a few countries,
the prospects for the more widespread use of wood as chemical feedstock seemed better now than ever before. For this to occur, there had to be a clear economic advantage of wood over fossil fuels as a feedstock, which might result from a change in relative prices. When and to what extent such a change may take place, however, could not be predicted. Accordingly, the Committee agreed to adopt a cautious approach towards the problem, meanwhile keeping developments under review. As a first step, a special lecture should be presented to its thirty-seventh session by an expert or experts, who could provide an insight into the conditions under which wood could become economically as well as technically viable as a chemical feedstock.

74. The Committee was informed that preparations had begun for the ad hoc meeting on forest resource analysis (project 14.5.2.4.), at which the quantification and evaluation of the environmental benefits of forests (project 14.4.1.), would also be dealt with. It considered these projects to be of considerable importance for the forestry and forest products sector and invited countries to participate actively in the meeting, including the preparation of expert papers on the topic to be discussed. The results of the meeting will be considered at the twelfth session of the Joint FAO/UNEP Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics.

75. The delegation of the USSR transmitted to the Committee an official invitation for the study tour to be organized in that country from 2 to 14 September 1979. It described the proposed programme and itinerary. The participants would visit an international exhibition and industrial enterprises in Moscow, Irkutsk, Ingims and Bratsk.

76. The Committee accepted with pleasure the offer of the Government of the USA to act as host for a study tour in 1981 or 1982.

77. The Committee was informed that a forest and forest products country profile on Greece had been prepared by the secretariat in collaboration with the Greek authorities and issued as Supplement 9 to volume XXX of the Timber Bulletin for Europe. Country profiles were also under preparation for Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Sweden and Turkey.

78. On the basis of these discussions, the Committee approved its programme of work as set out in annexes II and III.

Other business (Item 11 of the agenda)

79. The delegation of Canada showed a film: "To live a better life", and the delegation of the USSR one entitled: "Forest industry and technical progress". The Committee thanked these delegations for their most interesting films.

80. At the invitation of the Swiss delegation, delegates to the Committee visited forests in the Canton of Vaud on the morning of Friday, 13 October. The Committee warmly thanked the Swiss delegation for the interesting visit and most generous hospitality.

Adoption of the report of the Committee's session (Item 12 of the agenda)

81. The draft report, presented by the secretariat, was adopted, with some modifications which have been incorporated in the present document.

Date of next session

82. The Committee agreed that its next session should be held from 15 to 19 October 1979, subject to the availability of conference services for that period.
Europe (excl. USSR): Summary table of market forecasts for 1978 and 1979
(million m³)

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<th>Domestic requirements</th>
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<th>Exports</th>
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a/ Including USSR.
WORK AREA 14.1: MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM TRENDS AND PERSPECTIVES


Description: The Committee will keep under review long-term trends in production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products, comparing them with projections made in the long-term study, both to check the accuracy of the analyses presented in the study and in order to provide early warning of changes in trends, thus enabling Governments to review their long-term forest policies in the light of recent developments.

Method of work: The Committee will compare, on a continuing basis, real trends with the projections of the long-term study, as an integral part of its analyses of specific aspects of the forest products sector (notably under projects 14.1.2., 14.1.3., 14.1.4., 14.2.1.). In addition, the secretariat will prepare an overall study which will compare real trends up to 1980 with projections.

14.1.2. Trends in the utilization of forest products in specific end-use sectors

Description: The Committee will review periodically the utilization of forest products in specific end-use sectors (e.g., construction, furniture, packaging, railway sleepers, mining timber) as part of the continuing analysis of trends in forest products markets intended to provide Governments with data necessary for the elaboration of their forest products policy in the light of prevailing demand conditions.

Method of work: The secretariat will prepare studies based on questionnaire returns. The Committee will determine the timing of studies and the choice of subjects on the basis of the results of project 14.5.2.6.

14.1.3. Medium-term trends in the structure and capacity of the wood-processing industries

14.1.3.1. The wood-based panels industries

Description: The Committee will review the structure and capacity of the wood-based panels industries in order to enable Governments to form their own industrial policies for the wood-based panels sector in the light of information on international conditions.

