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Fifty-fourth session

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION
Twenty-eighth session

REPORT OF THE JOINT SESSION (23 to 27 September 1996)

Highlights of the joint session

- ◆ The joint session continued to strengthen its support to the pan European process on the protection of forests by collecting information on as many indicators of sustainable forest management as possible (paras.40-44);
- ◆ The joint session reviewed the main findings and implications of the study "European Timber Trends and Prospects: into the 21st century" (ETTS V) and discussed its implications for policy (para. 35-37);
- ◆ The joint session reviewed the preparations for the Global Forest Resource Assessment 2000 (temperate and boreal zones)(paras. 54-60);
- ◆ The joint session examined its programme of assistance for countries in transition and its contribution to monitoring the implementation of the Helsinki Conference resolution H3 (paras. 45-51);
- ◆ The EFC endorsed the proposals on strengthening the role of FAO Regional Forestry Commissions and identified a number of matters to be referred to the Committee on Forestry (paras. 10-13);
- ◆ The joint session reviewed markets for forest products and made forecasts for 1996 and 1997 (paras. 32-34);
- ◆ The joint session reviewed the situation with regard to sustainable forestry in the region (paras. 38-39);
- ◆ The special topic of the joint session was "Status of Women in Forestry" (paras. 21-22);
- ◆ The joint session approved their integrated programme of work which was revised, streamlined and simplified (paras. 23-31 and annex I); and agreed on the rank ordering of programme elements (annex II); the provisional calendar of meetings is set out in annex III);
- ◆ With regard to ECE decision I(48), it appears that available resources are being used efficiently as the revised integrated programme of work accords priority to activities where FAO and ECE have a clear comparative advantage and does not duplicate those of other organizations; the Committee had no specific items to draw to the attention of ECE.

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>
Introduction	1-5
Adoption of the agenda	6
Arrangement for chairing the joint session	7
EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION MATTERS	
(a) Matters arising from the twelfth session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and the twentieth FAO Regional Conference for Europe	8
(b) Follow-up on the conclusions and recommendations of the twenty-seventh session of the Commission	9
(c) Strengthening the role of Regional Forestry Commissions	10
(d) AFWC/EFC/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> ; Mediterranean Forest Action Programme	11
(e) Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds	12
(f) Matters to be referred to the Committee on Forestry	13
(g) Election of officers	14
(h) Date and place of next session	15
TIMBER COMMITTEE MATTERS	
(a) Matters arising from the fifty-first session of the Economic Commission for Europe	16-17
(b) Activities of other Principal Subsidiary Bodies of ECE of concern to the Timber Committee	18
(c) Election of officers	19
(h) Date and place of next session	20
MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THE COMMISSION AND THE COMMITTEE	
Special topic: status of women in forestry	21-22
Integrated programme of work and relations between parent bodies and subsidiary bodies	23-31
Market developments in 1996 and prospects for 1997	32-34
Main findings and implications of the study "European Timber Trends and Prospects: into the 21st Century" (ETTS V)	35-37

	<u>Paragraph</u>
Sustainable forestry in the region	38-39
Contribution to the pan European process on the protection of forests	40-44
Assistance to countries of central and eastern Europe in transition and report on resolution H3 of the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe	45-51
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	52-53
(b) Preparations for the Global Forest Resource Assessment 2000	54-60
(c) Certification of forest products	61
(d) Public relations in the forestry and forest industries sector	62
(e) Other international meetings and activities	
(i) Wood, an environmentally friendly material	63
(ii) Policy issues in timber markets and recycling and energy generation from wood	64-65
(iii) Study tour in the Baltic States	66
Other business of the Commission and the Committee	67
Adoption of the joint session report	68

ANNEXES

	<u>Pages</u>
I. Integrated programme of work of the ECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission for 1997-2001	16
II. Rank order of programme elements in the integrated programme of work for 1997-2001	21
III. Provisional list of meetings in 1997 and 1998 falling within the Timber Committee's programme of work	22

Note: The text of the report of the joint session is also being reproduced by FAO in document FO:EFC/96/REP.

Introduction

1. The ECE Timber Committee, for its fifty-fourth session, and the FAO European Forestry Commission, for its twenty-eighth session, met jointly in Geneva from 23 to 27 September 1996. The session was attended by representatives from Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America. Malaysia attended under Article 11 of the Commission's terms of reference.

2. The session was attended by representatives of the European Commission.

3. The following United Nations and specialized agencies were represented: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); and the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the FAO North American Forestry Commission were also represented.

4. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR); Euro MDF Board (EMB); European Federation of Associations of Particle Board Manufacturers (FESYP); European Confederation of Woodworking Industries (CEI-BOIS); European Forest Institute (EFI); European Confederation of Agriculture (CEA); International Technical Association for Tropical Timber (ATIBT); International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO); International Federation of Building and Wood Workers (IFBWW); Organization of European Sawmilling Industries (OES); and the Silviculture Union of Southern Europe (USSE);

5. The session was addressed by Mr. D. Harcharik, Assistant Director General and Head of the Forestry Department on behalf of the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, Mr. J. Diouf and by Ms. C. Cosgrove-Sacks, Director of the ECE Trade Division on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe, Mr. Y. Berthelot. The session was also addressed by Messrs. W. Sheridan and G. Siegel, Chairmen of the European Forestry Commission and of the Timber Committee respectively.

