



**Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry
Economic Commission for Europe**



**European Forestry Commission
Food and Agricultural Organization**

TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON SUSTAINABLE FOREST PRODUCTS

Lunchtime meeting (12:00-13:30) at Silva2015

Tuesday, 3 November 2015, Cristallo room, Ramada Titlis Hotel, Engelberg, Switzerland

Report

Opening Comments and welcome (Eoin O'Driscoll, Leader of the Team of Specialists and Florian Steierer, Team Secretary). The meeting was called to order at 12:15.

One minute of silence was held for David Jenkins (Coed Cymru, Wales), a former team member, who recently passed away.

- 1. Adoption of the Agenda.** There were no concerns. The agenda was adopted
- 2. Attendance.** There were 20 people in attendance (see list of participants at the end of this report).
- 3. Regional capacity building workshop in the Western Balkans 2015 – status report/discussion.**
The secretariat updated the group on progress in organizing the Balkan workshop. Funding is available, but needs to be spent by the end of the fiscal year 2015. It was mentioned that the workshop will cover a larger scope than just markets and the secretariat is currently taking recommendations on possible speakers and topics for the three day event. Douglas Clark suggested contacting Darko Motik and Marijan Kavran (Croatian Wood Cluster) for assistance.
- 4. Presentation by Jeremy Wall: cumulative cost assessment study (cost impact of EU legislation on the EU F-BI) and items on biomass supplies and sustainability.** Unfortunately, Jeremy Wall was unable to attend. Following the meeting, Jeremy's presentation will be circulated by email.
- 5. Presentation and discussion on current developments in nanotechnology and cross laminated timber (CLT) in the US, Delton Alderman.** Delton Alderman updated the group on developments from the US. Currently manufacturing costs are still the limiting factor in keeping wood from competing with molluscs (shellfish) as a raw material for nano. There is currently ongoing research which shows promise but still too early to gauge the feasibility of wood as a raw material. Mr. Alderman promises to keep the Team updated on progress.

6. Report on outputs and current work within the forest products marketing work area; and feedback advice from the Team

- **Forest Products Annual Market Review 2014-2015.** The secretariat asked the Team to feel welcome to provide feedback on the 2015 FPAMR, both now and after some time to digest the report. Eric Boilley commented that the data from countries, in particular Russia are often not accurate and that organizations often had conflicting data. Tapani Pahkasalo, mentioned that the figures from the Oblasts are much more accurate. The secretariat discussed the issues regarding official country supplied data vs. using unofficial estimates and pointed out that they often use both, but of course opt to use official data unless there is an overriding reason not to. Also that rather than trying to work at the national level it was sometimes easier to work with other international data collectors and try to harmonize data with them. Another suggestion came from Chris Gaston, who suggested doing another survey on the FPAMR (last one was 2010) to measure the impressions of the users. The secretariat agreed to follow-up this proposal with Mr. Gaston. In a subsequent meeting it was also proposed to include in the survey questions on the use of the COFFI and national market statements.
- **Conversion factors publication.** The secretariat updated the group on the forthcoming project to update forest products conversion factors at a global level, which FAO, UNECE and ITTO are jointly working on. There was a question about how this will differ from the 2010 report. The secretariat pointed out that this will be: 1) an update of what was gathered for the 2010 study; 2) there will be some additional factors asked for, as well as clarifications where it was clear that there was some confusion from the 2010 study; 3) this study will be global in scale (so not just ECE member states) and; 4) FAO will publish this study. Mr. Oldenburger mentioned that there was a study on tropical conversion factors in the Netherlands, but that there was a need for better information on the topic. The secretariat will follow-up with Mr. Oldenburger in order to better understand the potential of the Dutch study and expertise.
- **Wood balance.** The secretariat discussed the work done on wood balances, the timeline of publishing the discussion paper (mid 2016) and its utility for JFSQ correspondents.
- **Update on the work of the ToS on Forest Products Statistics and Wood energy.** The group was updated on the work of this Team as well as the plans for a “*State of Wood Energy in the UNECE*” publication, which is intended to showcase and interpret the data from the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry (JWEE).
- **Promoting sustainable building materials and the implications on the use of wood in buildings.** The delays in getting this publication through printing were discussed and the secretariat assured the group that it should be submitted in the coming weeks. Related to this topic, Chris Gaston mentioned that the [Wood First Initiative](#) in British Columbia (BC), Canada has done a good job of converting architects to wood and focuses on the end user to show them how to use wood. It also is a learning process for producers. The [Woodworks Initiative](#) was helpful in raising wood profile in Canada, encouraging appearance use of wood. There was general agreement that specifying a given material is the wrong approach. The ToS agreed that specifying performance characteristics on a material neutral basis (in both construction standards and environmental metrics) is the preferred way of promoting the increased use of wood in construction.