Method of work: The Committee will decide at its 1979 session on the scope and orientation of its activities in this field before embarking on the next survey scheduled for 1980.
14.1.3.2. The sawmilling industry

Description: The Committee will review the structure and capacity of the sawmilling industry in order to enable Governments to form their policies for the sawmilling industry in the light of information on international conditions.

Method of work: On the basis of the suggestions of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics and of the results of the first study, the Committee will decide at its thirty-seventh session whether these studies should be undertaken on a regular basis.

14.1.4. Medium-term trends in the markets for specific forest products

Description: The Committee will review medium-term (3-5 years) trends in the production, consumption, trade and prices of major forest products so that Governments may be continuously informed of structural trends in the forest products markets of the ECE region.

Method of work: The secretariat will prepare one study annually, on a three-year rotation of subjects, as follows: Sawmwood and sawlogs: 1981, 1984, etc.; pulpwod (including residues and chips), pitprops and miscellaneous roundwood: 1979, 1982, etc.; wood-based panels: 1980, 1983, etc. The secretariat will prepare as part of the 1979 study on pulpwod, etc., and at intervals thereafter as will be decided, a review of trends in roundwood production and supply. A supplementary study will be prepared in 1979 on the production and utilization of improved wood-based panels, with special reference to their surface finishing (linked with project 14.3.6.).

14.1.5. Trends, prospects and policies in southern Europe

Description: The forest and forest industry policy and environmental problems facing countries in the Mediterranean area will be reviewed in the light of the long-term outlook for their forest economies, as depicted in "European Timber Trends and Prospects, 1950 to 2000".

Method of work: An ad hoc meeting of experts will be convened in 1979, jointly with the FAO European Forestry Commission, to study the problems involved and to draw up recommendations for future action.
WORK AREA 14.2: CURRENT MARKET DEVELOPMENT AND SHORT-TERM PROSPECTS, INCLUDING PROBLEMS RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL TRADE

14.2.1. Review of production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products

Description: The Committee will analyse on a continuous basis, short-term trends in the production, trade and prices of forest products and forecast short-term prospects, with a view to providing Governments and the forest products sector with accurate and up-to-date information and assessments, necessary for an orderly development of the supply-demand mechanism.

Method of work: The secretariat will prepare and publish annually a review of trends in forest products markets over the previous year, based on data supplied by Governments in connexion with project 14.5.1. The secretariat will present to the Committee's annual session the most recent available data on trends in the market for forest products, obtained from questionnaire returns, with a brief analysis of the situation. The Committee will review, at its annual session, short-term trends and prospects in the production, trade and prices of major forest products (sawn softwood, hardwoods, including tropical, pulpwood, coniferous logs and wood-based panels) on the basis of estimates prepared by delegations, for the current and following years. After the session the secretariat will prepare and publish an analysis of short-term market trends and prospects, based on the Committee's discussions. cont.

14.2.2. Rationalization of the flow of forest products from the forest to the consumer, including transport and handling problems

Description: The Committee will review the distribution chain for forest products from the forest to the consumer, including transport and handling problems, and identify areas where it might recommend any action which it considers necessary to rationalize the flow of products and to increase efficiency with a view to facilitating international trade.

Method of work: A special lecture will be presented to the Committee's thirty-seventh session. The Committee will decide on further action in the light of the special lecture and with the guidance of its co-ordinator for transport and handling. cont.

14.2.3. Review of standardization activities

Description: The Committee will review at its annual session needs and priorities for standardization in the field of forest products as well as progress in its own standardization projects (14.2.4., 14.2.5., 14.2.6.). On the basis of this review, it will decide what activities it should undertake, with a view to facilitating international trade in forest products by removing non-tariff barriers, and to furthering the rational and economic use of wood.

Method of work: The Committee will base its annual review on a report, and if necessary, recommendations by its co-ordinator in the field of standardization cont.
14.2.4. Standardization of stress grading of coniferous sawn timber

Description: The Committee will encourage the application of the ECE recommended standard by incorporation of its provisions into national standards, and undertake any further work necessary for the refinement of the recommended standard, with a view to ensuring the rational and economic use of, and to facilitating trade in, coniferous sawn timber.