Adoption of the agenda (Item 1 of the agenda)

6. The provisional agenda as set out in document ECE/TIM/86; FO:EFC/93/1, was adopted.

Arrangement for chairing the joint session (Item 2 of the agenda)

7. 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.

EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION MATTERS (Item 3 of the agenda)

- (a) Matters arising from the twelfth session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and the twentieth FAO Regional Conference for Europe (FO:EFC/96/2)

8. The Commission was informed of the results of these meetings, and took note of them. With regard to criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management, the joint session was informed that most governments did not want to develop at this time a harmonized global set of criteria and indicators, but that FAO was continuing to identify commonalities between the various processes and was working with IUFRO to develop common definition of terms. With regard to reporting on progress towards sustainable forest management, ways were being sought of harmonizing the formats for reporting to different fora, in order to reduce the burden on countries.

- (b) Follow-up on the conclusions and recommendations of the twenty-seventh session of the Commission (FO:EFC/96/3 and annex)

9. The Commission was informed of the action taken to follow-up the conclusions and recommendations of its last session. In particular it noted the table of cross references between its own programme (integrated with that of the ECE Timber Committee) and the FAO Programme of Work and Budget 1996-97, prepared in accordance with the Commission's request to demonstrate consistency between the two. Although understanding the reasons, some delegations regretted that it had not been possible to prepare a global forest strategy as requested by the EFC, but welcomed the fact that the Forestry Department was developing a strategy for its own future role. They also welcomed FAO's offer to work with the Inter-Agency Task Force for the IPF to develop at least some of the elements of a global strategy.

- (c) Strengthening the role of Regional Forestry Commissions (FO:EFC/96/4)

10. The Commission considered ways to strengthen the role of regional forestry commissions (RFCs), as recommended by COFO, on the basis of a secretariat document which presented the current status and made suggestions for increasing their contribution to the orientation of forestry development. The representative of the North American Forestry Commission (NAFC) informed the EFC of practice in North America. The EFC stressed that the RFCs had enormous potential as fora for regional high-level policy dialogue and cooperation in the field of forests. The EFC endorsed the proposals in the document, stressing the importance of identifying regional specificities and carrying out activities in the areas identified. The importance of private ownership of forests in Europe was mentioned as an example. One constraint to realising the full potential of the RFCs, identified by the paper, was the difficulty of financing participation in RFC sessions: ways should be sought to find finance for those countries which could not finance the travel themselves. A major role for the RFCs, identified by several delegations, was to articulate the regional viewpoint and present it to global bodies, such as COFO. The importance of a programme of intersessional activities (as was the case for the EFC and the NAFC) was mentioned.

(d) AFWC/EFC/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - *Silva Mediterranea*; Mediterranean Forest Action Programme (FO:EFC/96/5)

11. The EFC endorsed the report of *Silva Mediterranea's* sixteenth session in 1994 in Cyprus and was informed of the activities of its research networks and the status of the Mediterranean Forest Action Programme. The next session of *Silva Mediterranea* will be held in conjunction with the World Forestry Congress in Turkey.

(e) Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds (FO:EFC/96/6)

12. The EFC endorsed the report of the Working Party's twentieth session held in Lillehammer, Norway in July 1996 which reported on the progress made toward the implementation of Chapter 13 of Agenda 21 on "Managing fragile ecosystems: Sustainable mountain development." The Working Party had also reviewed the arrangements for the follow-up of the Strasbourg resolution S4.

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

13. The meeting discussed the matter and emphasized the desirability of having an active input from participating countries. Some delegations had included detailed proposals in their national progress reports. The meeting asked the Executive Committee to consider the matter further and possibly give FAO some more detailed EFC views on questions to be drawn to the attention of COFO.

(g) Election of officers

14. The Commission elected Mr. J. Heino (Finland) Chairman and Messrs. P. Csoka (Hungary), N.S. Efstathiadis (Greece) and P. Mühlemann (Switzerland) Vice-Chairmen, to hold office from the end of the twenty-eighth session, until the end of the twenty ninth session. It warmly thanked Mr. W. Sheridan (UK) for his great contribution to the Commission's work during his chairmanship, as well as Mr. J. Casquilho (Portugal), for his contribution as Vice-Chairman.

(h) Date and place of next session

15. The Commission invited countries to explore the possibilities of hosting its twenty-ninth session in 1998 and requested the bureau to take up this matter in consultation with FAO.

TIMBER COMMITTEE MATTERS (Item 4 of the agenda)

(a) Matters arising from the fifty-first session of the Economic Commission for Europe (TIM/R.269)

16. The Committee was informed of the discussions of its work by the Commission and of the Commission decisions adopted at its fifty-first session. It agreed to take account of these discussions and decisions, particularly with regard to its programme of work.

17. Ms. C. Cosgrove-Sacks, Director of the ECE Trade Division, informed the session of the activities of the *ad hoc* Working Group established by the Special session of the Commission (September 1995) to define strategic directions of future activities, reflecting new realities, priorities of countries in transition, budget capacity and recommendations on savings.

