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Comments and suggestions from the timber and forestry community are most welcome. Please write to us at:
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United Nations



The European Forest Week

20-24 October 2008

**FAO Headquarters Rome
and throughout Europe**

The European Forest Week (EFW) will celebrate the contribution of European forests to mitigating climate change, providing wood and renewable energy, securing the supply of fresh water and protecting our environment.

At the FAO Headquarters in Rome, the plenary sessions will feature:

- **Forests & Climate Change** (Tuesday, 21 October)
- **Forests & Energy** (Wednesday, 22 October)
- **Forests & Water** (Thursday, 23 October)
- **Working together for Forests** (Friday, 24 October)

The policy dialogues will be highlighting issues such as the role of wood products in climate change mitigation, adaptation, forest health, wood energy, potential sustainable wood supply, climate change and forest biodiversity, forest law enforcement and governance, forest fire management, and gender & forestry.

In addition, at the FAO Headquarters, a workshop on green building will take place on Monday, 20 October, and the annual UNECE/FAO forest product markets discussions, scheduled in the afternoons of 21 and 22 October, covering all forest products' market sectors as well as interlinked policy developments in the UNECE region of Europe, North America and the CIS.

In Brussels, a Conference on "The Role of Forests and the forest-based sector in meeting the EU's Climate Commitments" organised by the European Economic and Social Committee on Thursday, 23 October 2008.

At national and local levels throughout Europe, **in-country activities** such as conferences and policy forums, public events like forest fairs, nature walks or exhibits, symbolic events like tree planting, and media events aimed at improved communication.

For an overview of all the national activities which will be taking place, and updates during the European Forest Week, see at:
<http://www.europeanforestweek.org>, or write to efw@unece.org

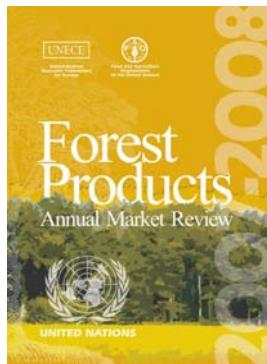


JOINT TC AND EFC MARKET DISCUSSIONS AT THE EUROPEAN FOREST WEEK

This year's Timber Committee Market Discussions will be held jointly with the European Forestry Commission, on 21-22 October 2008. The theme will be "Green building impacts on the forest sector". Topics and speakers are chosen to appeal to delegates from both the market side and the forest side of the sector. The leadoff presentation will be on market and policy developments, and will update that chapter of the UNECE/FAO *Forest Products Annual Market Review, 2007-2008*. Other topics include green building's influence on the sector, with a report of the prior day's workshop. Certification, wood raw materials and wood energy are all topics which appeal to a broad range of delegates. The discussions will end with sector-specific presentations.

The main basis for the annual Market Discussions is countries' market forecasts and statements. With every country sharing their forecasts and information, there is always an amazing amount of policy and market information, which will result in an official statement and subsequent press release. Country market statements are uploaded to the TC/EFC website in advance. But you must come to the discussions to get the latest forecasts! I hope to see many of you in Rome!

UNECE/FAO FOREST PRODUCTS ANNUAL MARKET REVIEW, 2007-2008



The new publication **UNECE/FAO *Forest Products Annual Market Review, 2007-2008*** covers forest products market and policy developments in the entire UNECE region.

Over 60 people contributed directly to producing the Review, which was lead by a small team in the secretariat. The team included three student interns, plus most of the professionals and support staff of the Timber Section.

The Review's theme is "Green building's impacts on forest products markets in the UNECE region." The theme is in line with the UNECE/FAO Green Building Workshop scheduled on the first day, 20 October 2008, of the European Forest Week at FAO Headquarters in Rome. The workshop title is "The roles of wood in green building and green building effects on the forest sector in the UNECE region."

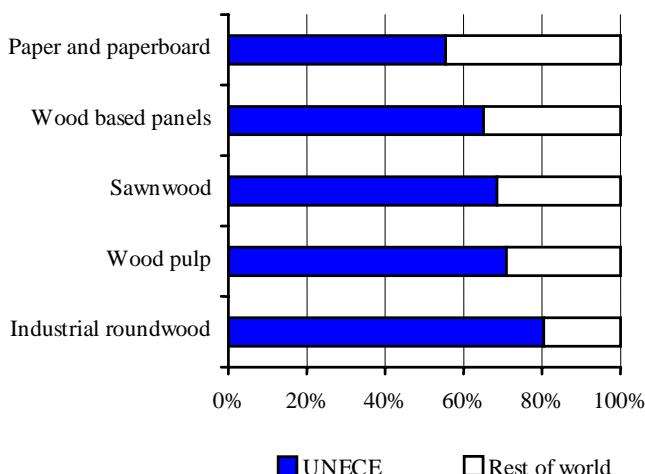
The Review is a main background document for the joint Timber Committee and European Forestry Commission Market Discussions to be held on 21 and 22 October 2008. For these Market Discussions, the information in the Review will be supplemented with countries' market reports and forecasts for 2008 and 2009 and expert presentations:

