



First Announcement



Emerging Trade Measures in Timber Markets

A joint UNECE/FAO and WTO Workshop

23 March 2010
Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

Background

Increasingly, timber is a globally traded commodity, along with its derived products. Trade flows, especially of processed timber goods, have grown over the last decades. In this context, some stakeholders believe that despite attempts to minimize obstacles to the free flow of timber products, emerging measures, notably non-tariff ones, are increasingly affecting trade in these products. However, others feel that challenges facing the sector, such as forest degradation and loss, bio-diversity impoverishment, promotion of sustainable management of forests and climate change warrant new thinking.

After discussing this dilemma at its annual market discussions in 2009, the UNECE Timber Committee called for a “multi-stakeholder workshop in 2010, dedicated to tariff and non-tariff trade barriers and emerging trade regulations on timber”. This one-day workshop co-organized with the Economic Research and Statistics Division of the WTO Secretariat will be held on 23 March 2010, just before the meeting of the FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics.

Objectives

Led by expert presentations, workshop participants will discuss the economic impacts of trade and trade-related measures on timber markets, taking into account the role of trade in timber markets and the link between trade liberalization and key challenges facing the forest-based sector. The programme will allow ample time for discussion and frank exchanges of views, aiming at a broader appreciation of the situation.

Topics

The workshop will cover three main topics: non-tariff measures, tariff measures, and subsidies. Presentations and discussion are expected to cover the following items:

- Tariffs, including the status of on-going WTO negotiations
- Export restrictions
- Subsidies
- Measures to address illegal logging and associated trade such as US Lacey Act amendment and EU FLEGT Action Plan “due diligence” proposal
- Other non tariff measures including public procurement regulations
- Phytosanitary measures

Expected audience

Members of the FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, trade and forest policy experts from governments, research and academia, industry representatives, NGO representatives. The workshop will be open to representatives and experts from all over the world.

More information and registration

Workshop website: <http://timber.unece.org/index.php?id=270>

**This event is sponsored by the Permanent Representation of
the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Geneva**



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