(b) Activities of other Principal Subsidiary Bodies of ECE of concern to the Timber Committee (TIM/R.270)

18. The Committee was informed of the activities of other Principal Subsidiary Bodies of ECE dealing with matters of concern to it. It took note of this information and agreed to take it into account when discussing its own programme of work.

(c) Election of officers

19. The Committee elected Mr. N.A. Burdin, Chairman and Mr. G. Siegel (Austria) and Ms. A. Bergquist (Sweden) Vice-Chairmen, to hold office from the end of the session, until the end of the fifty-fifth session. It warmly thanked Mr. Darr (USA) for his most valuable contribution as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

(d) Date and place of next session

20. The Committee agreed that its next session should be held from 6 to 9 October 1997, subject to the availability of conferences services.

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THE COMMISSION AND THE COMMITTEE

Special topic: status of women in forestry (Item 5 of the agenda) (TIM/R.271; FO:EFC/96/7)

21. Ms. A. Egeland (Norway) and Ms. A. Tham (Sweden) presented the status of women in forestry in their countries. The proportion of women in forestry (manual and other) remained small, although it had increased significantly during the last decade, and the remuneration for equivalent positions and qualifications was inferior to that of men. The Norwegian organisation Women in Forestry was motivating women to participate in forestry at all levels by providing training and information, promoting the role of women as forest owners and by the establishment of networks. A report of the National Board of Forestry of Sweden described how women were represented in the forest sector and what could be done to stimulate the interest of women for studying forestry and providing increasing opportunities in the professional life. The presentations were followed by a discussion.

22. The joint session warmly thanked the speakers for their excellent presentations. It also asked FAO to consider the issue in the preparation of the new Programme of Work and Budget for the 1998-1999 biennium. The organizers of the eleventh World Forestry Congress were also asked to give the issue proper attention.

Integrated programme of work and relations between parent bodies and subsidiary bodies (Item 6 of the agenda) (TIM/R.266; TIM/R.272; FO:EFC/96/8)

23. The joint session approved the integrated programme of the Committee and the Commission and their subsidiary bodies, on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the bureaux of the two bodies. The programme took into account the resolutions and decisions of ECE and FAO, the activities and recommendations of subsidiary bodies, seminars, workshops and *ad hoc* meetings, as well as the resources likely to be available to the secretariat and to member countries to carry out the programme. The revised programme had also been streamlined and simplified, in accordance with the recommendations of the Timber Committee in 1995 and the ECE restructuring process. The integrated programme is set out in annex I.

24. The joint session agreed that priority should be attached to a number of core activities in the field of information collection, analysis, dissemination and improvement, where FAO and ECE had a clear comparative advantage, and which did not duplicate other international activities. The Committee and Commission should also continue to provide a forum for intergovernmental cooperation in a wide variety of fields, under the auspices of subsidiary bodies, in seminars and workshops and through teams of specialists. In many cases, this cooperation would take place without significant secretariat input: in these cases, the importance of strong commitment of resources, by participating countries, notably lead/host countries, and of clear mandates, was clear.

25. The joint session endorsed the proposal contained in para. 21 of TIM/R.272; FO:EFC/96/8, on an outline for the approval process and dissemination of results of meetings, seminars and workshops, to be carried out under the auspices of the Committee, the Commission or their subsidiary bodies.

26. The joint session endorsed the "principles and practices for the relations between the ECE Timber Committee, the FAO European Forestry Commission and their joint subsidiary bodies" (TIM/R.266), intended to govern relations with the subsidiary bodies and streamline and rationalise procedures to avoid misunderstanding and delays.

27. The joint session endorsed the proposed mandates for the teams of specialists on public relations in the forest and forest industries sector (TIM/R.280;FO:EFC/96/16, annex) and on recycling, energy and market interactions (TIM/R.281/Add.4; FO:EFC/96/17/Add.4), on the understanding that these teams would function in a semi-autonomous manner, without input of secretariat time or resources.

28. In view of the importance of developments as regards certification, the joint session agreed that the Timber Committee, at its annual market discussion, should pay attention to collecting and reviewing information on the markets for certified forest products and the development of certification systems in member countries.

29. The delegation of Slovakia informed the joint session that its country was willing to host the twenty-second session of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee in 1998, together with the seminar on improving working conditions and productivity in countries in transition. The joint session warmly thanked the delegation of Slovakia for this generous invitation, which would be transmitted to the Steering Committee of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee.

30. The joint session noted that when supplementary resources became available to the secretariat, it would be necessary for the two bureaux to review the priorities for allocation of these resources, in the light of the situation at that time.

31. The joint session agreed on the rank ordering of programme elements as set out in annex II.

Market developments in 1996 and prospects for 1997 (Item 7 of the agenda)
(TIM/R.273; FO:EFC/96/9)

32. The joint session reviewed the forest products markets on the basis of national reports and statistics, countries' estimates for 1996 and 1997 and the secretariat's Forest Products Annual Market Review. The joint session approved a statement on the market for immediate issue as a press release and for later publication.

33. The joint session noted that there were several problems of a statistical nature which were hampering its market discussion and asked the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics to consider how the situation in this respect might be improved. It identified the following areas of concern:

- uncertainty about the data on production in the EU (PRODCOM) and intra-EU trade;
- non-separation of pulpwood and logs in international trade statistics;
- need to integrate fully the category of MDF and possibly OSB into the FAO/ECE statistical system.

