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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS



**Economic and Social
Council**



**Food and Agriculture
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

TIMBER COMMITTEE

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

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

24 February 2010, 10:00 – 17:30
Geneva, Palais des Nations, Salle XV

Note by the secretariat

Provisional agenda item 4

**Cross sectoral activities by the UNECE Timber and Forestry programme of
work on trade, energy, and green building**

1) Introduction

The secretariat would like to update the Bureaux on the recent developments in three important fields of activity, with strong cross-sectoral components:

- **Trade measures and timber markets**, under programme element 1.2 (analysis of markets for forest products, notably topical and policy relevant aspects) of work area 1 (markets and statistics) and programme elements 5.3 (analyzing developments in forest sector policies, legislation and institutions, including interactions with other sectors) and 5.5 (Organizing policy forums on major topical issues) of work area 5 (Policy and Cross-sectoral issues)

- **Wood energy** under programme element 3.4 (Analysing energy-related issues, including demand and supply for wood energy) of work area 3 (Forest sector outlook) and programme elements 5.3 (analyzing developments in forest sector policies, legislation and institutions, including interactions with other sectors) and 5.5 (Organizing policy forums on major topical issues) of work area 5 (Policy and Cross-sectoral issues)

- **Green building**, under programme elements 1.4 (Monitoring and analysis of markets and policies for certified wood products, including public procurement and green building) of work area 1 (markets and statistics) and programme elements 5.3 (analyzing developments in forest sector policies, legislation and institutions, including interactions with other sectors) and 5.5 (Organizing policy forums on major topical issues) of work area 5 (Policy and Cross-sectoral issues)

These issues are presented to the Bureaux for information and, if judged necessary by the members, discussion and guidelines on possible follow up.

2) Trade measures and timber markets

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”.

As a result, the secretariat is now preparing a one-day workshop on “Emerging trade measures in timber markets”. It is being co-organized with the Economic Research and Statistics Division of the WTO Secretariat on 23 March 2010, just before the meeting of the FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics (WPFES) (24-25 March). The workshop will be sponsored by the Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Geneva.

The objective of the workshop is to discuss with expert speakers 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 items to be discussed are the following: 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; and other non-tariff measures including public procurement regulations and phytosanitary measures. The workshop will give a unique opportunity to get a comprehensive overview of the regulatory framework around trade in timber products.

The programme of the workshop and all relevant information are available on the workshop website : <http://timber.unece.org/index.php?id=270>

The Bureaux are invited to take note of this project and to give their guidance on possible follow up for this workshop, taking into account the fact that the discussions themselves should to a large extent dictate the conclusions of the workshop.

3) Wood energy

The Timber Section continues to build on its activities to improve data quality for wood energy. The Joint Wood Energy Enquiry (JWEE), which has done much to enhance UNECE/FAO's standing as the authoritative source of the best available information on how much energy is generated from wood, where the wood comes from and who are the principal users, is scheduled to be repeated in 2010 (collecting and analyzing 2009 data). Detailed arrangements are not yet in place but the topic will be discussed during the meeting of the WPFES on 23-24 March 2010. Funding has yet to be secured to enable the JWEE 2010 to go ahead.

Two workshops, focusing on wood energy, were held in 2009 – in Riga, Latvia <http://timber.unece.org/index.php?id=195> and Dubrovnik, Croatia <http://timber.unece.org/index.php?id=256>. There is a possibility of another wood energy workshop in Belarus in 2010, pending funding.

Working together with the EE21 programme in the Sustainable Energy division, the Section drew up a project proposal, “Modern and sustainable heat and power from woody biomass in south-eastern Europe”, which has been well received in various circles. The challenge now will be to find funding to implement the project. The search for donors is ongoing. The Bureaux was previously informed about the EE21 proposal.

The Bureaux are invited to take note of these developments on wood energy work. The Section needs extrabudgetary resources to continue the JWEE, and the Bureaux' suggestions are invited.

4) Green building

Following two successful green building workshops in 2008 and 2009, the Timber Committee called for collaboration with other UNECE divisions to carry on work in this important market segment which is one of the forest sector's contributions to mitigating climate change. The Quebec Wood Export Bureau, which has a Subgroup Leader in the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products Markets and Marketing, offered to host a major international conference on “Green buildings and climate change: From science to policies.” The Section was working together with the Canadian organizers and the secretariats of the Committee on Housing and Land Management and the Committee on Sustainable Energy. Because of some problems within those secretariats, the conference has been indefinitely postponed. The Bureaux will be informed of the current situation at its meeting.

The Bureaux are invited to note the developments in green building work.