

RESTRICTED

ECE/TIM/71
12 November 1993

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

TIMBER COMMITTEE
Fifty-first session

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION

EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION
Twenty-sixth-session

REPORT OF THE JOINT SESSION
Rome, Italy
(11-15 October 1993)

**Highlights of the joint session of the Timber Committee
and the FAO European Forestry Commission**

- ◆ The joint session attached the highest priority to sustainable development and the follow-up to UNCED, and decided that the work programmes of both bodies, and the subsidiary bodies should be reviewed from that point of view (paras. 13-20, 60-61, 66 and 70-74);
- ◆ The Committee and Commission will contribute to the follow-up to the Helsinki Ministerial Conference on the protection of Forests in Europe in close cooperation with the Liaison Unit set up by the Co-Chairmen Countries: detailed proposals are being prepared (para. 45);
- ◆ The joint session reviewed the policy implications of the recently issued Forest Resource Assessment (paras. 7-8);
- ◆ The joint session approved proposals to improve the system of collection and dissemination of statistics, arising from an in-depth review and an ad hoc meeting (paras. 34-35 and 65);
- ◆ The joint session endorsed the terms of references of the team of specialists on public relations in the forestry and forest industries sector (para. 38);
- ◆ The joint session agreed to start work on a study of the outlook for the non-wood goods and services of the forest (paras. 35 and 72);
- ◆ The joint session endorsed the programme of assistance to countries in transition, and agreed a team of specialists should monitor it at regular intervals (paras. 21-32);
- ◆ With regard to Commission decision I(48), the Timber Committee considered available resources were being used efficiently, and had no specific items to draw to the Commission's attention (para. 65).

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>
Introduction	1-4
Adoption of the Agenda	5
Arrangements for chairing the joint session	6
MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THE COMMISSION AND THE COMMITTEE	
Global Forest Resource Assessment 1990: implications for the forest and forest industry sector in the temperate zone	
(a) Main findings and policy implications of the temperate zone Forest Resource Assessment 1990	7-8
(b) Follow-up to the 1990 assessment and preparations for the Assessment 2000	9-12
Implications of UNCED (United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, June 1992)	13-20
Assistance to countries of central and eastern Europe in transition	21-32
Joint subsidiary bodies and other activities of common interest to the Commission and the Committee	
(a) Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training	33
(b) Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics	34-35
(c) Joint study tour to the United States in 1994	36
(d) European timber trends and prospects to the year 2000 and beyond (ETTS V)	37
(e) Public relations in the forestry and forest industries sector	38
(f) Study on long-term historical changes to the temperate forest resources: pilot study	39
(g) Tropical Forests Action Programme (TFAP)	40-44
(h) Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe	45
(i) Other international meetings and activities	46

	<u>Paragraphs</u>
Market developments in 1993 and prospects for 1994	47-48
EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION MATTERS	
(a) Matters arising from the eleventh session of the Committee on Forestry and the eighteenth FAO Regional Conference for Europe	49
(b) Follow-up on the conclusions and recommendations of the twenty-fifth session of the Commission	50
(c) AFWC/EFC/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> ; Mediterranean Forest Action Programme	51-52
(d) Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds	53-56
(e) Cooperation with other Commissions	57-58
(f) Programme of work of the European Forestry Commission	59-61
(g) Matters to be referred to the Committee on Forestry	62
(h) Election of officers	63
(i) Date and place of next session	64
TIMBER COMMITTEE MATTERS	
(a) Matters arising from the forty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Europe	65-66
(b) Activities of other Principal Subsidiary Bodies of ECE of concern to the Timber Committee	67
(c) Other activities under the Timber Committee	68
(d) Programme of work of the Timber Committee, 1994 to 1998	69-74
(e) Election of officers	75
(f) Date of next session	76
Other business of the Commission and the Committee	77
Adoption of the joint session report	78

ANNEXES

	<u>Page</u>
I. Timber Committee programme of work for 1994-1998	19
II. Rank order of programme elements in the Timber Committee programme of work for 1994-1998	36
III. Provisional list of meetings in 1994 and 1995 falling within the Timber Committee programme of work	38

Note: The text of the report of the joint session is also being reproduced by FAO in document FO:EFC/93/REP, with appendices containing the agenda, list of participants, list of documents and the programme of work of the European Forestry Commission.

INTRODUCTION

1. The ECE Timber Committee, for its fifty-first session, and the FAO European Forestry Commission, for its twenty-sixth session, met jointly in FAO headquarters, Rome, from 11 to 15 October 1993. The session was attended by representatives from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States of America.

2. The following intergovernmental organizations participated: European Community (EC), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

3. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: European Confederation of Woodworking Industries (CEI-BOIS), European Federation of Associations of Particle Board Manufacturers (FESYP), European Forest Institute (EFI), Greenpeace International, International Technical Association for Tropical Timber (ATIBT), and the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO).

4. The session was addressed by Mr C. H. Murray, Assistant Director-General and Head of the Forestry Department, on behalf of the Director-General, Mr Edouard Saouma, and by Mr J. Vercueil, Director of the Joint ECE/FAO Agriculture and Timber Division, Geneva, on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Mr Y. Berthelot.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Item 1 of the agenda)

5. The provisional agenda, as set out in document ECE/TIM/69; FO:EFC/93/1, was adopted.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHAIRING THE JOINT SESSION (Item 2 of the agenda)

6. The session agreed that the Chairman of the Timber Committee and the Chairman of the European Forestry Commission be co-chairmen of the joint session.

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THE COMMISSION AND THE COMMITTEE

GLOBAL FOREST RESOURCE ASSESSMENT 1990: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FOREST AND FOREST INDUSTRY SECTOR IN THE TEMPERATE ZONE (Item 3 of the agenda)
(TIM/R.220; FO:EFC/93/2)

- (a) Main findings and policy implications of the temperate zone Forest Resource Assessment 1990 (FRA-90) (TIM/R.221; FO:EFC/93/3)

7. The joint session based its discussion of this item on the secretariat note and on a paper by the European Forest Institute (EFI). The session thanked EFI for its contribution to the discussion and noted that all users would have free access to data which EFI would obtain from international organizations.

8. The conclusions of the debate were:

- the design of the enquiry needed to be expanded to address more specific policy questions and information needs of policy makers; in particular, the implications of the increasing interest in non-wood forest functions must be taken into account;
- forest cover in Europe was relatively stable, partly as a result of well enforced forest policies. Yet FRA-90 could only provide limited information on the quality and location of the resources which required also more attention in future assessments;
- the oversupply of wood in many countries made it urgent to develop new markets for wood, especially small-sized wood;
- forest owners should be encouraged to apply flexible, site specific, management strategies;
- forest management for meeting all the varied needs of society was not cheap: this should be taken into account by public policy makers. At the same time, all possible steps should be taken to reduce costs and increase incomes;
- the particular needs of the Mediterranean forests should continue to be addressed, notably through the Mediterranean Forest Action Plan and the work of Silva Mediterranea;
- it was important to inform, educate and involve the public in forest sector decision making.

(b) Follow-up to the 1990 assessment and preparations for the Assessment 2000 (TIM/R.222; FO:EFC/93/4)

9. The meeting commended FAO and ECE for the work done on the Forest Resource Assessment 1990, including the analysis made of the results and the identification of issues to be solved by future assessments. It emphasized that global forest resource assessment is a core activity of FAO's Forestry Department. It therefore welcomed the additional resources to be applied to this activity in the 1994-95 Programme of Work and Budget and recommended that FAO in the future continue to increase its funding to forestry.

10. The meeting noted that one of the main findings of the assessment for the industrialized countries was the increasing importance of all other functions of the forest as well as the timber producing one. It emphasized the need to introduce efficient indicators to measure the relevant factors, such as biodiversity and forest vitality.

11. The meeting took note of the proposals regarding the programme and technical modalities of future global forest resource assessments made by the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, based on the findings of the "Kotka II" meeting (FAO/ECE meeting of experts on forest resources held in Kotka (Finland) in May 1993 in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and with support of the Finnish

Government). The meeting requested the secretariats to take the necessary measures to refine and implement those proposals.

12. The meeting acknowledged that better comparability of data generated by forest resource assessments in the various regions of the world was of paramount importance. It gave general support to seeking agreement world-wide on concepts and classifications for global forest resource assessments. To ensure that these assessments take fully into account the information needs of policy-makers, it encouraged better use of COFO, the regional forestry commissions and the Timber Committee as sources of advice.