34. The joint session deplored the fact that it had not been possible to issue the Annual Review 1995 in French and that difficulties were being encountered for the 1996 issue. It requested the secretariat to make every effort to ensure that all official documents for sessions of intergovernmental bodies (a category which includes the Annual Review) are issued in all official languages.

Main findings and implications of the study "European Timber Trends and Prospects: into the 21st Century" (ETTS V) (Item 8 of the agenda) (TIM/R.274; FO:EFC/96/10 and ECE/TIM/SP/11)

35. The joint session was informed of the main findings of the study (ETTS V), which had been issued in English in August 1996. It welcomed the study which was intended to provide a comprehensive and transparent overview of the trends and outlook for all parts of the forest and forest products sector and the interactions between them, for the use of policy makers and analysts, researchers and decision makers in forest management, and forest products trade and industry as well as NGO's and other interested parties. It warmly thanked the national correspondents and the ETTS V core team, as well as the Governments of Austria, Finland, France, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and USA, which had contributed resources to the carrying out of the study, as well as the secretariat.

36. In the wide ranging discussion of the policy implications of ETTS V, introduced by Mr. J. Heino (Finland) and Mr. M. Zanetti (Switzerland), delegations discussed many aspects, including the necessity of remaining competitive, the need to monitor and counteract any substitution of forest products by other materials, and the necessity of greatly improved communication, with specialists and the public. The joint session noted that there were several

studies of the outlook at the global level, from a variety of sources and using a variety of methods. However, there was still considerable uncertainty attached to future outlooks. Topics identified for further research included substitution, the effect of electronic communication on paper consumption, and the use of recovered wood as raw material or for energy. The joint session was informed that a study on non-wood goods and services is under preparation, although the approach would be very different from that of ETTS V.

37. With regard to follow-up, it was suggested that:
- the models and data sets should be made more simple and user friendly, to enable more frequent studies and use by people other than the ETTS V team;
 - possibly a shorter periodicity;
 - regular monitoring of progress in the countries in transition against the ETTS V forecasts, which should be updated if necessary;
 - an evaluation of the whole process should be carried out, under the auspices of the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party;
 - FAO arrange an expert meeting on global and regional outlook studies.

Sustainable forestry in the region (Item 9 of the agenda) (TIM/R.275; FO:EFC/96/11)

38. The joint session reviewed the situation with regard to sustainable forestry in the region, on the basis of national reports, prepared according to a format common to all regional forestry commissions, and a secretariat synthesis. The joint session was informed that the results of the discussion, along with the national reports and the secretariat synthesis, will form the basis for the section on Europe in FAO's State of the World's Forests 1997 (SOFO), to be presented to COFO. The secretariat agreed to take into account in the version for SOFO the comments and corrections made during the session. The joint session agreed that the recommendations to FAO made in national statements should be taken up under items 3(f) and 6(b) of the agenda.

39. Several delegations requested FAO, with other organisations, notably those represented in the Interagency Task Force, to promote the harmonisation of formats for national reporting on sustainable forest management

Contribution to the pan European process on the protection of forests (Item 10 of the agenda) (TIM/R.276; FO:EFC/96/12)

40. The joint session was informed by the delegation of Portugal on progress in the pan European process. It recalled that the Committee and Commission, at their last joint session, in 1993, had attached highest priority to supporting this process. It noted that up to 1996, the main activities in support of the pan European process had been:

- support by FAO headquarters to the implementation of Strasbourg resolutions S2, S3 and S4;
- the role of ECE and FAO Geneva as international coordinators for Helsinki resolution H3 (see paras. 45-46, concerning countries in transition);
- the continuing provision of reliable and policy-relevant data and analysis, which were the pre-requisite for the international policy debate.

The joint session agreed that these activities represented a useful and cost effective contribution to the pan European process and should be continued.

41. The joint session strongly supported the suggestion made at the expert level follow-up meeting of the Helsinki Conference in Geneva in May 1996, that ECE and FAO, in cooperation with other international organisations (e.g. ICP Forest, institutions of the EU), should collect and make available to the pan European process data on as many indicators of sustainable forest management as possible. In particular, this aspect should be taken into account in the design of the Forest Resource Assessment 2000. The input of the various international organisations should be coordinated informally through the Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Statistics. The responsibility of reporting on national progress toward sustainable forest management belongs to the signatories of the Helsinki resolution: the contributions from ECE, FAO and the other permanent organisations represent a technical support to this political process.

42. The joint session expressed its gratitude to the Swiss delegation, which offered financial support to the process of the implementation of Helsinki resolutions H1 and H2.

43. The joint session also noted the decision by the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee to set up a team of specialists to prepare the factual basis for a possible resolution on the socio-economic aspects of forestry, to be submitted to the Lisbon Ministerial Conference (TIM/EFC/WP.1/24, paras. 53-54 and annex VIII), pointing out that care should be taken about the precise wording.

44. With regard to the preparation of the Lisbon Ministerial Conference, it was suggested that:

- it should take account of the results of the IPF;
- socio economic aspects should be addressed;
- care should be taken to prepare public opinion and the media for the ideas to be presented;

Delegations were urged to transmit any proposals they may have to the co-chairs of the pan European process.