Method of work: The Committee will convene an informal team of experts to collect information and make proposals for research programmes, quality control programmes and marking systems for stress graded coniferous sawnwood. The informal team will, among other things, draft a set of guidelines for countries developing quality control programmes. The Committee will organize training courses to exchange experience on the application of the recommended standard and for the training of those responsible for sawnwood grading. An ad hoc meeting will be convened after 1980 to review and, if necessary, update the recommended standard. (Work to be linked to project 14.2.5.)

14.2.5. Standardization of finger-jointing in structural coniferous sawn timber

Description: The Committee will encourage the application of the ECE recommended standard on finger-jointing in structural coniferous sawn timber, notably by incorporation of its provisions into national standards, and undertake any further work necessary for the refinement of the recommended standard, with a view to ensuring the rational and economic use of, and to facilitating trade in, structural finger-jointed coniferous sawn timber.

Method of work: The Committee will convene an informal team of experts to collect information and make proposals about research programmes, quality control programmes and marking systems for finger-joints in structural coniferous sawnwood. The Committee will also organize seminars to exchange experience on the application of the recommended standard. An ad hoc meeting will be convened after 1980 to review and, if necessary, update the recommended standard. (Work to be linked to project 14.2.4.)

14.2.6. Reduction of the number of standard dimensions of sawnwood entering international trade

Description: The Committee will formulate proposals for the reduction of the number of standard dimensions of sawnwood entering international trade, on the basis of ISO International Standard 3179 and in collaboration with ISO, with a view to facilitating international trade in sawnwood.

Method of work: The Committee will keep under review progress in the work being undertaken by other organizations with a view to collaborating in such work as and when it considers it appropriate.
14.2.7. Classification and definitions of forest products

14.2.7.1. Revision of FAO Classification and Definitions of Forest Products

Description: The Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, in co-operation with the Conference of European Statisticians, will revise the FAO Classification and Definitions of Forest Products, with a view to ensuring that it is in harmony with international multi-sector classifications and definitions.

Method of work: An ad hoc meeting, under the auspices of the Joint Working Party, will revise the FAO Classification and Definitions of Forest Products (advance version published in 1973) when the revision of the major international classifications (e.g. SITC, BTN, ICGS) at present in progress, is complete.

14.2.7.2. Classification and definitions of wood residues

Description: The Committee will harmonize national classifications and definitions of wood residues and of wood after its first use, with a view to facilitating international comparisons as well as analyses of the wood supply situation at the regional level.

Method of work: The Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics will draw up a classification and definitions of wood residues at its twelfth session, on the basis of proposals prepared by the secretariat.

14.2.8. Economic and technical developments in finger-jointing of sawnwood

Description: The Committee will examine economic and technical developments in the production and utilization of finger-jointed sawnwood as a means of rationalizing the use of wood.

Method of work: A seminar will be held in Norway in 1980.
WORK AREA 14.3: SELECTED ECONOMIC, TECHNOLOGICAL AND MANAGERIAL PROBLEMS

14.3.1. Forest working techniques and training of forest workers

This project is covered by the activities of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers, which normally meets biennially (1980, 1982, 1984, etc.). Its task is to foster international collaboration on technical, economic and organizational aspects of forest working techniques and training of forest workers in logging and other forest operations; special attention is given to increasing the efficiency of labour, the reduction of the physical efforts of the worker, prevention of accidents, reduction of waste and the establishment of an adequate balance between technical, social and economic requirements and protection of the environment.

The project components are set out below under three main headings:

1. Silvicultural operations and general management aspects;
2. Wood harvesting and transport; and
3. Human aspects of forest operations.

14.3.1.1. Silvicultural operations and general management aspects

14.3.1.1.1. Development and use of machinery and methods for stand establishment, including planting stock and equipment

Description: The Joint Committee will promote the exchange of information and further rational regeneration methods which do not damage the forest ecosystem by regularly reviewing machines, techniques and planting stock applied in afforestation and reforestation, with emphasis on site clearing, soil preparation and planting.

Method of work: Seminars and/or study tours will be organized at 4-year intervals (1980, 1984, etc.). A seminar on afforestation and reforestation machines and techniques will be held in 1980. 

14.3.1.2. Forest fire prevention and control

Description: The Joint Committee will examine techniques and equipment used in forest fire control, as well as preventive measures, with a view to assisting Governments in these fields.

Method of work: A seminar will be held in Poland in 1980 and another in 1983.

