

Report from the 74th session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry

Christoph Dürr, Chair 74. COFFI 2016



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**39th Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics,
Economics and Management**
29-31 March 2017, Geneva





- The 74th session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 18 to 20 October 2016.
 - More than 120 participants from 30 UNECE member States and several international organizations, academia and private sector attended the session.
 - The session was followed by a workshop on measuring the value of forests in a green economy.



Forest ownership, and employment in the forest sector

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- Member States emphasized the importance of enhancing information on different types of forest ownership to improve policies targeting forest owners. The Committee further acknowledged the progress made in the study and appreciated the successful cooperation with COST Action FACESMAP programme.
- The Committee recommended the continuation of work in the area of green jobs, building on synergies with Forest Europe and the ILO. The Committee supported the organization of the workshop on forest jobs, to be organized in cooperation with Forest Europe in 2017, leading to preparation of further studies and guidelines.

Forest products and markets (1)

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- The Committee reviewed developments in forest products' markets in 2016, and prospects for 2017 at national, subregional and regional level. The Committee approved the annual market statement.
- The Committee reviewed the status and the past trends that have taken place in recent years, in two branches: (i) wooded packaging and (ii) pulp and paper.

Forest products and markets (2)

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- The Committee took note of the conclusions from two thematic panel discussions:
 - “Opportunities for and barriers to forest products from the perspective of the private sector” with participation of high-level managers from wood industries;
 - “Wood construction in the region: what can forest industries do to help nurture a paradigm shift to using wood for green construction?” with participation of the experts involved in the planning and construction process, such as architects, builders, contractors, planners, and educators.

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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- The Committee was informed about the recent developments and implementation of the 2030 Agenda and recommended that the secretariat continue monitoring the developments and work together with other actors to provide relevant inputs to this process. The next briefing should be prepared for the upcoming session of the Working Party.

The United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) – the status of the 2017-2030 Strategic Plan

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- Delegates supported the process of the development of the UNFF Strategic Plan for the period 2017–2030 and highlighted the need for paying attention to possible reporting burdens and the appropriate reflection of the regional institutions in the International Arrangement on Forests, especially in the SDG context. The Committee requested the secretariat to closely follow up on this process and report on it to the Working Party.

Forest Europe - Programme of Work and possible synergies in the region

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- The Committee took note of the presentation on the Programme of Work of Forest Europe. It also supported the coordination of work between Forest Europe and other relevant actors in the region, and encouraged continued and strengthened cooperation between Forest Europe and the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section.

Report of the ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management (JWPSEM)

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- The Committee welcomed the activities of the JWPSEM as well as the work of the ToSs and appreciated its broad coverage of forest-related issues.
- The meetings of the Joint Working Party are fully utilized as a valuable platform for exchange of technical expertise among countries and stakeholders and for emphasizing on important interlinkages.
- COFFI highlighted the JWPSEM's ability to take on current developments into their ongoing work, as an example the role of forests in the Agenda 2030 and the sustainable development goals.
- The continuous need for both financial and human resources from the secretariat to support the ToSs was also highlighted by the Committee.

Information on the Integrated Programme of Work (IPoW) and its Review

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- Review of 2016 activities, and activities planned for 2017
- The ECE evaluation on the assessment of the relevance of the 2014-2017 Integrated Programme of Work (IPoW)
- Strategic Review of the IPoW (2014-2017)
- Process of preparation of new IPoW (2018-2021)

- The joint session of the ECE COFFI and the FAO EFC “Las2017” in Warsaw, Poland on 9-13 October 2017, will approve the new IPoW 2018-21)

Side events

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Guided Tour on wood construction at the Opéra des Nations



Events (forest paintings) by the RVR “Clean Forest Forum”



Guided Tour on wood construction at the New Conference Hall of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Measuring the Value of Forests in a Green Economy

21 October 2016, Geneva, Switzerland

In the context of the implementation of the **Rovaniemi Action for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy**, present forest sector valuation systems (C&I of Forest Europe and the Montreal Process) were compared with approaches developed at the macroeconomic level in the context of the green economy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Synergies should be further strengthened.

More information at: www.unece.org/index.php?id=42822#/

Thank you!



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Christoph Dürr

Vice-Chair COFFI

ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry

29 March 2017, Geneva