Assistance to countries of central and eastern Europe in transition and report on resolution H3 of the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (Item 11 of the agenda) (TIM/R.277; FO:EFC/96/13)

45. The joint session was informed on the activities of the team of specialists, and of the status of activities carried out and planned in support of the countries with economies in transition in the forest and forest products sector. The second Interim Report on the implementation of the Helsinki resolution H3 was presented by the former UN/ECE regional forestry adviser Mr. P. Csoka (Hungary).

46. Participants noted that the value of the data base on forestry assistance to CITs was dependent on its completeness and accessibility. Therefore, countries which had not yet provided responses to the H3 enquiry should do so as soon as possible. The potential cooperation with other international organizations working in this area should be explored. The data base should be as accessible and well known as possible.

47. Ms. A. Kauppila (Finland) informed the joint session that her country was exploring the possibility of co-organizing a workshop on the "Development of marketing of sawnwood products in countries in transition to market economies". The subject could be of interest to some CITs, e.g. Belarus and the Russian Federation (Archangel region), following the existing cooperation programmes with these countries.

48. Mr. I. Gschwandtl (Austria) informed the session that the workshop on public relations aspects for countries in transition would be organized in Ossiach (Austria) from 13 to 16 November 1996 under the auspices of ECE/FAO and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Financial support for travel of one participant from invited transition countries to the workshop was envisaged. The offer was accepted with gratitude.

49. Mr. I. Bobko (Belarus) invited countries to actively participate in the work of the Team of Specialists on Problems in the Forestry and Forest Industry Sector Arising from Radiation Contamination. He informed participants on the project of the afforestation of the radio-contaminated agricultural lands in his country.

50. Mr. J. Ilavsky (Slovakia) informed the session of the results of the workshop on "Institution building, framework conditions and policy infrastructure for sustainable development of forestry under market economy conditions", held in Smolenice, Slovakia, from 30 June to 4 July 1996. The joint session thanked Slovakia for hosting the workshop.

51. The joint session was informed that Slovenia offered to organize the next meeting of the team of specialists to monitor and develop assistance to countries of central and eastern Europe in transition in the forest and forest products sector in September (or October) 1997. The proposal was accepted with gratitude.

Joint subsidiary bodies and other activities of common interest to the Commission and the Committee (Item 12 of the agenda)

(a) Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training
(TIM/EFC/WP.1/26)

52. The joint session was informed of the outcome of the Joint Committee's twenty-first session held in Romania, in June 1996 and endorsed its report. The activities of the Joint Committee during the last two years had attracted large interest and participation from public and private sectors of member countries and the Committee had continued to coordinate its work with other organizations. The joint session when considering the activities of the team of specialists on guidelines for codes of forest practice suggested that the team should not be convened until after COFO in March 1997, in view of the sensitivity of the topic, the global dimension, and the need to take into account the political discussions of other fora, notably IPF and COFO.

53. The joint session thanked Romania for hosting the Joint Committee session which was held in conjunction with the seminar on environmentally sound forest roads and wood transport, and the Russian Federation for hosting the seminar on forest, fire and global change.

(b) Preparations for the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2000
(TIM/R.278; FO:EFC/96/14)

54. The joint session was informed of preparations for the Temperate and Boreal Forest Resource Assessment 2000 (TBFRA-2000), notably on the recommendations of the team of specialists and the Expert Consultation meeting on the Global Forest Resource Assessment 2000, held in Finland in June 1996 ("Kotka-III").

55. Mr. T.J.Peck (EFI) informed the session on the preliminary results of the forestry information needs assessment, being done by EFI in cooperation with the ECE/FAO secretariat within the framework of the EU EFICS study. The participants noted the importance of this information for the TBFRA-2000 project formulation and the design of the enquiry.

56. The joint session stressed the importance of the Forest Resource Assessment as the primary source of internationally comparable data on forests. In order that all the data should be of the highest quality it was essential that countries devote sufficient resources to providing the data requested and that sufficient resources be made available to the secretariat for proper validation and analysis of the data and presentation of the results. The joint session welcomed the continuing close cooperation between international organisations in this field, to avoid duplication and find synergies. The necessity to test the enquiry before it is sent to countries was noted. Sweden was ready to participate in such a test.

57. The joint session agreed that special attention should be paid to the "non-traditional" information (NWGS, Biodiversity, etc), while noting that some countries may not be in a position to provide reliable information on these parameters.

58. A number of detailed comments were made on the global framework proposed by the Kotka III meeting. These comments will be taken into account in the preparation of the enquiry for TBFRA.

59. Concern was expressed by some countries about the tight timetable for the preparation of the assessment. A draft enquiry, including guidelines and definitions, should be prepared and widely circulated, considered carefully by the team of specialists and approved by the next session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics (June 1997).

60. The secretariat was requested to explore the possibility of organizing in the second half of 1997 an *ad hoc* meeting of experts and national correspondents for TBFRA-2000 to consider the final version of the enquiry and to brief countries on its application.