14.3.1.3. Methods of measurement of labour productivity

Description: The Joint Committee will review methods of assessing productivity of man and machines, and methods of measurement of standard times whereby to determine the relationship between changes in labour input and machine input and assess the effects and implications of replacing labour by machines.

Method of work: A team of specialists will discuss methods of measuring machine input in forestry operations, draw up proposals for future work by the Joint Committee in the field of labour productivity and submit them to the thirteenth session of the Joint Committee.

1/ Host country to be decided.
14.3.1.1.4. Planning and management of forest operations

Description: The Joint Committee will study methods of planning forest operations, especially in the long term, taking into account the impact of environmental and social constraints on the planning and method of work. It will also examine methods of assessing technical and economic accessibility of forest resources, so as to assist Governments in the planning and rational utilization of the resource.

Method of work: A seminar on (topic to be proposed by coordinators for decision by thirteenth session) will be held in 1981, preceded by a preparatory meeting of a team of specialists.

14.3.1.1.5. Methods of payment

Description: The Joint Committee, in collaboration with the FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, will review methods of payment of forest workers in order to show their effect on labour supply, productivity levels and rate of mechanization.

Method of work: A team of specialists will collect information and prepare a report, taking into account the findings of the study on labour statistics carried out by the FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics. The report will be submitted to a seminar on the effects of methods of payment on labour productivity and the conditions of work and life of forest workers to be held in 1982.

14.3.1.1.6. Review of standardization activities in the field of forestry machinery

Description: The Joint Committee will keep under review standardization activities in the field of forest machinery to assist countries in the development and safety in use of such equipment.

Method of work: The Joint Committee will review at each session, on the basis of a report which ISO should be invited to submit, standardization work being carried out, and will maintain active co-operation with the responsible ISO sub-committee.

14.3.1.1.7. Standardization of concepts and terms used by the Joint Committee

Description: The Joint Committee will regularly review the definitions of currently used technical and economic concepts and terms with a view to facilitating exchange of information on an international level during its meetings and on other occasions.

Method of work: The co-ordinators and/or teams leaders will prepare, with the assistance of the secretariat, a limited list of basic concepts and terms in the three official languages for each of the seminars convened by the Joint Committee, in order to ease communication during the meeting and to have them discussed, approved and then disseminated within the framework of the Joint Committee.

1/ Host country to be decided.
14.3.1.2. Development and use of logging machinery

Description: The Joint Committee will keep under review trends and prospects in the development and use of logging machinery taking into account specific conditions and cost/price relationships so as to encourage rational logging methods in flat, hilly and mountainous regions from the economic, ergonomic and environmental points of view.

Method of work: Seminars on selected items will be held at intervals of not more than 2 years: in 1979, in France on mechanization and techniques of thinning operations; in 1981, in the German Democratic Republic on silvicultural, technological, economic and other problems connected with the mechanization of thinning operations.

14.3.1.2.2. Maintenance of forest machinery

Description: The Joint Committee will promote the exchange of information on systems of maintenance of forest machinery, and further the rational use of such machines.

Method of work: A seminar on maintenance of forest machinery in large and small-scale operations will be held in 1980 in Sweden (subject to confirmation).

14.3.1.2.3. Location and methods of primary roundwood conversion

Description: The Joint Committee will determine optimum technical, economic and organizational solutions in the field of primary roundwood conversion by reviewing the location, management and methods of roundwood conversion.

Method of work: A special discussion will be organized at the thirteenth session of the Joint Committee, based on a report by a team of specialists.

14.3.1.2.4. Terrain classification from the wood harvesting point of view

Description: The Joint Committee will review studies on terrain classification and forest accessibility, with a view to facilitating international comparisons on accessibility of forest resources.

Method of work: A team of specialists will prepare a report on existing terrain classifications and those under preparation, including the work of the European Economic Community and IUFRO, to be submitted to the thirteenth session of the Joint Committee in 1980, which will decide on further action.
14.3.1.2.5. **Compatibility of harvesting methods and equipment with silviculture and the environment**

Description: The Joint Committee will review harvesting methods and equipment and compare these with the methods applied in silviculture so as to determine compatibilities and incompatibilities, taking into account environmental aspects.