IMPLICATIONS OF UNCED (UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, RIO DE JANEIRO, JUNE 1992) (Item 4 of the agenda) (TIM/R.223; FO:EFC/93/5)

13. The meeting emphasized that UNCED had stressed the need for all countries to prepare national forestry action plans and that the implementation of UNCED follow-up programmes was the responsibility of national governments. In this context major forestry issues in Europe included the increased availability of land for forestry, over-production of wood, forest damages and heightened interest in non-wood forest products, functions and services.

14. After having been informed of ongoing and planned activities of FAO, as a response to UNCED in forestry, the meeting reiterated the call of other fora for FAO to strengthen its role in the implementation of UNCED decisions.

15. The meeting was informed that FAO was requested to deal with land issues in an integrated manner as called for in UNCED Agenda 21, especially chapters 10 to 14. It also noted the decision of the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD) to assign to FAO responsibilities in these areas as "task manager".

16. Several delegations emphasized that the necessary involvement in UNCED follow-up activities should lead to a re-consideration of priorities in FAO's future work programme with a reduction of efforts in other areas. One delegation, however, informed that it would make available more extra-budgetary resources for forestry and encouraged other delegations to consider doing likewise.

17. The meeting supported the recommendation of COFO to enhance the role of the FAO regional forestry commissions in support of coordination, monitoring and reporting on national progress achieved in UNCED follow-up implementation in forestry. It underlined the need for inter-regional consultations and exchange of information. It noted, however, that not all regional forestry commissions were at the same level of efficacy and that further support and strengthening of the activities of some regional commissions might be required.

18. The meeting was informed of the outcome of the second Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (Helsinki, June 1993). This conference had again discussed in Europe issues of sustainable management of forests at inter-ministerial level. The Helsinki and the preceding Strasbourg conferences were seen as a "political motor". The resolutions emanating from

these two conferences represented an appropriate follow-up to UNCED within the European context. These two ministerial conferences had provided appropriate fora for forest policy development and several countries had already embarked on major policy reviews and changes in the forestry sector. The meeting endorsed the proposal, by the three countries responsible for the coordination of follow-up work (Finland, Austria and Portugal), for the establishment and activities of a "Liaison Unit". This work should be carried out in close collaboration with existing international organizations without overlap or duplication in activities (see para. 45).

19. The meeting was also informed about the outcome of the seminar of experts on sustainable development of boreal and temperate forests (Montreal, September 1993) under the sponsorship of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). It welcomed this initiative as a further contribution to the discussion of sustainable development in the forest sector, and to follow up the process of UNCED and the Helsinki Conference and an important contribution to the integration of environmental considerations and socio economic aspects of development. The representative of Canada asked delegates to consider the outcome of the CSCE meeting of technical experts when developing their own criteria for the conservation, use and sustainable development of their own forests.

20. The meeting paid tribute to Finland and Canada for having taken the initiative to host the Helsinki and Montreal meetings.

ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE IN TRANSITION (Item 5 of the agenda) (TIM/R.224; FO:EFC/93/6)

21. The meeting was informed of the activities that had been carried out in accordance with the programme of assistance to the economies in transition in central and eastern Europe (programme element 9.5.1). Many countries stressed the importance of this activity and provided useful proposals and recommendations on its development. A number of delegations expressed appreciation for the work done and readiness to support it practically.

22. The meeting was informed of the most important aspects of the development of the forestry and timber industry sector, problems encountered and needs for international assistance required in the process of reforms on the basis of the reports that a number of countries (10) had made available before the joint session, supplemented by oral statements.

23. The meeting considered the programme which included country profiles, workshops and consideration in ETTS V. FAO was also contributing, notably in the field of institutions and policies.

24. The delegation of Poland informed the meeting of the results of the workshop on forming new forestry law in countries of central and eastern Europe in transition (Poland, 27 September-1 October 1993).

25. The delegation of the Czech Republic confirmed the proposal of the Ministry of Agriculture to organize the workshops on evaluation of forest benefits through a total evaluation of production, environmental and social functions of forests (September 1994) and on the effect of global climate change on boreal and temperate forests (October 1994).

26. The meeting took note that a workshop would be organized jointly by the Government of Austria and FAO on the management and economics of forest operations (July 1994).

27. The observer from the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO) expressed willingness and readiness to cooperate in the area of assistance to countries in transition.

28. The delegation of the Slovak Republic confirmed the proposal of his government to organize the workshop on institution building, framework conditions and policy infrastructure for sustainable development of the forestry sector under market economy conditions in spring 1994.

29. As regards the general outline of the programme, the meeting considered that it should continue to address the specific areas where FAO/ECE had relevant experience, notably institutional changes, sustainable management, privatization, etc., and keep close to countries' needs and priorities, as expressed notably in the report of the informal meeting on strategies for assistance to countries in transition (Ossiach, Austria, October 1992) which was endorsed by EFC. The joint session noted that it had been proposed that FAO/ECE be responsible for the implementation of Helsinki resolution H3, which should also guide activities in this field.

30. The joint session was informed that a considerable part of the resources devoted to the programme came from extra-budgetary sources (both transition and market economy countries). The scope of the programme was effectively limited by the availability of resources.

31. The joint session endorsed the proposal that the team of specialists on assistance to countries of central and eastern Europe in transition, set up in accordance with the decision of the fiftieth session of the Timber Committee, should periodically review (two-three years) the whole programme of assistance to ensure it was in accordance with countries' needs and effective and efficient.

32. The joint session thanked all those who contributed to the programme, notably the authorities of the countries which had hosted meetings and workshops.

JOINT SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES OF COMMON INTEREST TO THE COMMISSION AND THE COMMITTEE (Item 6 of the agenda) (TIM/R.225; FO:EFC/93/7)

(a) Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training (TIM/EFC/WP.1/22)

33. The joint session was informed of the results of the nineteenth session of the Joint Committee which had taken place in Italy in September-October 1992, on the basis of its report which it endorsed, subject to the comments below. It took note of the conclusions and recommendations of the Joint Committee seminars, as presented in document TIM/EFC/WP.1/R.109/Rev.1. It thanked Italy and all the countries which had hosted seminars, workshops or other Joint Committee activities. It stressed the importance of improved dissemination of the results of the Joint Committee's programmes and urged that it be selective in its choice of activities which should accord with the

priorities set by the EFC and the Timber Committee. The Joint Committee should review its programme in the light of UNCED and the Helsinki resolutions. It welcomed the Joint Committee's decision to carry out a review of its objectives and methods of work on the basis of the report of a task force. It was informed of the preliminary recommendations of the task force and of the general results of a survey of national opinion, but expressed disappointment that it was not intended to notify the information to the parent bodies until after the Joint Committee meeting in November 1994.

(b) Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics
(TIM/EFC/WP.2/23)

34. The report of the nineteenth session of the Working Party (Geneva, 7-9 June 1993) was presented by its Chairman. The meeting noted the recommendations of the working party on forest resource assessment, collection and dissemination of statistics, productivity and profitability of the forest sector, the fifth study of European timber trends and prospects, assistance to countries in transition, and progress in the collection of statistics on conversion factors and forest fires.

35. The meeting endorsed the report of the session. In particular, while stressing the importance of maintaining a high quality of statistical reporting, it welcomed the recommendation to streamline statistical publications by dropping quarterly data and utilizing UN Statistical Office COMTRADE data, as the basis for trade statistics. The importance of end use statistics was stressed. On the matter of forest resource assessments, the meeting agreed with the emphasis given by the Working Party to the importance of compatibility in approach and core information in the temperate, boreal and tropical assessments, and supported the continuation of a flexible process of consultations at the technical and policy levels to achieve these objectives. The meeting emphasized the importance of the study on the outlook for non-wood goods and services but considered that this should follow ETTS V when resources could be made available.

(c) Joint study tour to the United States in 1994 (TIM/R.226;
FO:EFC/93/8)

36. The joint session was informed that it had been necessary to postpone the tour for one year to 1995.

(d) European timber trends and prospects to the year 2000 and beyond
(ETTS V) (TIM/R.227; FO:EFC/93/9)

37. The meeting reviewed preparations on the basis of secretariat note and approved the outline presented. It drew attention to the important effects of increased recycling of paper; the long-term consequences of this development should be the first subject to be examined by the team of specialists established by the Timber Committee in 1992; the results of this review should be incorporated into chapter VII of ETTS V. It was also suggested that a contribution by EFI to ETTS V be considered; the secretariat made it clear that while it was grateful to EFI for the contributions already made it would not establish an institutionally privileged relationship with EFI without a mandate to this effect by member countries and within a precise framework.