(c) Certification of forest products (TIM/R.279; FO:EFC/96/15)

61. Mr. R. Busink (Netherlands), leader of the joint Timber Committee and European Forestry Commission team of specialists on certification of forest products, presented the team's report which reviewed certification activities in the ECE region and proposed potential scenarios regarding the future effects of certification on forest management and forest products markets. The report

highlighted issues regarding certification and offered some conclusions. The session noted the recommendations and congratulated the team and team leader for their hard work. With this report the work of the team was now completed. The session invited countries to consider the possibilities of hosting a workshop on certification issues for countries in transition, as recommended by the team of specialists. (See para. 28).

- (d) Public relations in the forestry and forest industries sector (TIM/R.280; FO:EFC/96/16)

62. Mr. I. Gschwandtl (Austria), leader of the joint FAO/ECE team of public relations specialists in the forest and forest industries sector, presented the report from the team's meeting in Gmunden, Austria. The session noted the recommendations and thanked the team and team leader for their report and work to date. (See para. 27).

- (e) Other international meetings and activities

- (i) Wood, an environmentally friendly material (TIM/R.281; FO:EFC/96/17)

63. Mr. S. Svensson (Sweden) presented the conclusions and recommendations of the Timber Committee workshop on "Wood--an environmentally friendly material." The session thanked Mr. Svensson and the National Board of Forestry, the Government of Sweden and the other sponsors for hosting the workshop and noted its proposals and recommendations.

- (ii) Policy issues in timber markets and recycling and energy generation from wood (TIM/R.281/Add.3,4; FO:EFC/96/17/Add.3,4)

64. Mr. A. Frühwald (Germany) reported on the conclusions and recommendations of the ECE Timber Committee, Committee on Energy and Environment Committee workshop on "Policy issues in timber markets and recycling and energy generation from wood." The session praised the coordination of the ECE divisions responsible for organizing the workshop along with the generosity of the sponsors: the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry, the German Federal Research Centre for Forestry and Forest Products and the University of Hamburg. The session thanked Mr. Frühwald and the two teams of specialists, wood and energy, and new products, recycling, markets and applications for forest products, which conducted the workshop.

65. Mr. Frühwald presented the report of the joint meeting of two teams of specialists: wood and energy; and new products, recycling, markets and applications for forest products. The teams have recommended to combine to form a new "team of specialist on recycling, energy and market interactions." The session noted the recommendations and thanked the teams and team leaders. (See para. 27).

- (iii) Study tour in the Baltic States (TIM/R.281/Add.1,2; FO:EFC/96/17/Add.1,2)

66. Mr. G. Leliuga (Lithuania) welcomed the Committee and the Commission to the Timber Committee Baltic Countries forest and forest industries study tour to be held 4-9 May 1997, on behalf of the governments of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Complete information including a registration form was in TIM/R.281/Add.2. The session warmly thanked the Baltic Countries for their invitation. Delegations were requested to propose suggestions for future study tours.

Other business of the Commission and the Committee (Item 13 of the agenda)

67. The delegation of Turkey invited countries to the eleventh World Forestry Congress, being organized in cooperation with FAO, and scheduled to be held from 13-22 October 1997 in Antalya, Turkey.

Adoption of the joint session report (Item 14 of the agenda)

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

ANNEX I

PART I

INTEGRATED PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE ECE TIMBER COMMITTEE
AND THE FAO EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION
FOR 1997-2001

This programme is carried out by the ECE Timber Committee (TC) and the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC), and their subsidiary bodies, which meet approximately in a two year cycle:

- The Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training (JC)(1998, 2000)
- The Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics (FES)(1997, 1999)
- The EFC Working Party on Management of Mountain Watersheds (1996, 1998)
- The EFC/AFWC/NEFC Working Party on Mediterranean Forestry Questions *Silva Mediterranea* (SM) (1997, 1999)

A. CORE PROGRAMME: MONITORING AND ANALYSIS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOREST AND FOREST PRODUCTS SECTOR IN THE REGION

09(B).1.1 Collection and dissemination of information on trends in the sector, including publication of the *Timber Bulletin*

Description: Information is regularly collected and disseminated on production, trade and prices of roundwood and forest products, and forest fires.

Method of work: Statistics are collected on an annual basis from countries and published in the *Timber Bulletin* (6 issues a year). Data collection is coordinated with FAO Rome and EUROSTAT (possibly other organisations in future), and the results are shared between all three organisations. The whole system is reviewed by the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics at its biennial sessions.

Duration: Continuing

09(B).1.2 Forest Resource Assessment 2000 (temperate and boreal forests)

Description: The Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics collects and publishes information on the forest resource of the temperate and boreal zones (including countries outside the ECE region), in the context of the FAO global forest resource assessment.

Method of work: An enquiry will be circulated to national corespondents in 1997, and the results published in 1999. The enquiry will be prepared under the supervision of a team of specialists, and take into account the recommendations

of the Experts Consultation at Kotka (Finland) in June 1996. Subsequently an *ad hoc* meeting will be held to brief national correspondents on interpretation of the enquiry. At all stages, the work will be carried out in close cooperation with the FAO Forestry Department and other organisations active in this area.

Duration: Continuing, review in 2003

09(B)1.3 Sustainable forest management in the region: support to the follow-up to UNCED and the pan European process on the protection of forests

Description: The Committee and the Commission will provide support, as appropriate, to the follow-up to UNCED, including the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF), and the pan European process of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests. In particular the Commission will review, on a regular basis, national forest policies and selected topical policy issues in order to review implementation at the national level of the provisions of UNCED and the pan European process, and as support for national policy makers. The Committee and the Commission will collect and analyse information relevant to Helsinki Conference resolutions H1 and H2, notably as regards quantitative indicators of sustainable forest management and support the report to the Lisbon Conference on this subject.