1. Overview of forest products markets and policies
2. Policies related to forest products markets
3. Economic and construction developments affecting forest products markets
4. Wood raw material markets
5. Sawn softwood markets
6. Sawn hardwood markets
7. Panel markets
8. Paper, paperboard and pulp markets
9. Wood energy markets
10. Certified forest products markets
11. Value-added wood products markets
12. Tropical timber markets

We thank the 65 people who contributed directly to its production, and to the more than 100 contributors of statistical and analytical information.

Available via the UNECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission homepage:
www.unece.org/timber/mis/fpama.htm

UNECE region's share of world consumption
of primary forest products, 2005



Note: UNECE region in 2005, world in 2004 (most current statistics).
Sources: UNECE/FAO TIMBER database, FAO statistics, 2006.

Nothing new under the sun?

"The Big Three of Wood"

Wood is universal. Wood has become a raw material that can satisfy almost any requirement of existence ... it is already the world's second most important source of textile fibres ... someday wood may supply a large portion of the world's motor fuels and lubricants. As a building material, it now yields a variety of plywoods, plastics and wood alloys that can meet any engineering specification.

Wood is abundant. Forests cover one fourth of the earth's land area and only a fraction of the world's forest resources is now utilised ... an acre of good forest can grow annually several times as much fibre as an acre of cotton and as much sugar as the same soil planted with sugar beets.

Wood is inexhaustible. The forest is not a mine that eventually will be depleted, but a cropland. *Provided* trees are harvested as a crop and the forest is sustained by proper management, wood will forever yield all the material the human race can conceivably require. But throughout the world, trees are *not* harvested as a crop and the forest is *not* sustained by proper management ...The main problem is lack of knowledge."

*The Coming Age of Wood, 1949 by Egon Glesinger
Founder of the ECE/FAO Timber Division*

Did you know?



The UNECE region is the main consumer and producer of forest products in the world, and as such has a lead responsibility in assuring their sustainable production from forests in and outside the region. In terms of consumption, the UNECE region's share of world consumption ranges from 80% for industrial roundwood to 55% for paper and paperboard.

2007 FOREST PRODUCTS STATISTICS

Provisional forest products statistics for the year 2007 have now been released and can be found at www.unece.org/timber/mis/fps.htm showing data for countries in the UNECE region. Over 60 forest products (roundwood, sawnwood, wood-based panels, pulp, paper) are included, with production and trade (volume and value) data available for the period 2003-2007.

The complete database from 1964 can be found at:

www.unece.org/timber/database/timber.zip

in CSV format.

Staff changes

Douglas Clark The Timber Section and our clients were fortunate to have the expertise of Mr. Clark over the past four years. Loaned by the UK and Scottish Forestry Commissions, he came with experience in forestry and wood energy, and quickly learned about building capacity in forest products marketing. He integrated well into the secretariat, and helped us with many facets of our work. One of Douglas' main achievements was building an impressive network in the Balkan and southeast European countries. Unfortunately he was recalled to the Scottish Forestry Commission in August. When he retires in the next months, he will still be active as an "International Forestry Consultant." We hope to continue working with this talented individual and look forward to his participation at the European Forest Week.

Lucio Brotto, Jyri Hietala and Juha-Matti Laitinen were student interns during the summertime production of the *Forest Products Annual Market Review*. Lucio was from the College of Environmental and Natural Resources in Wales, and was the Assistant Project Leader, helping Ed Pepke with the planning and monitoring of the production process. He also had input into the organization of the Green Building Workshop. Jyri and Juha-Matti were Marketing Assistants from the University of Helsinki. They conducted market research, produced all the graphics, and carried out a wealth of additional assignments. We expect to see them at the European Forest Week.

Marion Briens from France will join the Section as an Associate Officer in November. Her responsibility will be to strengthen our work on forest policies.

Our diamond anniversary - the 60th anniversary of the family of ECE/FAO is being celebrated in 2008. Kit Prins is preparing a historical note.

The 4th meeting of the Team of Specialists (ToS) on "Monitoring forest resources for sustainable forest management in the UNECE Region" was held on 26-28 May in Vienna, Austria.