Method of work: A preliminary descriptive list of harvesting methods and equipment will be prepared by a team of specialists from the point of view of compatibility with silvicultural methods and the environment for submission to the Joint Committee at its thirteenth session in 1980, when further action will be decided. **2 1980**

14.3.1.2.6. **Harvesting of wood for energy purposes**

Description: The Joint Committee will review methods and equipment suitable for the production and harvesting of wood specifically destined for energy production, so as to determine the potential of the forest or special plantations to contribute economically to total energy supply.

Method of work: A report will be prepared by a team of specialists and submitted to the Joint Committee at its thirteenth session in 1980. **1 1980**

14.3.1.3. **Human aspects of forest operations**

14.3.1.3.1. **Vocational training in forestry**

Description: The Joint Committee will assist Governments in planning their national vocational training policies by keeping under review developments and trends in vocational training in forestry to raise the efficiency of forest operations and improve working practices with regard to safety and health.

Method of work: A seminar will be organized every second year on a selected problem: in the second half of 1979 or in 1980 in Norway, on vocational training for small forest owners and farmers; in 1981 in the United Kingdom, on the selection of machine operators and assessment of their suitability for specific jobs; in 1983, in...1/ on vocational training problems specific to southern Europe. **cont.**

14.3.1.3.2. **Report on vocational training systems**

Description: The Joint Committee will help Governments to review their national vocational training systems in the light of the latest developments.

Method of work: The ILO will prepare and circulate a report on the basis of returns from the 1977 enquiry; it will be updated and supplemented in 1982. **3 1982**

1/ Host country to be decided.
14.3.1.3.3. Ergonomic problems applied to forestry

Description: The Joint Committee will help Governments in their national health and employment planning by keeping under review developments and trends in ergonomics applied to forestry, promoting safer working habits, preventing occupational injuries and diseases, increasing work performance and forest workers' satisfaction with their jobs.

Method of work: A seminar or training course will be organized every second year on a selected problem in the field of ergonomics applied to forestry (i.e., 1980, 1982, etc.). In 1980, in .......... 1/ a seminar will be held on the health, physical and mental capacity of forest workers and the demands of forest work, occupational diseases and rehabilitation of forest workers.

14.3.1.3.4. Ergonomic problems related to chain saws and brush saws

Description: The Joint Committee will study problems related to chain saws and brush saws to follow up the work carried out in 1974-76 by the ad hoc group of experts on noise and vibrations in power saws; it will study and improve working methods and recommend safety rules, collect information on occupational diseases, establish measurement methods and standards of hygiene.

Method of work: A team of specialists will carry out this work in close collaboration with ILO and ISO and will submit a report to the thirteenth session of the Joint Committee.

14.3.1.3.5. Vocational rehabilitation of forest workers

Description: The Joint Committee will provide Governments with guidance in connexion with their services to rehabilitate injured, disabled or older forest workers.

Method of work: A team of specialists, with the collaboration of ILO, will collect information on possibilities and methods of rehabilitation of injured, disabled or older forest workers and submit it in the form of a report to the seminar in 1980 on the health, physical and mental capacity of forest workers (see sub-section 14.3.1.3.3.).

14.3.1.3.6. Social problems of forest workers

Description: The Joint Committee will examine forest workers' social status in comparison with that of other workers in the light of social and economic developments that have occurred in various countries in recent years and of future trends, in order to assess the problems created through the replacement of man by machine in forestry; the necessity to absorb unemployed labour in rural areas; the social condition of migratory versus locally resident labour, etc. This work aims at helping Governments solve recurring structural employment problems and those connected with the difficulty of finding adequate labour in forestry.

Method of work: A seminar will be organized, in collaboration with ILO and possibly IUFRO, preceded by an enquiry and/or a preparatory meeting to define the scope of the subject to be treated.

1/ Host country to be decided.
14.3.2. Wood preservation

Description: The Committee will review technical and economic developments in wood preservation with a view to encouraging the rational and economic use of wood.

Method of work: The Committee will decide at its thirty-seventh session, on the basis of a report by the secretariat, whether it should undertake further work in this field.

14.3.3. Utilization of tropical hardwoods

Description: The Committee will review the utilization of tropical hardwoods with a view to analysing patterns and trends in the demand for these products and to identifying opportunities for expanding trade with developing countries.