Method of work: At each EFC session, delegates submit national progress reports, according to an outline drawn up by the Executive Committee. These reports are synthesized by the secretariat before the session, presented and discussed. At its session in 1998, the EFC will discuss those results of IPF relevant to Europe, topical issues relevant to Europe and formulate recommendations concerning FAO's strategy from a European viewpoint. In addition, the secretariat, in agreement with the General Coordinating Committee of the pan European process and in cooperation with other relevant international organisations, including FAO, EU, OECD and ICP Forest will supply data relevant to the Helsinki list of quantitative indicators of sustainable forest management. Existing sources, notably the Forest Resource Assessment, will be used to the extent possible, and may be modified to improve their capacity to help the pan European process. In view of the considerable importance of good public information and relations for sustainable forest management, a team of specialists will work towards creating a positive image of the forest sector, according to the mandate in TIM/R.280;FO:EFC/96/16, annex.

Duration: to 1999

09(B).1.4 Activities for countries in transition, including coordination of implementation of resolution H3 of the Helsinki Ministerial Conference

Description: The Committee and Commission will provide assistance to the countries in transition, in order to promote the process of economic reform and transition to a market economy in their forest and forest products sector. The topics and themes to be included in this programme shall be in line with the priorities and needs identified by the countries concerned. In particular, the Committee and the Commission will contribute to implementing resolution H3 on forestry assistance to countries in transition, by monitoring and analysing this assistance, in particular to determine whether it corresponds to countries' real needs and priorities.

Method of work: The work is guided by a team of specialists, which meets regularly. The secretariat, as international coordinator for H3, collects, stores and analyses information and reports regularly to the parent bodies and, as appropriate, to meetings of the pan European process. A data base on forestry assistance to countries in transition is maintained and its contents made available. The Committee and Commission implement a wide range of activities, notably workshops, which are scheduled and organized in a flexible manner, under two broad headings:

- Institution building, including legal and policy infrastructure;
- Development of market oriented and ecologically sound enterprises.

Duration: to 1999

09(B).1.5 Review of markets for forest products and short term forecasts

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.

Method of work: The annual session of the Timber Committee reviews short term trends and prospects in the markets, on the basis of estimates provided by delegations and the Forest Products Annual Market Review, prepared by the secretariat, which reviews trends in the previous year. An analysis of trends, approved by the Committee, is published. From 1997, delegations will be requested to provide information on trends in the markets for certified forest products and the development of certification systems in their countries.

Duration: continuing

09(B).1.6 Outlook for the supply and demand for timber and for non-wood goods and services

Description: The Committee and Commission prepare, keep under review and regularly up-date projections and forecasts of long-term trends in production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products, and of the interaction of all of these, in order to assess the long term sustainability of the European timber supply. The Committee and the Commission will also carry out a study on the outlook for the supply and demand of the non-wood goods and services of the forest. The work is overseen and guided by the FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics.

Method of work: The fifth European timber trends study (ETTS V) was published and disseminated in 1996. The joint session in 1996 reviewed its results and discussed its implications for policy. An evaluation of the whole process will be carried out by the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party.

A study of the situation for non-wood goods and services, composed of national reports prepared according to a common format, will be prepared by a team of specialists and issued in 1997. Work will be guided by periodic meetings of the team.

A team of specialists on recycling, energy and market interactions will analyse the influences and interactions of technological and legislative developments on recycling, energy and timber markets, according to the mandate proposed in TIM/R.281/Add.4; FO:EFC/96/17/Add.4).

Duration: Continuing

B. AREAS OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE COMMISSION AND/OR THE COMMITTEE

09(B).2.1 Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics

Description: The Working Party keeps under review the needs for international statistics in the forest and forest products sector and develops programmes to meet those needs, notably with regard to improving comparability; develops methodologies for collection and analysis of information and statistics; and undertakes projects in the field of economics and statistics relating to forestry and forest products.

Method of work: The Working Party meets every two years and advises the parent bodies and the secretariat on the implementation of work in its field. In particular, it is responsible for guiding the implementation, in its area of competence, of programme elements 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5 and 1.6.

Duration: Continuing

09(B).2.2 Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training

Description: The Joint Committee assists countries, in particular those which its parent bodies may identify at any time as requiring priority attention, to develop their forestry activities in the context of sustainable development. This is achieved by fostering international cooperation on technical, economic and organizational aspects of forest management and forest working techniques and of the training of forest workers in logging and forest operations.

Method of work: The Joint Committee's activities are led by a Steering Committee, which meets annually. There are three subject areas: management (e.g. multiple use forestry, ecological and economical issues, marketing, information systems), technology (e.g. forest engineering, ecologically and economically sound operations in silviculture, wood harvesting and transport) and training (e.g. for workers, supervisors and managers, including applied ergonomics, occupational safety and health and social aspects of forestry). Much of the work is carried out by teams of specialists which report to the Joint Committee and Steering Committee sessions. A detailed programme for the Joint Committee's work in 1997-2001 is contained in TIM/EFC/WP.1/26.

