



Timber Committee
Economic Commission for Europe



European Forestry Commission
Food and Agriculture Organization

Meeting of the Bureaux of the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission

26 April 2010, Lisbon

Report of the Meeting

1. The meeting of the Bureaux of the UNECE Timber Committee (TC) and the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) was held on 26 April 2010 from 15:00 to 17:00 at the Autoridade Florestal Nacional, Lisbon. Ms. Conceição Ferreira (Portugal), Chair of the EFC, and Mr. Peter Blombäck (Sweden), Vice-chair of the EFC were present. Mr. Johann Dengg (Germany), Vice-chair of the TC participated via teleconference. Mr. Angelo Mariano (Italy), Chairperson of the Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, was also present.
2. The UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section was represented by Ms. Paola Deda, Chief, supported by Ms. Franziska Hirsch, Economic Affairs Officer and Messrs. Roman Michalak, Forest Resources Officer, and David Ellul, Associate Economic Affairs Officer.
3. Mr. Peter Csoka, Team Leader, Forestry Communication and Liaison Team, and Ms. Susan Braatz, Senior Forestry Officer participated for FAO.
4. Mr. Branko Glavonjic (Serbia), Chairman of the Timber Committee, Ms. Linda Langner (United States), Vice-chair of the Timber Committee, Mr. Alain Chaudron (France) and Mr. Andrey Filipchuk (Russian Federation), Vice-chairs of the EFC sent their regrets for being unable to participate.

Item 1 Adoption of the agenda

5. The provisional agenda was adopted without modifications.

Item 2 Arrangements for chairing the meeting

6. The Chair of the EFC chaired the meeting.

Item 3 Review of the EFC Agenda including chair's roles and expectations for the session

7. The Bureaux members reviewed the EFC programme and agreed on the structure, including proposed arrangements for the chairing of EFC segments.

Item 4 Climate Change and Forests: exchange of views on possible directions

8. The Bureaux was reminded of the mandate contained in the UNECE/FAO Programme of Work to address forests and climate change. Based on this joint programme of work, as well as background documents presented for the consideration of the EFC, the Bureaux was informed about current FAO activities and a proposal from a member state to be tabled at the EFC session.

9. In particular, Ms. Braatz listed a number of activities that FAO is undertaking. At the global level, FAO is developing two sets of guidelines, one at policy level to assist decision-makers integrate climate change considerations into national forest programmes and the second at field level to help forest managers assess the opportunities for and implement forest adaptation and mitigation measures. FAO is also working to encourage regional collaboration in forests and climate change adaptation, specifically in response to the UNFCCC proposal for the creation of regional platforms/centres on adaptation. FAO is also addressing the linkages between bioenergy and forestry through the preparation of country case studies and a global overview with the aim to identify the mitigation potential of wood energy and to provide guidance to countries.
10. Ms. Braatz also outlined FAO's outreach efforts which include a monthly electronic newsletter, CLIM-FO-L; several publications, policy briefs and information notes that will be published this year, and a forests and climate change website. A forest degradation study is being carried out by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) under the leadership of FAO. On a regional scale, a project on "Adapting forest policy conditions to climate change in the MENA region" linked to the SilvaMed network and supported by GTZ has been launched.
11. Ms. Braatz also informed Bureaux members of a proposal by Switzerland to address the question of regional and cross-regional collaboration on adaptation of forests to climate change through the establishment of a working party or similar mechanism. The proposal was to be brought to the attention of delegates at the EFC along with the recommendation that this be also addressed by COFO.
12. The Bureaux members were also informed about the increased capacity of the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section to address climate change related matters, given the strengthened secretariat and the addition of human resources covering policy-related issues.

Item 5 Updates from FAO on current activities of relevance to the work of the EFC and the TC

13. Mr. Csoka briefed Bureaux members on preparations for the International Year of Forests (IYF) and the guidance provided by the international coordinator. UNFF shall be producing an IYF logo to be shared with partners. Guidance on activities will be available only at a later stage although a considerable flexibility for individual initiatives is foreseen. A network of focal points is being created to provide a link with national activities (similar to that established for the European Forest Week in 2008). Ms. Deda informed the Bureaux that the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section had already started working at a number of activities in support of the IYF.

Item 6 Updates on the next session of the Timber Committee

14. Ms. Deda introduced the draft programme for the 2010 session of the Timber Committee. She invited Bureaux members to start thinking about the possible topics for the 2011 session, as it might reflect the meaning of the IYF for the forest industry and markets. She also informed of the offer by Turkey to host the Joint TC/EFC session in 2012.
15. The Bureaux approved the TC agenda as submitted.

Item 7 Regional issues identified by the Commission for the attention of the 20th session of the Committee on Forestry

16. The secretariat reminded the Bureaux of the need to bring relevant issues emerging from the EFC discussions to the attention of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO). These might be particularly linked to the major themes of the EFC: forests and climate change, energy and water. Mr. Csoka reminded that the COFO Steering Committee will meet on 7 May to consider the agenda of the 20th session

Item 8 Election of Officers

17. Bureaux members were informed of the need to identify suitable candidates for the role of Vice-chair at the upcoming EFC session, as one post would become available given that Mr. Chaudron had come to the end of his term.

Item 9 Any other business

18. There was no other business raised.

Item 10 Date and format of next meeting

19. It was agreed that the next Bureaux meeting will be held in October 2010 in conjunction with the Timber Committee meeting in Geneva.