Method of work: A seminar will be held in 1979 in the Netherlands.

14.3.4. Effects of taxation on forest management and wood supply

Description: The Committee will review the effects of national taxation systems on forest management and wood supply with a view to assessing how these systems affect the supply/demand balance for forest products in the ECE region and the structure of international trade.

Method of work: The Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics will undertake an enquiry on taxation, taking as a basis work carried out by the European Economic Community for its member countries.

14.3.5. Economic and technical developments in the furniture industry

Description: The Committee will further the exchange of information on economic and technical developments in the furniture industry, with a view to assessing in quantitative and qualitative terms the use of forest products in that industry and the trends and prospects in the demand for forest products for that sector.

Method of work: A symposium will be held in 1979 in Poland.

14.3.6. Modernization in the wood-based panels industries

Description: The Committee will further the exchange and dissemination of scientific, technological and economic information on modernization in the wood-based panels industries.

Method of work: A symposium will be organized, in collaboration with the Chemical Industries Committee, in 1980, in Finland, preceded by an informal preparatory meeting in 1979.
14.3.7. Review of progress made in the chemical processing of wood (other than for pulp and paper) and the potential of the use of wood for chemical products

Description: In conjunction with the Chemical Industries Committee, the Committee will keep under review, from the technical and economic point of view, progress made in the chemical processing of wood (other than for pulp and paper) with a view to improving the utilization of by-products of the wood processing industries, and to assessing potential demand from the chemical industry for wood raw material, as well as the effect any increase would have on the supply/demand balance for forest products in the ECE region and the availability of raw material for traditional wood-using industries.

Method of work: A special lecture will be given to the Committee's thirty-seventh session, on the basis of which it will decide on further action.

WORK AREA 14.4: ENVIRONMENTAL AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION PROBLEMS

(All the Committee's activities in this work area will be carried out in co-operation with the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental Problems).

14.4.1. Quantification and evaluation of the environmental benefits of forests

Description: The Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics will examine methods of quantifying and evaluating the environmental benefits of forests with a view to assessing forests' contribution to society, to calculating compensation for the environmental services of forests and to facilitating comparisons between countries.

Method of work: Further work on the quantification of the environmental role of forests will be linked with project 14.5.2. A section will be prepared by a meeting of experts.

14.4.2. Reduction of waste and development of use of residues in forestry, the wood-processing industries and in forest products utilization

Description: The Committee will assess ways of reducing waste and developing the use of residues in forestry, the wood-processing industries and in forest products utilization in order to further the rational use of the forest resource.

Method of work: A symposium will be held in 1982 in the USSR.
14.4.3. Effects of air-borne pollution on vegetation

Description: The Committee will assess the effects of different types of air-borne pollution on vegetation with a view to improving the protection of the forest resource of the ECE region against such damage.

Method of work: A symposium will be held in 1979 in Poland, jointly with the Committee on Agricultural Problems and in cooperation with the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental Problems and UNEP.

14.4.4. Energy aspects of the forest industries

Description: The Committee will study energy use in forestry, the wood-processing industries and the use of forest products, with a view to identifying means to improve energy efficiency.

Method of work: The Committee will decide at its thirty-seventh session in 1979 whether it will undertake any further work in the energy field on the basis of the results of the seminar to be held in November 1978 in Italy.

WORK AREA 14.5: COLLECTION, EXCHANGE AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION, INCLUDING IMPROVEMENT AND HARMONIZATION OF STATISTICS (IN CO-OPERATION WITH FAO)

14.5.1. Timber Bulletin for Europe

Description: The Committee will collect statistics on production, trade and prices of forest products, with a view to providing Governments and the forest products sector with data on the basis of which to formulate policies and make decisions.

Method of work: The secretariat will publish, twice a year, the Timber Bulletin for Europe, containing quarterly statistics on production, trade and prices of forest products, collected from Governments by means of quarterly questionnaires.

14.5.2. Selected problems of economics and statistics of forestry and forest products

This project is covered by the activities of the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics which normally meets biennially (1979, 1981, 1983, etc.). It co-operates with the Conference of European Statisticians.

14.5.2.1. Comparability of statistics

Description: The Working Party will improve international comparability in selected areas of statistics in order to ensure that the data used by Governments for international comparisons and by the Committee in its analyses are as accurate and comparable as possible.