Duration: continuing

09(B).2.3 EFC/AFWC/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions, *Silva Mediterranea*

Description: *Silva Mediterranea* will advise FAO and member countries in the Mediterranean region on the implementation of the Mediterranean Forest Action Programme (MED-FAP). It will also encourage the exchange of information and the coordination of research in topics of interest to Mediterranean forestry, through research networks.

Method of work: *Silva Mediterranea* will act, at regular sessions (seventeenth in 1996) and between them, as an inter-governmental forum for the coordination, monitoring and orientation of MED-FAP. It will contribute to identifying

ECE/TIM/87

Annex I

page 20

international regional priority activities, as well as designing and monitoring them. Six research networks are at present operational, focusing on forest fires, key species of the subregion (stone pine, cedar species, and, the most recently created network, on cork oak), other multipurpose tree species, and on selection of stands of Mediterranean conifers for the production of seeds to be used in reforestation programmes.

Duration: Continuing

09(B).2.4 FAO Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds

Description: The Working Party collects information, documents technologies, monitors evolution, exchanges experience and discusses progress within mountain ecosystems in view of their sustainable management and conservation. Important areas of concentration will be sustainable management and security of mountain ecosystems, with special attention to torrent control, avalanches, risk zoning, and mapping and early warning systems.

Method of work: The Working Party has an important role in the follow-up of Agenda 21, and supports FAO's role as task manager for chapter 13 on mountain ecosystems. The twentieth session was held in 1996 in Norway. Key areas of concentration will be sustainable management of mountain ecosystems, improved mountain livelihood systems, in response to UNCED, activities related to international agreements on mountains, and risk and disaster control and monitoring.

Duration: Continuing

PART II

Projects for possible implementation at a future time

(See ECE decision O (45) and Supplementary report containing the views and proposals of ECE to the Special Commission of ECOSOC, E/ECE/1150/Rev.1, para. 131)

Structural trends in markets for forest products and in the structure and capacity of forest industries

Description: The Committee and the Commission review 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.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: Medium-term surveys are carried out on a 3-year rotation of sectors. These surveys incorporate as appropriate the results of surveys of the structure and capacity of major sectors (every time for panels, every other time for sawmilling). The issue of the medium-term surveys has been suspended until the Geneva staff is at full strength.

ANNEX II

**RANK ORDER OF PROGRAMME ELEMENTS IN THE
INTEGRATED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1997-2001**
(as requested by the UN Economic Commission for Europe
as guidance for allocation of Geneva secretariat resources)

<u>Rank order</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Title</u>
1	09(B).1.3	Sustainable forest management in the region: support to the follow-up to UNCED and the pan European process on the protection of forests
2	09(B).1.5	Review of markets for forest products and short term forecasts
3	09(B).1.6	Outlook for the supply and demand for timber and for non-wood goods and services
4	09(B).1.1	Collection and dissemination of information on trends in the sector, including publication of the <i>Timber Bulletin</i>
5	09(B).1.2	Forest Resource Assessment 2000 (temperate and boreal forests)
6	09(B).1.4	Activities for countries in transition, including coordination of implementation of resolution H3 of the Helsinki Ministerial Conference
7	09(B).2.1	Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics
8	09(B).2.2	Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training
9	09(B).2.3	EFC/AFWC/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions, <i>Silva Mediterranea</i>
10	09(B).2.4	FAO Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds

ANNEX III

PROVISIONAL LIST OF MEETINGS IN 1997 AND 1998 FALLING WITHIN
THE TIMBER COMMITTEE'S 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). 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.

1997

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Title</u>
22-23 April	Geneva	Meeting of the Timber Committee office holders and the EFC Executive Committee(B)
4-10 May	Baltic countries	Timber Committee Study tour on the forest and forest industries sector (A)
21-23 May	Geneva	Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, twenty-first session (A)
2-3 June	Jönköping (Sweden)	Steering Committee of the Joint ECE/FAO/ILO Joint Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training, thirteenth session (B)
4-5 June	Jönköping (Sweden)	Workshop on multiple use forestry (A)
8-12 September	Zvolen (Slovakia)	Workshop in new trends in thinnings (B)
6-9 October	Geneva	ECE TIMBER COMMITTEE, fifty-fifth session (A)
10-12 November	Geneva	<i>Ad hoc</i> meeting on temperate and boreal forest resource assessment (A)
Undecided	Undecided	Workshop on certification issues for countries in transition (B)

1998

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Title</u>
April (dates to be confirmed)	Geneva	Meeting of the Timber Committee office holders and the EFC Executive Committee(B)
summer (dates to be confirmed)	Slovakia	Joint FAO/ECE/ILO/ Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training, twenty-second session (A)
summer (dates to be confirmed)	Slovakia	Seminar on improving working conditions and productivity in forestry in countries in transition (A)
Undecided	Italy (to be confirmed)	Seminar on harvesting of wood and non-wood forest products in the Mediterranean region (A)
5-8 October	Geneva	ECE TIMBER COMMITTEE, fifty-sixth session (A)
Undecided	Undecided	Seminar on improving working conditions and productivity in forestry in countries in transition (A)
Undecided	France (to be confirmed)	Seminar on training of contractors, supervisors and operators of harvesters and small forest owners (A)