The Team successfully completed their first set of tasks (mandated by the UNECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission). Previous significant events which were organized under this mandate, included the inaugural meeting in April 2005 (Geneva), the second meeting in May 2006 (Hamburg, Germany), and the third in Edinburgh (Scotland, UK) in May 2007.

During the last Special Session (Geneva, April 2008), the UNECE/FAO parent bodies decided that a new ToS, which will continue work on SFM monitoring, would be established by the end of 2008. The inaugural meeting of a new Team will be held on 25-26 February 2009 in Geneva.

Background information on the ToS scope, together with the meeting materials and results, are now on-line at:

www.unece.org/timber/fra/fratos/meetings/meetings.htm

or contact Roman Michalak (roman.michalak@unece.org)

THE ROLE OF WOOD PRODUCTS IN CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

UNECE/FAO WORKSHOP ON “HARVESTED WOOD PRODUCTS IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES”

Over 100 participants attended a workshop on 9-10 September in Geneva on *Harvested Wood Products in the Context of Climate Change Policies*, to discuss different approaches on how to account for carbon stored in wood products and their economic, social and ecological impacts.

Although the capture and storage of carbon in forests is recognized in the Kyoto Protocol, the storage in wood products is not. Stock changes of wood products however influence the carbon balance in short and medium term. The current increasing carbon stock in wood products observed in many countries thus contributes to climate change mitigation.

Existing data from national and international datasets, including FAO / UNECE data, can be used to calculate HWP stock changes and flows by using the existing approaches on forests and HWP. The suggested HWP accounting methods improve the accuracy of GHG balances compared to the IPCC default approach. An important difference between the different HWP accounting approaches is to whom the responsibility for the carbon emissions from HWP is assigned, in particular with respect to trade.

Among the main points of recommendations were that accounting for carbon stored in Harvested Wood Products must not compromise sustainable forest management domestically or in other countries and HWP accounting methods should be in line with existing accounting mechanism for Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF).

Considering the time schedule of the climate negotiations, consensus on Harvested Wood Products accounting has to be reached by mid 2009 if it is to be included into an agreement in Copenhagen in November 2009.

The meeting was jointly organized by the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, the UNECE/FAO Timber Section, and the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe Liaison Unit Oslo.



**Presentations, as well as the conclusions
and recommendations are available at:
www.unece.org/timber/workshops/2008/hwp/welcome.htm**

Please note that the website has changed to:
www.unece.org/timber
Previous links will continue to work.

“MODERN WOOD ENERGY SYSTEMS AND MARKETS - AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SOUTH-EAST EUROPE”

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the Romanian National Forest Administration (Romsilva) jointly organized the workshop on “Modern Wood Energy Systems and Markets – an Opportunity for South-East Europe” in Timisoara, 16-17 September 2008.

120 participants from ministries, municipalities, forestry enterprises, wood processing industries and energy enterprises from Romania and neighboring countries attended the meeting.

Romania and other South-East European countries are not currently utilizing their entire wood energy potential. Deficient infrastructures, as well as shortfall in domestic markets and policy support to develop modern markets hinder the development of domestic wood chips and pellets markets. This is evidenced by the growing volumes of wood pellets and briquettes that are being exported to Western Europe.

Firewood and traditional burning technology remain the major heat supply in rural areas – causing partly higher fuel wood prices than in central and western European countries.

The workshop successfully raised awareness of wood as a clean energy source thanks to the benefits of modern wood-burning technology. During the two day meeting, participants shared experiences on successful economic conversion of fossil fuel-fired plants, district heating and small-scale units. The event also served to draw attention to the sustainable forest management undertaken in Romania and other South-East European countries.

**See the presentations, conclusions, and press release at:
www.unece.org/timber/workshops/2008/timisoara/timisoara.html**

CURRENT AND UPCOMING MEETINGS

- St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 7–10 October, International Forestry Forum
- Portorose, Slovenia, 21–26 October, International Seminar on Infrastructure in Sustainably Managed Forests
- Rome and Brussels, 20–24 October, European Forest Week
- Geneva, 12–13 November, Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE), Expert Level Meeting
- Geneva, 14 November, TC/EFC Bureaux meeting
- Křtiny, Czech Republic, 24–28 November, Workshop on Enhancing Contribution of Forest Management to Sustainable Development in Eastern European and Central Asian countries
- Belgrade, Serbia, 2–3 December, Wood Energy Workshop “Wood energy – the fuel of choice for Serbia
- Poznan, Poland, 1–12 December, United Nations Climate Change Conference - COP14