Method of work: The Working Party will collect information in each area by means of questionnaires and studies and formulate recommendations to Governments, which will be submitted to the Committee for approval. The Working Party will propose series for which such action is necessary.
14.5.2.2. Organization and periodicity of statistical data collection and dissemination

Description: The Working Party will review periodically the Committee's programme of collection and dissemination of statistical data, to ensure that it corresponds with the needs of Governments.

Method of work: The Working Party will review periodically the Committee's programme of collection and dissemination of statistical data and make recommendations to improve its organization, coverage and periodicity.

14.5.2.3. Conversion factors

Description: The Working Party will review the conversion factors for forest products applicable to individual countries, in order to facilitate international comparison of yields and to ensure that the conversion factors used by the secretariat in its analyses reflect current technology.

Method of work: The Working Party will review at four-yearly intervals (1981, 1985, etc.) conversion factors communicated by Governments in reply to a questionnaire.

14.5.2.4. Forest resource analysis

Description: The Working Party will review methods of forest inventory used by Governments and by the secretariat to ensure that all parameters relevant to measuring actual productive potential of the forest, as well as parameters measuring change, both for wood and non-wood benefits, are taken into account and that the methods adopted correspond as closely as possible to the needs of all the users.

Method of work: An ad hoc meeting will be held in 1979.

14.5.2.5. Labour statistics

Description: The Working Party, in co-operation with the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers, will study labour input, average wage rates and earnings in forestry, with a view to providing more data on cost trends and a basis for comparison of employment and earnings.

Method of work: The pilot enquiry undertaken by an informal team of experts will be revised and extended to cover all ECE countries.

14.5.2.6. End-use statistics

Description: The Working Party will review the coverage and availability of statistics on the end-uses of forest products with a view to improving the data base for the Committee's work in this area (see 14.1.2.).

Method of work: The secretariat will circulate an enquiry on the broad pattern of end-use of sawnwood and wood-based panels. The Working Party will review at its twelfth session the results of this survey and propose possible further activities in this field.

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14.5.2.7. Forest fire statistics

Description: The Working Party will improve the exchange of information on forest fires, their causes and methods of prevention and protection and the costs involved.


14.5.3. Dissemination and exchange of general information and experience

Description: The Committee will further the dissemination and exchange of information and experience on selected themes within its area of competence, by dissemination of statistical and other information on countries' forestry and forest products sector, and by organizing annual study tours at the invitation of the countries concerned with a view to making available to Governments and the forest products sector experience gained in individual countries.

Method of work: In 1979, a study tour will be organized in the USSR. Country forest and forest products profiles will be prepared by the secretariat, in collaboration with the Governments of the countries concerned, and published at five-to six-year intervals.

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1/ Host countries for 1980 and after to be decided (the USA will be host in 1981 or 1982).
## ANNEX III

Tabular presentation of Timber Committee programme of work 1979-1983

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<td>Pulpwood, pitprops and miscellaneous roundwood, and review of trends in roundwood production and supply, Supplementary study on production and utilization of improved wood-based panels, especially surface-finishing</td>
<td>Wood-based panels</td>
<td>Sawnwood and sawlogs</td>
<td>Pulpwood, pitprops and miscellaneous roundwood</td>
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<td>Review of production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products</td>
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<td>As decided by Committee at thirty-seventh session</td>
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<td>14.2.3</td>
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<td>14.2.4</td>
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<td>14.2.5</td>
<td>Standardization of finger-jointing in structural coniferous sawn timber</td>
<td>Informal team of experts on research, quality control and marking</td>
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<td>14.2.6</td>
<td>Reduction of the number of standard dimensions of sawnwood entering international trade</td>
<td>Committee to keep under review</td>
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<td>Ad hoc meeting (timing to be determined)</td>
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<td>Seminar in Norway</td>
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**WORK AREA 14.3: SELECTED ECONOMIC, TECHNOLOGICAL AND MANAGERIAL PROBLEMS**