- (e) Public relations in the forestry and forest industries sector
(TIM/R.228; FO:EFC/93/10)

38. The report of the first meeting of the FAO/ECE team of public relations specialists in the forestry and forest industries sector was presented. In noting its suggested terms of reference and programme of work, the meeting expressed support and encouraged Government ministries to nominate experts to the team which should focus on activities such as the "public relations toolkit" for countries that wished to use it (a set of notes guiding best practices in public relations). The work of the team should be time limited and be in any case reviewed in 1995. France was commended for the excellent arrangements for the team's successful first meeting and Sweden offered to host the next meeting of the team in May 1994.

- (f) Study on long-term historical changes to the temperate forest resources: pilot study (TIM/R.229 and Add.1; FO:EFC/93/11 and Add. 1)

39. The joint session was informed of progress on the pilot study consisting of country reports by seven countries and a synthesis by Mr G. A. Morin (France). It was agreed that countries would be asked to comment, especially on the synthesis, and to contribute further studies if they considered it appropriate. The secretariat should finalize and issue the document, taking account of comments and contributions. The joint session thanked the authors of the country reports and Mr Morin for their very interesting work.

- (g) Tropical Forests Action Programme (TFAP) (TIM/R.230;
FO:EFC/93/12)

40. On the basis of the secretariat note the joint session was informed of major developments regarding TFAP since its twenty-fifth session, in particular the completion of the revamping process. The process resulted in a country-driven, multidisciplinary and participatory approach to the formulation and implementation of national forestry action plans, which should include policy and institutional reforms. The meeting was also informed of FAO's lead role in this regard, which included the production and wide dissemination of revised operational principles, as well as extensive training of national coordinators.

41. The joint session noted the difficulties being faced by many countries which had embarked on TFAP at the time of implementing their NFAPs because of the slow flow of external funding. Some donors stated that they would provide bilateral funding for assisting countries in strengthening their capacity. A large number of countries emphasized that FAO needed to provide continued inputs to national TFAP initiatives within its assigned functions of international liaison and information dissemination, technical support and operational assistance. To meet these demands FAO should give higher resource allocations to its TFAP activities.

42. The joint session was briefed on FAO's close cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in implementing Capacity 21, the capacity building programme undertaken as a follow-up to UNCED, and in particular on the creation of a "forestry window" within it. To date, however, this programme had not attracted significant donor commitments.

43. The joint session agreed with the proposed regionalization of support activities in line with the emphasis on country-driven implementation. However, it stressed the need to keep a critical mass of resources at the TFAP Coordinating Unit at FAO Headquarters in order to ensure international liaison, information and interregional activities.

44. The joint session was informed of preparations under way to convene the Consultative Group on TFAP, recently established by the Council. One country urged that extra-budgetary resources be made available in order to allow for convening the first meeting of the Group.

(h) Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe
(TIM/R.225/Add.1; FO:EFC/93/7/Add.1)

45. The meeting was informed of the results of this Conference by Mr Patosaari (Finland), on behalf of the Conference Co-Chairmen, and welcomed this important event. It also supported the proposals for follow-up action, which aimed to use existing international structures whenever possible. In particular, it noted that it was proposed that there be close cooperation between the Liaison Unit for the Conference follow-up and the FAO/ECE secretariat. The Liaison Unit would report on the implementation of the Helsinki resolutions to the regular sessions of the EFC and the Timber Committee. Similar reporting would be ensured by the various bodies responsible for follow-up to the Strasbourg Conference. The secretariat was requested to follow up and prepare detailed proposals in close cooperation with the Liaison Unit. Delegates were invited to comment in writing on Mr Patosaari's proposals. It was agreed that the secretariat should continue to keep in contact with those non-governmental organisations participating in this work.

(i) Other international meetings and activities

46. None

MARKET DEVELOPMENTS IN 1993 AND PROSPECTS FOR 1994 (Item 7 of the agenda)
(TIM/R.231; FO:EFC/93/13)

47. The joint session's discussion on the forest products markets was based on national reports and statistics, countries' estimates for 1993 and 1994 and the secretariat's Annual Forest Products Market Review (Volume XLVI, N° 3, of the Timber Bulletin). The Committee approved a statement on the market for issue as a press release and for inclusion, together with estimates for 1993 and 1994 and other tabular material, in Forest Products Markets in 1993 and Prospects for 1994 (Volume XLVI, N° 5, of the Timber Bulletin).

48. In view of the importance of developments for waste paper on forest products markets, it was suggested to include a question on this in the Timber Committee questionnaires. The secretariat agreed to explore this possibility, taking into account the other sources of information on waste paper, notably the FAO Advisory Committee on Pulp and Paper.

EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION MATTERS (Item 8 of the agenda)

- (a) Matters arising from the eleventh session of the Committee on Forestry and the eighteenth FAO Regional Conference for Europe
(FO:EFC/93/14)

49. The Commission took note of the document concerning matters arising from the eleventh session of the Committee on Forestry and the eighteenth FAO Regional Conference for Europe.

- (b) Follow-up on the conclusions and recommendations of the twenty-fifth session of the Commission (FO:EFC/93/15)

50. The Commission noted the follow-up action taken in response to the recommendations of its twenty-fifth session.

- (c) AFWC/EFC/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - Silva Mediterranea; Mediterranean Forest Action Programme
(FO:EFC/93/16)

51. The Commission was informed of the activities of the AFWC/EFC/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - Silva Mediterranea, which is a common statutory body of the European Forestry Commission, the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission and the Near East Forestry Commissions. These activities included mainly those of its six research networks and the formulation of the Mediterranean Forest Action Programme.

52. The Commission welcomed the formulation of the Mediterranean Forest Action Programme to serve as a framework to the countries to implement national (or sub-national) forestry action plans and as a response to recommendations made at several international meetings (Near East Forestry Commission, Tunis, 1987, Silva Mediterranea, Athens, 1989, and the World Forestry Congress, Paris, 1991). Two delegations expressed interest in supporting financially the implementation of the Programme. One of these countries stated its support was conditional on the participation of other countries. The Commission adopted the report of the fifteenth session of Silva Mediterranea held in Faro (Portugal) from 16 to 20 March 1992.

- (d) Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds
(FO:EFC/93/17)

53. The Commission was informed of the results of the eighteenth session of the EFC Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds which, together with a study tour, was held at Oberstdorf (Germany) in June 1992.

54. The major items discussed were: geographical information systems and data management systems and their application in watershed management; risk zoning and early warning systems; advances in torrent hydraulics; mountain ecosystems with protective functions with special regard to mountain forests; and follow-up to Resolution 4 of the Strasbourg Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe "Adapting the management of mountain forests to new environmental conditions".

55. The nineteenth session will be held in Jaca (Spain) from 4 to 8 July 1994. The main items on the agenda will be a FAO/IUFRO symposium on flash floods in mountain areas, the application of geographic information systems, torrent hydraulics and implementation of Resolution 4 of the Strasbourg Ministerial Conference.

56. The Commission approved the report of the Working Party and appreciated the initiatives taken especially by the Czech Republic in the increased involvement of eastern European countries in the activities of the Working Party.

(e) Cooperation with other Commissions

57. The Chairman of the North American Forestry Commission (NAFC), described its organization, role and activities, mentioning that it worked through a series of study groups on forest fires, tree improvement, multi-lingual vocabulary, light-frame structures, forest engineering, silviculture, insects and diseases, and the effects of atmospheric pollution. Subjects under consideration, for inclusion in the NAFC programme, included global issues such as UNCED follow-up as well as the North American Free Trade Area, migratory species, ecological reserves and climate change.

58. In view of the high degree of common interest in the subjects addressed, the Commission recommended close cooperation between the two Commissions and warmly accepted the invitation to the Chairman of EFC to attend the next session of NAFC. It further recommended that the cooperation between the two Commissions be a regular item on its own agenda.

(f) Programme of work of the European Forestry Commission
(FO:EFC/93/18)

59. The Commission reviewed its programme on the basis of the draft presented by the secretariat (FO:EFC/93/18), which took into account the work programmes of the subsidiary bodies, discussed under other agenda items. A number of countries considered the programme too full taking into account the limits on resources in the secretariat and member countries. It was considered essential to maintain, and if possible improve, the quality of the work carried out, which could be endangered if the resources available were insufficient for the programme approved. Some delegations considered it necessary to assign priorities to the different parts of the programme. Two delegations indicated that their highest priority would go to main areas I and III (the Commission itself and the statistics and economics).