7. Future Team Meetings (Eoin O’Driscoll) & other events for Team members to attend/meet at/report on (all);

The secretariat proposed the possibility to organize a one day Team meeting in 2016. This option was discussed by the team members, but the general consensus was that ToS meetings would be a) costly and difficult for members to justify the travel costs and b) “*opportunistic*” meetings during or back-to-back with other major events are easier to justify. The high number of team members attending the meeting seemed to be a proof for the effectiveness of these opportunistic meetings. The next meeting could either be organized during the Workshop in Podgorica or during/back-to-back with the Joint Working Party in Geneva.

8. How should the ToS function in the future? – Basic, open discussion with a focus of how to attract more people directly from industry; Sylvain Labbé, stated that more focus on policy for industry, which affects them, will bring back more industry people, stats less important. Possible topics would be trade policy, barriers to trade. We could do a single meeting on CoP-21, harvested wood products (HWP) and Goodland study. Gordon Culbertson made the point that people need a clear expectation of what the take-aways will be and these need to be germane to topics that are pressing to them. The option of a dedicated event on wood construction was discussed with the group and the secretariat mentioned that if any Team members have proposals, the secretariat would be happy to pursue hosting such an event in Geneva.

9. Provision for Producing and Distributing Meeting Report. The meeting was adjourned at 1:45, Florian Steierer agreed that he would distribute the report before the end of November.

List of participants

Full name	Organization	Country	Email
Mr. Delton Alderman	USDA Forest Service	United States of America	dalderman@fs.fed.us
Mr. Eric Boilley	LE COMMERCE DU BOIS	France	secretariat@lecommercedubois.fr
Mr. Douglas Clark	UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	douglasplark@hotmail.co.uk
Mr. Gordon Culbertson	Forest2Market, Inc.	United States of America	gordon.culbertson@forest2market.com
Mr. Matthew Fonseca	UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section	Switzerland	matthew.fonseca@unece.org
Dr. Christopher Gaston	University of British Columbia	Canada	Chris.Gaston@fpinnovations.ca
Mr. Víctor M. González	Universidad Politécnica de Madrid	Spain	victor.gonzalez@upm.es
M. Pierre Hermans	PH BOIS Forest Management Office	Belgium	info@phbois.be
Mrs. Annika Hyytiä	University of Helsinki	Finland	annika.hyytia@helsinki.fi
Mr. Erno Jarvinen	Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (MTK)	Finland	erno.jarvinen@mtk.fi
Mr. Surendra Joshi	Swedish Forest Agency	Sweden	surendra.joshi@skogsstyrelsen.se
Mr. Sylvain Labbé	Québec Wood Export Bureau	Canada	slabbe@quebecwoodexport.com
Ms. Theresa Loeffler	Carlo Schmid Program	Switzerland	theresa.loeffler@unece.org
Mr. Alex McCusker	UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section	Switzerland	alex.mccusker@unece.org
Mr. Jan Oldenburger	Probos	Netherlands	jan.oldenburger@probos.nl
Mr. Eoin O’Driscoll	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Ireland	eoin@drima.com
Mr. Tapani Pahkasalo	Quantum Global	Switzerland	tapani.pahkasalo@quantumglobal.ch
Mr. Steve Smith	European Commission	Belgium	steve.smith@ec.europa.eu
Mr. Florian Steierer	UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section	Switzerland	florian.steierer@unece.org
Ms. Elina Warsta	UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section	Switzerland	elina.warsta@unece.org