Appendix V

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SOME FACTS ABOUT THE TIMBER COMMITTEE

The Timber Committee is a principal subsidiary body of the ECE (UN Economic Commission for Europe) based in Geneva. It constitutes a forum for cooperation and consultation between member countries on forestry, forest industry and forest product matters. All countries of Europe; the former USSR; United States of America, Canada and Israel are members of the ECE and participate in its work.

The ECE Timber Committee shall, within the context of sustainable development, provide member countries with the information and services needed for policy- and decision-making regarding their forest and forest industry sector ("the sector"), including the trade and use of forest products and, when appropriate, formulate recommendations addressed to member Governments and interested organizations. To this end, it shall:

- 1. With the active participation of member countries, undertake short-, medium-and long-term analyses of developments in, and having an impact on, the sector, including those offering possibilities for the facilitation of international trade and for enhancing the protection of the environment;
- 2. In support of these analyses, collect, store and disseminate statistics relating to the sector, and carry out activities to improve their quality and comparability;
- 3. Provide the framework for cooperation e.g. by organizing seminars, workshops and *ad hoc* meetings and setting up time-limited *ad hoc* groups, for the exchange of economic, environmental and technical information between governments and other institutions of member countries that is needed for the development and implementation of policies leading to the sustainable development of the sector and to the protection of the environment in their respective countries;
- 4. Carry out tasks identified by the UN/ECE or the Timber Committee as being of priority, including the facilitation of subregional cooperation and activities in support of the economies in transition of central and eastern Europe and of the countries of the region that are developing from an economic point of view;
- 5. It should also keep under review its structure and priorities and cooperate with other international and intergovernmental organizations active in the sector, and in particular with the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) and its European Forestry Commission and with the ILO (International Labour Organisation), in order to ensure complementarity and to avoid duplication, thereby optimizing the use of resources.

More information about the Committee's work may be obtained by writing to:

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UN-ECE/FAO Publications

Timber Bulletin Volume LI (1998)ECE/TIM/BULL/51/...Timber Bulletin Volume LII (1999)ECE/TIM/BULL/52/...Timber Bulletin Volume LIII (2000)ECE/TIM/BULL/53/...

- 1 Forest Products Prices
- 2. Forest Products Statistics (database (chronological series, since 1964) also available on diskettes)
- 3. Forest Products Annual Market Review
- 4. Forest Fire Statistics
- 5. Forest Products Trade Flow Data
- 6. Forest Products Markets in (current year) and Prospects for (forthcoming year)

Geneva Timber and Forest Study Papers

ECE/TIM/SP/14 Forest and forest products country profile: Russian Federation (Country profiles also exist on Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, former Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Republic of Moldova, Slovenia and Ukraine) North American timber trends study ECE/TIM/SP/9 Long-term historical changes in the forest resource ECE/TIM/SP/10 European timber trends and prospects: into the 21st century (ETTS V) ECE/TIM/SP/11 Forest and forest industries country fact sheets ECE/TIM/SP/12 Non-wood goods and services of the forest ECE/TIM/SP/15 State of European forests and forestry, 1999 ECE/TIM/SP/16 Main Report: Forest Resources of Europe, CIS, North America, Australia, Japan and New Zealand (Industralized temperate/boreal countries) ECE/TIM/SP/17

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A summary of "The competitive climate for wood products and paper packing: the factors	
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Forest Certification update for the ECE Region, summer 1999	ECE/TIM/DP/17

ETTS V working papers:

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forest industries sector in Europe"	ECE/TIM/DP/11

Seminar and Workshop Proceedings (original language only)

- Seminar on "Exploring multiple use and ecosystem management: from policy to operational practice", Prince George, Canada, September 1995
- Workshop on "Wood--an environmentally friendly material", Jönköping, Sweden, April 1996
- Seminar on "Environmentally sound forest roads and wood transport", Sinaia, Romania, June 1996
- Seminar on "Safety and health in forestry are feasible!", Konolfingen, Switzerland, October 1996

International Forest Fire News (two issues per year)

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