60. The Commission attached top priority to its work relating to sustainable development in the areas covered by the Commission. It was noted that many of the Commission's present activities were in fact aimed at furthering sustainable development, although this was not clear in the presentation of the programme. Top priority should be given to developing a closer link between the Commission's programme and the UNCED and Helsinki processes. In addition, a specific programme element should be devoted to the reporting and liaison functions assigned to the Commission with regard to the UNCED and Helsinki follow-up processes.

61. In view of the fact that a comprehensive review of the programme to take account of the points made was not possible during the session, but that changes should be effective before the meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) in June 1995, the Commission endorsed the draft presented but asked the secretariat to prepare a revised version, taking account of the comments made, for the consideration of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee was authorised to make final decisions on the programme to be implemented before the next session of the Commission in 1995.

(g) Matters to be referred to the Committee on Forestry

62. The Commission decided that the following matters should be referred to the Committee on Forestry:

- the recommendation to ensure comparability of information between assessments for the temperate and boreal forests and the tropical forests as well as consistent presentation of results at the global level;
- the main policy implications of the forest resource assessment (temperate zone) (see para. 8);
- the recommendation to develop appropriate criteria for monitoring of sustainability and biodiversity;
- the recommendation on the enhanced role of the Commission in support of the UNCED follow-up and the close collaboration with the co-chairmen in the follow-up to the Helsinki Ministerial Conference;
- the Committee on Forestry should also be informed of the initiative on public relations in forestry and the development of a "toolkit" guiding best practice in public relations for the forest sector.

(h) Election of officers

63. The Commission elected the following to hold office until its next session:

Chairman:	Mr K. Rykowski (Poland)
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr J. Heino (Finland)
	Mr J. Casquilho (Portugal)
	Mr W. Sheridan (United Kingdom)

(i) Date and place of next session

64. The Commission warmly accepted the invitation of Turkey to host its next session in early March 1995.

TIMBER COMMITTEE MATTERS (Item 9 of the agenda)

(a) Matters arising from the forty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Europe (TIM/R.232)

65. The Committee was informed of the discussions of its work by the Commission and of the Commission decisions at its forty-eighth session. With regard to decision I(48), it noted that it had no draft decisions or amendments to its mandate for consideration by the Commission. With regard to its programme of work (see paras. 69-74), it had been possible to carry out the programme with the available resources, although some delays had occurred. It considered that resources available were being used efficiently. The programme of work and calendar of meetings are annexed. The activities of other ECE PSBs were taken into account when drawing up the programme of work, but the major effective cooperation is with FAO, as typified by the joint session. The in-depth review of its publications had been carried out by an *ad hoc* meeting and the Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, with the support of the secretariat of the Conference of European Statisticians.

66. In response to decision F(48) - Cooperation in the field of environment and sustainable development - the Timber Committee noted that sustainable development was a constant dimension of its activities, reflected in all parts of its programme. It decided to contribute to assessing progress in implementing Agenda 21 at the regional level in the area of interest of the Committee, and to that effect:

- to review its whole programme in the light of sustainable development according to modalities laid down above;
- to invite its subsidiary bodies to report on their activities that contribute to implementing Agenda 21 and to examine whether any activities should be reoriented or new ones developed in the light of Agenda 21.

(b) Activities of other Principal Subsidiary Bodies of ECE of concern to the Timber Committee (TIM/R.233)

67. The Committee was informed of these activities, and took them into account when drawing up its programme.

(c) Other activities under the Timber Committee (TIM/R.234)

68. None (subjects treated under other agenda items).

(d) Programme of work of the Timber Committee, 1994 to 1998 (TIM/R.235)

69. The Committee considered its draft programme of work for 1994-1998, prepared by the secretariat on the basis of the relevant decisions of the Commission, the Committee's previous programme, the programmes of its subsidiary bodies and the recommendations of seminars and teams of specialists. The Committee was also informed of the availability of secretariat resources to carry out its programme.

70. The Committee agreed that the highest priority should be given to contributing to sustainable development in the region, and to supporting the UNCED and Helsinki follow-up processes. The Committee requested the secretariat, in close cooperation with the office holders, to review the programme from this point of view and make proposals which would ensure that the objectives of sustainable development as defined at UNCED and the Helsinki Conference are fully taken into account. Subject to this review, it approved its programme of work for 1994-1998, as set out in annex I. This review should be undertaken in harmony with the review of the EFC programme referred to above (paras. 59-61) and in accordance with Commission decision F(48).

71. The Committee agreed that the two subsidiary bodies should also be asked to review their work programmes in the light of sustainable development, and to take into account the orientation to this effect contained in the proposals to be formulated for the programmes of the two parent bodies. These proposals should be transmitted to the bureaux of the Joint Committee and the Working Party as soon as they have been approved by the office holders.

72. The Committee urged the secretariat, in cooperation with the lead countries, to convene the planned meetings of the teams on wood and energy; on development of new products, recycling, markets and applications for forest products; and on the outlook for non-wood goods and services as soon as possible.

73. The Committee considered that wood energy questions were becoming increasingly important and complex in many countries. The team of experts on wood and energy should be reactivated, with the initial objective of advising the secretariat on the discussion of these topics in ETTS V. Thereafter the team should propose further activities, and consider common activities or even merging with the team on development of new products, recycling, markets and applications for forest products, given the interaction of the two questions (burning of wood or paper as an alternative to recycling).

74. The Committee reviewed the rank ordering of its programme elements, and agreed to make the following changes to the list in TIM/R.235, annex II:

1. Insert in first place new project 9.4.1 (UNCED and Helsinki); and
2. Insert former 9.4.1 Use of wood for energy after 9.5.1 Activities to assist countries in transition to a market economy.

The Committee was informed that the secretariat considered it was in a position to carry out the full programme: the priorities would serve as guidance if, for unforeseen reasons, this were not possible.

(e) Election of officers

75. The Committee agreed that its office holders should continue to comprise a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen. In the interests of continuity, the outgoing Chairman should serve as Vice-Chairman after his term of office as Chairman. The Committee elected Mr. Lipman (Russian Federation) Chairman and Messrs Darr (USA) and Siegel (Austria) Vice-Chairmen, to hold office until the end of the fifty-second session. It expressed its thanks to the outgoing office-holders for their contribution to its work.

(f) Date of next session

76. The Committee agreed that it's next session should be held from 10-14 October 1994, subject to the availability of conference services.

OTHER BUSINESS OF THE COMMISSION AND THE COMMITTEE (Item 10 of the agenda)

77. The joint session noted that it had been difficult to absorb all the contents of the heavy volume of documentation for the session. It invited the secretariat to provide, on the front page of all documents,

1. A very brief summary of the contents; and
2. An indication of what action or decision was required.

ADOPTION OF THE JOINT SESSION REPORT (Item 11 of the agenda)

78. The Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission adopted the present report of their joint session.

ANNEX I

TIMBER COMMITTEE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1994-1998

PROGRAMME 9 - TIMBER

This programme is carried out by the Timber Committee and its subsidiary bodies. The Committee meets annually, usually in October. In addition to the activities specified under the individual programme elements or sub-elements, the Committee furthers the dissemination and exchange of information and experience by organizing study tours at the invitation of the Governments concerned: in the United States in 1995.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 9.1. ANALYSIS OF DEVELOPMENTS FOR FORESTRY AND FOREST PRODUCTS IN THE LONG-, MEDIUM- AND SHORT-TERM

9.1.1. Appraisal of long-term timber trends and prospects

Description: The Committee keeps under review and up-dates projections and forecasts of long-term trends in production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products, comparing them with projections made in previous long-term studies. The studies provide Governments with the latest projections and forecasts of long-term prospects at the regional and sub-regional level as a framework for national studies and as a basis for drawing up national policies for the forest and forest products sector. Amongst other factors, the Committee's analyses take into account the impact of air pollution on the forestry and forest products sector, including the prospects for future wood supply.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: Work continues on preparation of the next major study of long-term trends and prospects in Europe (ETTS V), scheduled for completion in the mid-1990s. The mandate of the study is given in ECE/TIM/49, paras. 48-54. A team of specialists advises the secretariat on the study, notably as regards methodology and data. An ad hoc meeting on the policy context and a workshop with FAO on the outlook for the countries in transition (Florence, Italy), will be held in 1994. A draft will be presented for review to an ad hoc meeting in February 1995, revised in the light of comments and then published. This programme element is carried out jointly with the FAO European Forestry Commission.

