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**Monitoring Forest Resources for Sustainable Forest Management:**  
**Meeting of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists – 26-27 May 2008, Vienna**

Dear Colleagues,

This letter is the first announcement and invitation to the next meeting of the Team of Specialists (ToS) on “*Monitoring forest resources for SFM in the UNECE Region*”. As you know from the previous meeting of the Team (Edinburgh, May 2007), we had preliminarily agreed that its 4<sup>th</sup> meeting should be held in Austria. The Report of the Edinburgh meeting and related documentation are at the UNECE/FAO website <<http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/fratos/meetings/EdinburghMay2007/meetMay2007.htm>>.

We have now received the confirmation of the date and place of the meeting from the Austrian Government (**Vienna, Austria, 26-27 May 2008**). These dates are agreed also by the hosts, organizers and major stakeholders. The meeting will be held in premises of the BOKU University (Vienna). More detailed information on the venue will be sent to you in due time. Meanwhile, please note (fix) these dates on your working calendar for the year 2008.

The following issues are to be discussed, among others, at the 4<sup>th</sup> ToS meeting (as they look from the today's perspective):

- The Special Session of the UNECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission: new priorities as laid down by the special session;
- Overview of the current FRA- and C&I-related regional and global developments;
- Report on “*State of Europe's Forests 2007*”:
  - a) Lessons learned from the MCPFE-2007 C&I data collection and analysis process;
  - b) Follow-up to the Warsaw MCPFE-2007 Conference;
- Private Forest Ownership database, further step to deepen knowledge;
- Regional contribution to the implementation of the Global FRA-2010:
  - a) Outcome of the Technical Meeting of FRA-2010 NCs (3-7 March 2008);
  - b) Global FRA Advisory Group (March 2008) recommendations and proposals;
  - c) ToS contribution to the global FRA-2010 (timetable/ schedule, NC network, country data/ information, RS survey, regional workshops, etc.);
- The MCPFE Forest Types classification: further steps on the way to the country reporting;
- Current developments in the C&I country reporting of Montreal Process: ToS's role;
- Future ToS activities and work planning for 2008-2009 (in the light of the Strategic Review of the UNECE/FAO Integrated Work Programme and decisions of the Special Session).

You are cordially invited to the ToS meeting in May 2008 in Vienna, and we hope that you will be in a position to participate. The programme of the meeting with organizational details, including the venue information, provisional agenda, and registration form will be sent to you in January-February. Your advanced comments and proposals to the provisional agenda and programme of the meeting are most welcome, and would be much appreciated.

I take this opportunity to send you personally, your family, all your colleagues and near ones, our warm greetings and best wishes of the Joyous Season, Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year 2008.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Dr. Ewald Rametsteiner  
Leader of the TEAM, Vienna

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