| 14.3.1.        | Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers | Thirteenth session held in................. 1/ |                                           |                                           |                                           |                                           |
| 14.3.1.1,      | Silvicultural operations and general management aspects                  |                                           |                                           |                                           |                                           |                                           |
| 14.3.1.1.1,    | Development and use of machinery and methods for stand establishment, including planting stock and equipment | Seminar on afforestation and reforestation machines and techniques in ................. 1/ |                                           |                                           |                                           |                                           |
| 14.3.1.1.2,    | Forest fire prevention and control                                       | Seminar in Poland                        |                                           |                                           |                                           |                                           |
| 14.3.1.1.3,    | Methods of measurement of labour productivity                           | Report to Joint Committee by team of specialists |                                           |                                           |                                           |                                           |
| 14.3.1.1.4,    | Planning and management of forest operations                            |                                           |                                           | Seminar in............1/ on a topic to be proposed by co-ordinators to the thirteenth session |                                           |                                           |
| 14.3.1.1.5,    | Methods of payment                                                       | Preparation of report by team of specialists for submission to seminar               |                                           |                                           |                                           |                                           |

1/ Host country to be decided.
## ANNEX III

Tabular presentation of Timber Committee programme of work 1979-1983

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<td>14, 3, 1, 1, 6.</td>
<td>Review of standardization activities in the field of forestry machinery</td>
<td>Review by Joint Committee</td>
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<td>Standardization of concepts and terms used by the Joint Committee</td>
<td>Definitions to be prepared in connexion with each seminar</td>
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<td>14, 3, 1, 2, 1.</td>
<td>Development and use of logging machinery</td>
<td>Seminar on mechanization and techniques of thinning operations in France</td>
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<td>14, 3, 1, 2, 2.</td>
<td>Maintenance of forest machinery</td>
<td>Seminar on maintenance of forest machinery in large and small scale operations, in Sweden (subject to confirmation)</td>
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<td>Location and methods of primary roundwood conversion</td>
<td>Special discussion at the 13th session of the Joint Committee based on report by team of specialists</td>
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<td>14, 3, 1, 2, 4.</td>
<td>Terrain classification from the wood harvesting point of view</td>
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<td>14, 3, 1, 2, 5.</td>
<td>Compatibility of harvesting methods and equipment with silviculture and the environment</td>
<td>Report to Joint Committee by team of specialists</td>
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<td>14, 3, 1, 3, 1.</td>
<td>Vocational training in forestry</td>
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<td>Seminar in United Kingdom on selection of machine operators and assessment of suitability for specific jobs</td>
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<td>Report by ILO on basis of 1977 returns</td>
<td>Seminar in, ............1/ on the health, physical and mental capacities of forest workers and the demands of forest work, occupational diseases and rehabilitation of forest workers</td>
<td>Seminar/ training course in, ............1/</td>
<td>Seminar in, ............1/ in collaboration with ILO, and possibly IUFRO</td>
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<td>14, 3, 1, 3, 3.</td>
<td>Ergonomic problems applied to forestry</td>
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<td>14, 3, 1, 3, 4.</td>
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<td>14, 3, 1, 3, 5.</td>
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<td>Report to seminar (see 14, 3, 1, 3, 3.) by team of specialists</td>
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<td>14, 3, 3.</td>
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<td>14, 3, 4.</td>
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<td>Symposium in Finland</td>
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<td>14, 3, 7.</td>
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<td><strong>WORK AREA 14. 4: ENVIRONMENTAL AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION PROBLEMS</strong></td>
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<td>14, 4, 1.</td>
<td>Quantification and evaluation of the environmental benefits of forest</td>
<td>(Work to be linked with project 14, 5, 2, 4.)</td>
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<td>Symposium in USSR</td>
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<td>14.4.3</td>
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**WORK AREA 14.5: COLLECTION, EXCHANGE AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION, INCLUDING IMPROVEMENT AND HARMONIZATION OF STATISTICS**

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<tr>
<td>14.5.2.6</td>
<td>End-use statistics</td>
<td>Method of work to be determined by Joint Working Party at its twelfth session</td>
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<td>14.5.2.7</td>
<td>Forest fire statistics</td>
<td>Method of work to be determined by Joint Working Party at its twelfth session</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>14.5.3</td>
<td>Dissemination and exchange of general information and experience</td>
<td>Study tour in USSR</td>
<td>Study tour in USA (or in 1982)</td>
<td>Study tour in USA</td>
<td>Study tour in USA</td>
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1/ Host country to be decided.