Duration: Continuing.

9.1.2. Medium-term trends in industry structure and markets in specific forest products sectors

Description: The Committee reviews medium-term (3-5 years) trends in the production, consumption, trade and prices of major forest products and the structure and capacity of the sawmilling and wood-based panels industries, so that governments may be continuously informed of structural trends in the forest products sectors of the ECE region. The medium-term surveys allow recent trends to be compared with the projections made in the long-term studies (programme element 9.1.1.) and provide early warning to Governments of deviations from expected developments.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: Medium-term surveys are carried out on a 3-year rotation of the following sectors: wood-based panels; sawnwood and sawlogs; wood raw material, notably pulpwood, and wood for energy. These surveys incorporate the results of surveys of the structure and capacity of major sectors. The surveys of the structure and capacity of the wood-based panels industries as well as the survey of trends in wood-based panels are carried out on a 3-year cycle (1996, 1999, etc.), and the survey of the structure of the sawmilling industry on a 6-year cycle (next in 1997). The survey on trends of wood raw material, notably pulpwood, and wood for energy will be published in 1994.

Duration: Continuing.

9.1.3. Review of short-term forest products market developments and prospects

Description: The Committee analyses, on a continuous basis, short-term trends in the production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products and forecasts 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.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The annual session of the Timber Committee reviews short-term trends and prospects in the production, trade and consumption of coniferous and broadleaved (including tropical) logs and sawnwood, wood-based panels and pulpwood, on the basis of estimates and other market information prepared by delegations for the year in progress and the forthcoming year. An analysis of market trends, based on the Committee's discussions, is published after the session as an issue of the Timber Bulletin (see 9.2.1). The Annual Forest Products Market Review prepared by the secretariat is also published as an issue of the Timber Bulletin. A study, in co-operation with ITTO, on North American tropical timber markets will be undertaken when the necessary funds are allocated by ITTO and the Committee secretariat is fully staffed.

Duration: Continuing.

9.1.4. Outlook for the non-wood goods and services of the forest

Description: The Committee, in close cooperation with the FAO European Forestry Commission, may decide to carry out a study on the outlook for non-wood goods and services.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The Working Party prepared proposals for a study on the outlook for non-wood goods and services, on the basis of the results of an ad hoc meeting in February 1993. A team of specialists will be convened and prepare proposals on the scope and methods of a study for the next session of the Working Party.

Duration: Five years, 1993-1998.

9.1.5. Trends, prospects and policies in forestry and forest products in southern Europe

Description: The forest and forest industry policy and environmental problems facing countries in the Mediterranean area are reviewed in the light of the long-term outlook for their forest economies.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: Further activities to be determined at the fifty-second session.

Duration: To be determined.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 9.2. COLLECTION, DISSEMINATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF FOREST AND FOREST PRODUCTS STATISTICS

This programme activity is carried out under the auspices of the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics which meets biennially (in 1995, in 1997, etc.) with five formal half-day sessions as decided by the forty-seventh session of the Commission. It cooperates with the Conference of European Statisticians. The Working Party is also responsible for some programme elements under other programme activities.

9.2.1. Collection of forest products statistics and publication of the Timber Bulletin

Description: The Working Party collects 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. This programme element is associated with some of the activities in programme element 9.2.2.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The Timber Bulletin provides regular statistics on production, removals, trade (total and by origin and destination), and prices of forest products, the Annual Forest Products Market Review, and the estimates of the Committee for the current and forthcoming year (see programme element 9.1.3.). The format of the Bulletin will be revised in accordance with the Working Party's recommendations, based on the results of an ad hoc meeting in February 1993. Forest and forest products country profiles are prepared by the secretariat, in collaboration with FAO and the Governments of the countries concerned, and published.

Duration: Continuing.

9.2.2. Improvement of the quality of forest and forest products statistics (including their collection and dissemination systems)

Description: The Working Party periodically reviews the quality of the forest and forest products data collected under ECE and FAO auspices and the Committee's programme for the collection and dissemination of statistical data, to ensure that it corresponds with the needs of Governments, and makes recommendations as appropriate. The dissemination system makes available statistical data to Governments and experts by means of ECE/FAO publications, including the Timber Bulletin (see programme element 9.2.1.), and by electronic media such as computer diskettes and direct access to the ECE data base through the AXIS system.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken:

(a) Regular review of collection and data systems: The Working Party formulates proposals for improving the Committee's programme of collection and dissemination of statistical data, with regard to its organization, method of collection, periodicity, and the improvement of the accuracy and comparability of data obtained from and used by Governments. An ad hoc meeting in February 1993 (held in conjunction with an informal meeting of those responsible for filling in FAO/ECE questionnaires) reviewed the system of collection and dissemination of statistics and made recommendations. The system will be modified as agreed by the Working Party;

(b) Classification and definitions: The Working Party will make recommendations as appropriate, as regards the classification and definitions in the field of forest products, to improve the comparability of data and the usefulness of the statistical system as a whole. At its twentieth session the Working Party will agree on a timetable for revision of the FAO/ECE Classification and Definitions of Forest Products;

(c) International multi-sector classifications: The secretariat will consult with the bodies responsible for international multi-sector classifications (e.g. HS, PRODCOM, CPC) in order to ensure that the interests of the wood products sector are recognised;

(d) Cooperation with other international organizations: The ECE/FAO secretariat will explore with other organizations that are collecting or planning to collect statistics and managing or preparing data bases, notably the Commission of the European Communities and EUROSTAT, the possibilities for cooperation to avoid duplication, reduce the workload of reporting agencies and to ensure comparability of the information. The secretariat will report to the Working Party's sessions on this question, with proposals for cooperation if appropriate;

(e) Conversion factors: The Working Party reviews at four-yearly intervals (1997, 2001, etc.) conversion factors (raw material input/product output) communicated by Governments in reply to a questionnaire. Preliminary results of the 1993 enquiry were presented to the Working Party's nineteenth session, and will be published.

Duration: Continuing.

9.2.3. Forest resource assessment

Description: The Working Party will collect and publish data on the forest resources of the ECE region, including both (a) general forest inventory data (e.g. area, growing stock, increment and drain) and (b) environmental and other non-wood benefits of the forest. This information is an essential basis for policy-making, planning and analysis at the national and international levels. The work will be carried out in close cooperation with FAO and the results integrated into FAO's global assessments. Developed countries outside the region are also covered in the temperate-zone assessments, which will be repeated at approximately 10 yearly intervals.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken:

(a) Forest resource assessment (temperate zone) 1990: The results of the Forest Resource Assessment (temperate-zone) 1990 were published in 1992/93;

(b) Participation in the global forest resource assessment: The Working Party will be responsible for overseeing work on the temperate and boreal forests in the context of the global forest resource assessment. At its nineteenth session the Working Party reviewed the proposals of the FAO/ECE meeting of experts at Kotka (Finland) in May 1993 and made a number of proposals. A team of specialists on forest resource assessment will be convened to lead the work on this subject, notably by generating recommendations on concepts, definitions and methods. The team will report on progress to the Working Party's sessions;

(c) Study of long-term historical changes of the forest resource: A study on the long-term historical changes of the forest resource in the developed temperate-zone countries will be undertaken in cooperation (subject to confirmation) with the FAO North American Forestry Commission and IUFRO. The Working Party's nineteenth session reviewed the preliminary results of a pilot study based on reports by selected countries, prepared by the secretariat with consultant help, and presented to the joint session of the Committee and the Commission in October 1993. The study will be issued in accordance with the decision of the Joint Session;

(d) Forest resources of newly constituted countries: The secretariat has circulated to the authorities of some countries constituted since the carrying out of the 1990 Assessment an abbreviated enquiry. It will publish the information obtained as a supplement to the full Assessment.

Duration: Continuing.

9.2.4. Forest fire statistics

Description: The Working Party engages in the exchange of information on forest fires, their causes and methods of prevention and protection and the costs involved. Cooperation is maintained with the Commission of the European Communities on matters related to forest fire statistics. The Working Party provides technical support to the follow-up work on the resolution 3, Decentralised European data bank on forest fires, of the Strasbourg Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, notably by issuing the results.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: Annual enquiries on forest fires are circulated and the results are published.

Duration: Continuing.

9.2.5. Productivity in the forest sector

Description: The Working Party collects statistics on and analyses trends in productivity in the forest sector. The purpose is to provide information on the inputs of labour, capital, raw materials and energy in relation to outputs, to Governments and other decision-makers to assist in their policies towards the forest sector and in finding the appropriate solutions to technical and economic problems.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: A study on productivity and profitability in the forest industries, reviewed by the Working Party, will be finalised and issued. The Working Party will consider at its twenty-first session whether the study should be repeated. In the meantime, countries are urged to carry out similar studies at a national level, with the cooperation if required of Mr. M. Simula, leader of the team on this subject. The secretariat will also monitor developments in this field and present a brief report to the twenty first session.

Duration: As determined by the Working Party.

9.2.6. Transfer of economic and statistical methods and experience in the forest and forest products sector

Description: The Working Party contributes to the building up of statistical services in countries inside and outside the ECE region through the transfer of know-how and experience in methods of data collection, assembly and dissemination in the forest and forest products sector.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: Participation of experts from other regions in Working Party activities is encouraged, for example in programme element 9.2.2.(b), Classification and definitions. An ad hoc meeting on non-wood goods and services of forests will be held, subject to a country offering the necessary facilities (linked with programme elements 9.1.4. and 9.2.3.). Arrangements are provided for interested experts in developing countries to receive Working Party documentation.

Duration: Continuing.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 9.3. FOREST TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING

This programme activity covers the activities of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training, which normally meets biennially (1994, 1996, etc.), with meetings of its Steering Committee in the intervening years. 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 forest operations. Special attention is given to the development and implementation of multiple use forest planning and general management aspects; increasing the efficiency of labour, the reduction of the physical efforts of the worker and prevention of accidents; the reduction of waste; and the establishment of an adequate balance between technical, social and economic requirements and protection of the environment.

The Joint Committee also contributes to programme activity 9.5.: Assistance to the economies in transition in central and eastern Europe; and to programme element 9.6.1.: Problems in the forestry and forest industry sector arising from radiation contamination, particularly from the Chernobyl disaster.

9.3.1. Silvicultural operations and general management aspects

9.3.1.1. Development and use of methods and equipment for silvicultural operations, including stand establishment and multiple use forestry

Description: The Joint Committee promotes the exchange of information and furthers silvicultural methods and techniques which do not damage the forest ecosystem and which take account of the multiple use of forests by regularly reviewing machines and techniques applied in silviculture, including afforestation and reforestation, with a view to assisting Governments in these fields.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken:

- (a) Seminars are held at intervals on selected items: on forest seed collection, treatment and storage (year and host country to be decided); on afforestation techniques on abandoned agricultural land in 1994 in Poland; on multiple use forestry in 1995 (host country to be decided).
- (b) The team of specialists on a Model Forest Damage Manual held its third meeting in February 1991 and has nearly completed the Manual which will be published as soon as possible.
- (c) A team of specialists on afforestation techniques on agricultural land has been established to draw up the programme for a seminar in 1994 in Poland.
- (d) A team of specialists on site damage risks has been established to draw up proposals for the implementation of the recommendations of the seminars held in Belgium in 1989 and in the Federal Republic of Germany in 1990. The results of the team's work will be presented to the Joint Committee's twentieth session. The team will hold a workshop jointly with IUFRO on Soil, tree, machine interactions in forest operations in Germany, in 1994.

(e) A team of specialists on multiple use forestry has been established to draw up proposals for the implementation of the recommendations of the seminar on the future of the forestry workforce (1992, United States).

Duration: (a) Continuing; (b) four years 1990-1993; (c) and (d) four years 1991-1994; (e) three years 1993-1995.

9.3.1.2. Forest fire prevention and control

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

Work accomplished and to be undertaken:

(a) A seminar on forest fire prevention, land use and people was held in Greece in cooperation with the FAO Silva Mediterranean in October/November 1991. The proceedings were published.

(b) International Forest Fire News is issued on a regular basis (twice yearly).

(c) A team of specialists is being established to follow-up the recommendations of the seminar on forest fire prevention, land use and people held in Greece in 1991.

Duration: (b) continuing; (c) two years 1993-1994.

9.3.1.3. Methods and procedures for the preparation and implementation of forest management plans

Description: The Joint Committee surveys practical methods and procedures for the preparation and implementation of forest management plans, with special emphasis on the determination, collection and processing of relevant data with a view to assisting forest managers in the execution of their tasks.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken:

(a) A seminar on the use of information systems in forest management was held in Sweden in 1992; the proceedings were issued in 1993.

(b) The Steering Committee will consider treating information systems as a special topic at the Joint Committee's twentieth session.

(c) The twentieth session will decide on the setting up of a team of specialists on information systems in forestry.

Duration: (b) one year 1994; (c) decision by twentieth session of Joint Committee.

9.3.2. Wood harvesting and transport

9.3.2.1. Development and use of harvesting machinery and systems

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

Work accomplished: A seminar on thinning operations was held in Denmark in 1991 and the proceedings published in 1992. A seminar on the use of multifunctional logging machinery was held in the Russian Federation in 1993.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Seminars on selected items will be held at intervals:

(b) A seminar will be held in 1994 or 1995 in Greece (subject to confirmation) on harvesting and silviculture on degraded and coppice forests in the Mediterranean region.

Duration: (a) continuing; (b) three years to 1995.

9.3.2.2. Forest roads and transport of wood raw material

Description: The Joint Committee promotes the exchange of information on methods of construction and maintenance of forest roads and on the transport of wood raw material from the forest by road or other means, with a view to assisting countries to rationalize their transport systems and reduce costs.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) A seminar or other activity will be organized in 1994 (or later) in Romania on forest roads (construction and maintenance) and raw material transport.

(b) A team of specialists will be established on forest roads as a basis for integrated forest management.

Duration: (a) and (b) two years 1993-1994.

9.3.3. Vocational training, applied ergonomics, occupational safety and health of forest workers

9.3.3.1. Vocational training in forestry

Description: By keeping under review developments and trends in vocational training in forestry, the Joint Committee assists Governments in planning their national vocational training policies, in raising the efficiency of forest operations and in improving working practices with regard to safety and health.

Work accomplished: A seminar on the future of the forestry workforce was held in the USA in 1992 and the proceedings prepared for publication.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Seminars will be organized at intervals: in 1994 or 1995 in Portugal on forest workers' training in Mediterranean countries; in 1995 (or 1996) in Switzerland on a topic related to vocational training in forestry.

(b) A study, in co-operation with the Swiss Federal Forest Service, on professions, skills and training in forestry comparing the qualifications attained in forestry-related occupations in ECE member countries will be presented to the Joint Committee's twentieth session.

(c) An international network is being established, under the direction of ILO, on the forestry workforce.

Duration: (a) and (c) continuing; (b) as decided by the Joint Committee's twentieth session.

9.3.3.2. Applied ergonomics, safety and health in forest operations

Description: The Joint Committee helps Governments in their national health and employment planning by keeping under review developments and trends in ergonomics applied to forestry, occupational safety and health, with a view to improving working methods and recommending safety standards in various operations, preventing occupational injuries and diseases, increasing work performance and forest workers' satisfaction with their job.

Work to be undertaken: Seminars will be organized at intervals on selected problems: on personal protective equipment, in Kuopio (Finland), from 27 June to 1 July 1994.

Duration: Continuing.

9.3.3.3. Transfer of technical information and experience

Description: The Joint Committee promotes the transfer of technical information and experience by the countries of the ECE region to those in other regions, with a view to assisting the latter to develop their forestry capabilities.

Work accomplished: The Joint Committee's role in the transfer of forest technology in the ECE region was a special topic at the eighteenth session of the Joint Committee.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Wherever possible, the proceedings of Joint Committee seminars will be published by the host country or by other means.

(b) Wherever possible, host countries of Joint Committee seminars and other countries will offer fellowships to assist participants from developing countries and forestry students to attend the seminars of special interest for them.

Duration: Continuing.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 9.4. ISSUES RELATED TO A SOUND AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOREST AND FOREST PRODUCTS SECTOR

9.4.1. Contribution to the follow-up of UNCED and the Helsinki Ministerial Conference on Protection of Forests in Europe

Description: The Committee, in close cooperation with the FAO European Forestry Commission and all other relevant bodies, including the Commission for Sustainable Development and the Liaison Unit to be set up to coordinate follow-up to the Helsinki Conference, will contribute to the follow-up, in order to further the objectives of UNCED and the Helsinki conference.

Work carried out and to be undertaken: At its fifty-first session the Committee allocated first priority to this topic. It requested the secretariat, in close cooperation with the office-holders, to prepare detailed proposals (a) to ensure that the sustainable development objectives, as defined by UNCED and the Helsinki Conference, are fully reflected in the work programme, and (b) that the Committee contribute to the maximum extent possible to the follow-up processes of the two conferences. The fifty-second session will decide on the modalities of carrying out the proposals. However, the office-holders may authorise action in this programme element before the Committee session, if they consider it should not await the session.

Duration: To be decided by the fifty-second session.

9.4.2. Use of wood for energy

Description: The Committee collects information, analyses trends, and encourages the exchange of information on the use of wood for energy and on energy conservation.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: Activities in this field are carried out by a team of specialists on wood energy, which works both on the exchange of technical information and on statistics and analysis of trends. A seminar on choice of technologies for combustion of wood and bark in the forest industries will be held, provided a host country is found. The team will help to analyze the replies to the enquiry on future use of wood for energy being circulated in connection with ETTS V, and consider what further actions it might undertake.

Duration: Continuing.

9.4.3. Implications of air pollution and other damage to forests for wood supply and markets

Description: The Committee examines the implications of air pollution and other damage to forests for wood supply and markets, taking into account the work being carried out by other competent bodies, notably the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, the FAO European Forestry Commission, the European Community, IIASA and IUFRO.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The team of specialists, having accomplished its work, was disbanded. The former team leader and a small group of experts will keep under review possible impacts of air pollution damage to forests on wood supply and forest product markets; liaise with the team of specialists on long-term forecasting methodologies (ETTS V); liaise with the ad hoc Working Group of the European Forestry Commission (large scale experiment on satellite sensing for forest damage assessment) and report to the Timber Committee on developments, as and when necessary. A workshop on effect of global climate change on boreal and temperate forests will be organized by the Czech Republic in October 1994.

Duration: Continuing.

9.4.4. Public relations in the forestry and forest industries sector

Description: The Committee will promote the exchange of information in the field of public relations with the objective of making available high quality information about the sector and creating a positive image of forestry and the forest industry.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The FAO/ECE Team of Public Relations Specialists in the Forest and Forest Industries Sector was established, held a first meeting in May 1993 in Fontainebleau (France) and drew recommendations for its terms of reference and programme of activities. This programme element is carried out jointly with the FAO European Forestry Commission. The team will meet again in 1994 to carry out its mandate (TIM/R.228; FO:EFC/93/10).

Duration: Two years, to 1995.

9.4.5. Competitiveness of sawnwood

Description: A seminar will be held on competitiveness of sawnwood: it will identify the main factors affecting the competitiveness of sawnwood compared to other materials (e.g. cost factors, marketing, industry structure, innovation, impact on the environment, promotion) and, if possible, examine past trends and the outlook for the future. This exchange of information and experience will be useful to Governments developing policies for their sawmill sector, to industries wishing to make sawnwood more competitive, and as input to ETTS V (9.1.1).

Work to be undertaken: A seminar will be held if a host country can be found.

Duration: Three years, to 1994.

9.4.6. Development of new products, recycling, markets and applications for forest products

Description: The Committee furthers the exchange of information and experience on new products, recycling, markets and applications for forest products, with a view to helping countries to improve efficiency in the use of raw materials and products, and provide technologically, environmentally and economically better products to the consumer.

Work to be undertaken: A study tour related to the hardwood resource and its utilization will be held in the United States in May 1995 (dates to be confirmed). A team of specialists, led by France, will review the question of wood packaging, recycling and reduction of waste and its consequences for the sector, and present proposals for future work to the Committee's fifty-second session.

Duration: One year, to 1995.

9.4.7. Information exchange on occurrences of sudden and severe damage to forests

Description: The Committee promotes the rapid international dissemination of reliable information on sudden and severe damage to forests in ECE countries, notably that caused by fire, windblow, snow and insect infestation, in order to reduce disruption of wood markets.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The mechanism set up by the Committee to disseminate information about sudden and severe damage (e.g. date, cause, volume damaged, need for new outlets, etc.) is put into operation as and when necessary.

Duration: Continuing.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 9.5. ASSISTANCE TO THE ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

9.5.1. Activities to assist countries in transition to a market economy

Description: In line with the Commission's decisions 0(45), B(46), D(47) and B(48), the Committee will provide assistance to the countries concerned, in order to promote the process of economic reform and transition to a market economy in their forest and forest product sector, notably by means of workshops, symposia, other similar informal fora and expert missions. Cooperation, including financial support, will be sought from member countries, competent international and intergovernmental institutions, the business community and private donors. The Committee's activities will be planned and carried out in close cooperation with the European Forestry Commission of FAO. The topics and themes to be included in this programme shall be in line with the priorities and needs seen by the countries concerned. The Committee's activities in the implementation of Resolution H3 of the Helsinki Ministerial Conference are included in this programme element.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The Committee has ascertained which topics are of most interest to the transition countries and initiated a wide range of activities. Activities, notably workshops, are being organized in a flexible manner. At its annual sessions, the Committee is informed of results and invited to comment and decide on the direction of activities and the methods used. The informal FAO/ECE meeting at Ossiach (October 1992) identified the following programme areas and special issues which were endorsed by the Committee as a basis for the further development of the joint Timber Committee/European Forestry Commission programme of assistance:

Programme area I

Institution building and framework conditions; building of the legal and policy infrastructure for sustainable development of the forestry and forest products sector.

Programme area II

Activities related to the development of economically sound enterprises in the forestry and forest products sector.

Special issues

- (a) Issues of general importance for the protection of forests, forest conservation and sustainable development of the forest sector.
- (b) Issues of concern for individual countries or groups of countries.

A team of specialists, under the joint auspices of the Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission, will periodically review (every 2-3 years) the whole programme of assistance to ensure that it corresponds to countries' needs and is effective and efficient, and prepare further programme activities for consideration by the Committee and the Commission.

The status of activities carried out and of planned activities related to this programme element is as follows (as of 15.10.1993):

I. WORKSHOPS AND OTHER INFORMAL MEETINGS CARRIED OUT FROM 1990 TO 1993

- 1. First meeting of a team of specialists to prepare activities in support of countries in transition, held under the auspices of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training, Garmatpuzta (Hungary), October 1990.
- 2. Seminar on new technologies in the wood-based panels sector (ECE/TIM/SEM.14/2, Anne), Gdansk (Poland), May 1991. Recommendations summarized in TIM/R.192.
- 3. Informal meeting on economies in transition in ETTS V (TIM/EFC/WP.2/R.120), Geneva, May 1991.

4. Workshop on the organization and management of forestry under market economy conditions, Budapest (Hungary), September/October 1991. Report and proceedings available (TIM/EFC/WP.1/R.107).
5. Workshop on forest regeneration in areas exposed to air pollution in connection with the study tour in CSFR (25 to 30 May 1992), Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, May 1992. Report available (TIM/R.207).
6. Workshop on privatisation in the forest and forest industry sector, Bonn-Röttgen (Germany), June 1992. Report (TIM/R.213) and proceedings available.
7. Workshop on the problems of creation and activities of market structures in the forest complex, Moscow (Russian Federation), 21-26 September 1992. Report available (TIM/R.213).
8. Informal FAO/ECE meeting on strategies for assistance to countries in transition, Ossiach (Austria), 5-8 October 1992 (held under joint auspices of the European Forestry Commission and the Timber Committee). Report available (TIM/R.213).
9. Workshop on forming of new forest laws in countries of central and eastern Europe in transition, Debe, near Warsaw, 27 September - 1 October 1993, host country: Poland.

II. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 1993-1995

A. UNDER TIMBER COMMITTEE AUSPICES

10. Workshop on market research, market development, marketing and distribution of sawmilling products. Hungary (in cooperation with Finland) (subject to confirmation) 1994.

B. UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE JOINT FAO/ECE/ILO COMMITTEE ON FOREST TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING

11. Small scale forestry aspects (Germany is considering hosting a workshop in 1994).
12. Workshop on questions related to the forest labour force under market economy conditions, host country to be decided, date to be decided.
13. Workshop on sustainable development in management of a forest enterprise (Switzerland, 21-26 November 1993).
14. Workshop on forest seed collection and storage, Czech Republic in cooperation with Slovak Republic, end 1995 (subject to confirmation).

C. UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE JOINT FAO/ECE WORKING PARTY ON FOREST ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS

15. Workshop on forest management planning (aménagement forestier) and inventory, France (subject to confirmation), date to be decided.

16. Institution building, framework conditions and policy infrastructure for sustainable development of the forestry sector under market economy conditions, Slovak Republic, Spring 1994 (subject to confirmation).
17. Workshop on evaluation of forest benefits through a total evaluation of production, environmental and social functions of forests, Czech Republic, 12-15 September 1994.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 9.6. ISSUES ACCORDED SPECIAL PRIORITY BY THE COMMISSION OR THE COMMITTEE

9.6.1. Problems in the forestry and forest industry sector arising from radiation contamination, particularly from the Chernobyl disaster

Description: The Timber Committee will provide assistance to the Governments of the most seriously affected countries to find solutions to the problems caused to the forestry and forest industry sector in areas contaminated by radiation from the Chernobyl disaster.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: A team of specialists has been established under the auspices of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee and with the participation of other agencies, including the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture in Vienna, with the task of examining the forestry and forest industry problems created by the Chernobyl disaster and of making proposals for their solution, including international co-operative activities. A first meeting of experts was held in March 1992 in Gomel, Belarus and a small meeting of experts prepared a consolidated report in Minsk, Belarus, in July 1992. It contains recommendations which have been approved by the nineteenth session of the Joint Committee as basis for the work to be undertaken by the team (TIM/EFC/WP.1/22, para. 57). The team of specialists will undertake the following work:

- (1) Organize the collection and exchange of information on all aspects of the forest management on the contaminated areas (territories) of the affected European countries;
- (2) Prepare the programme for research and practical activities of the International Centre on the problems of the forest management under conditions of radio-active contamination;
- (3) Organize meeting of the team of specialists in November 1993 (Mogilev, Belarus);
- (4) Prepare proposals for the programme of international co-operation on the above matters for 1994-1995;
- (5) Define the need for equipment and to consider possibilities for financing (funding);

- (6) Initiate preparations for a seminar at the end of 1994 on the role of forestry in the rehabilitation of areas (territories) contaminated by an accidental release of radioactive material into the environment, with support from the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee and the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency).

Duration: Four years to 1995.

ANNEX II

RANK ORDER OF PROGRAMME ELEMENTS IN THE
TIMBER COMMITTEE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1994-1998

(as agreed at the Committee's fifty-first session)

<u>Rank order</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Title</u>
1	9.4.1 <u>a/</u>	Contribution to the follow-up of UNCED and the Helsinki Ministerial Conference on Protection of Forests in Europe
2	9.1.3	Review of short-term forest products market developments and prospects
3	9.1.1 <u>a/</u>	Appraisal of long-term timber trends and prospects
4	9.2.1 <u>a/</u>	Collection of forest products statistics and publication of the <u>Timber Bulletin</u>
5	9.2.3 <u>a/</u>	Forest resource assessment
6	9.5.1	Activities to assist countries in transition to a market economy
7	9.4.2	Use of wood for energy
8	9.1.4 <u>a/</u>	Outlook for the non-wood goods and services of the forest
9	9.1.2	Medium-term trends in industry structure and markets in specific forest products sectors
10	9.4.4 <u>a/</u>	Public relations in the forestry and forest industries sector
11	9.3.1 <u>a/</u>	Silvicultural operations and general management aspects
12	9.3.2 <u>a/</u>	Wood harvesting and transport
13	9.3.3 <u>a/</u>	Vocational training, applied ergonomics, occupational safety and health of forest workers
14	9.2.2 <u>a/</u>	Improvement of the quality of forest and forest products statistics (including their collection and dissemination systems)

a/ Joint activities with the European Forestry Commission, figuring also in its programme of work.

<u>Rank order</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Title</u>
15	9.4.6	Development of new products, recycling, markets and applications for forest products
16	9.2.5 <u>a/</u>	Productivity in the forest sector
17	9.6.1 <u>a/</u>	Problems in the forestry and forest industry sector arising from radiation contamination, particularly from the Chernobyl disaster
18	9.4.7	Information exchange on occurrences of sudden and severe damage to forests
19	9.2.4 <u>a/</u>	Forest fire statistics
20	9.2.6 <u>a/</u>	Transfer of economic and statistical methods and experience in the forest and forest products sector
21	9.4.5	Competitiveness of sawnwood
22	9.4.3	Implications of air pollution and other damage to forests for wood supply and markets
23	9.1.5	Trends, prospects and policies in forestry and forest products in southern Europe

a/ Joint activities with the European Forestry Commission, figuring also in its programme of work.

ANNEX III

PROVISIONAL LIST OF MEETINGS IN 1994 AND 1995 FALLING WITHIN
THE TIMBER COMMITTEE PROGRAMME OF WORK

Note: The meetings are sub-divided into two categories: meetings marked (A) are open to delegates or approved representatives from all member countries of ECE as well as from other countries that are members of the United Nations and organizations accredited to ECE (or to FAO and ILO, in the case of meetings co-sponsored by them), while meetings marked (B) are those restricted to the countries or individuals nominated by their countries to take part in the activity concerned, e.g. a team of specialists.

1994

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Title</u>
April (dates to be confirmed)	Geneva	Meeting of the Timber Committee office holders (B)
Spring (to be confirmed)	Slovak Rep.	Workshop on institution building, framework conditions and infrastructure for sustainable development of the forestry sector under market economy conditions (B)
May (Undecided)	Florence Italy	Workshop on the outlook for transition countries in ETTS V, with FAO (B)
13-17 June	Geneva	<u>Ad hoc</u> meeting on the policy context of ETTS V (A)
27 June to 1 July	Kuopio (Finland)	Seminar on clothing and safety equipment in forestry (A)
4-9 July	Feldafing (Germany)	Workshop on soil, tree, machine interactions in forest operations (in cooperation with IUFRO) (B)
12-15 September	Czech Rep.	Workshop on evaluation of forest benefits through a total evaluation of production, environmental and social functions of forests (B)
19-23 September	Poland	Seminar on afforestation techniques in abandoned agricultural land (A)
10-14 October	Geneva	ECE TIMBER COMMITTEE, 52nd session (A)

1994 (continued)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Title</u>
October (dates to be confirmed)	Czech Rep.	Workshop on the effect of global climate change on boreal and temperate forests (B)
November (Undecided)	Geneva or Greece (subject to confirmation)	Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training, 20th session (A)
November (Undecided)	Greece (subject to confirmation)	Seminar on harvesting and silviculture on degraded and coppice forests in the Mediterranean region (A)
Late 1994 (Undecided)	Mogilev (Belarus)	Workshop on the role of forestry in the rehabilitation of areas (territories) contaminated by an accidental release of radioactive material into the environment (B)
(Undecided)	Germany (subject to confirmation)	Workshop on small-scale forestry aspects (B)
(Undecided)	Hungary (in cooperation with Finland) (subject to confirmation)	Workshop on market research, market development, marketing and distribution of sawmilling products (B)
(Undecided) or in 1995	Portugal (subject to confirmation)	Seminar on forest workers' training in Mediterranean countries (A)
(Undecided) or in 1995	Romania (subject to confirmation)	Seminar on forest roads (construction and maintenance) and raw material transport (A)

1995

6-10 February	Geneva	<u>Ad hoc</u> meeting to review ETTS V (A)
April (dates to confirmed)	Geneva	Meeting of the Timber Committee office holders (B)

1995 (continued)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Title</u>
May (dates to be confirmed)	United States	Joint Timber Committee/European Forestry Commission study tour on the hardwood resource and its utilization (A)
19-23 June	Geneva	Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, 20th session (A)
9-13 October	Geneva	ECE TIMBER COMMITTEE, 53rd session (A)
Late 1995 (Undecided)	Czech Rep.(in cooption with Slovak Rep.) (subject to confirmation)	Workshop on forest seed collection and storage (B)
(Undecided)	France (subject to confirmation)	Workshop on forest management planning and inventory (B)
(Undecided)	Switzerland	Seminar on vocational training in forestry (A)
(Undecided)	(Undecided)	Steering Committee of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training, 12th session (B)
(Undecided)	(Undecided)	Seminar on multiple use forestry (A)
(Undecided)	(Undecided)	Workshop on questions related to the forest labour force under market economy conditions (B)
(Undecided)	(Undecided)	Seminar on the competitiveness of sawnwood (A)