



European Commission
DG Eurostat, the statistical office of the EU



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



International Tropical
Timber Organization



United Nations
Economic Commission
for Europe

Notes of 27th Meeting of Inter-secretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics

Eurostat, Luxembourg, BECH building, Room B4-444, 24 January 2014

Welcome address: Pedro DIAZ MUÑOZ, Eurostat's Director for Sectoral and regional statistics

Participants: Eurostat: Marilise Wolf-Crowther, Csaba Mozes, Rajmund Laczko; FAO: Arvydas Lebedys; ITTO: Jean-Christophe Claudon; UNECE: Anvar Nigmatov, Florian Steierer.

1) Adoption of the agenda

The meeting was chaired by Marilise Wolf-Crowther.

Notes were taken by Jean-Christophe Claudon.

2) Review of issues from last year's meeting

Attached to the Annex 3

3) Review of the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ) activities in 2013

a) Number and quality of replies

Eurostat

Mentioned problems to collect production data and trade through the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ). Eurostat received **25 questionnaires from 31 countries**. There were no replies from the Czech Republic, Belgium, Denmark, Luxembourg, Greece and Liechtenstein. It has been noticed that the questionnaire quality and the correspondents' communication have been improving. Eurostat will try to improve relations with the missing countries. It has also been noted that Iceland made a special effort by sending trade data to Eurostat.

FAO

Received 16 questionnaires from 100 countries. The number of received questionnaire is down by 4. One of the reasons for this lower answer rate was that FAO had a problem of FTP server for sending the questionnaire. Uruguay and Chile used to provide the questionnaire but didn't provide it last year. South Korea JFSQ came late and the data was not included in the FAOSTAT.

ITTO

Received 28 questionnaires from 39 countries. This was an improvement compared to the 22 questionnaires received last year. ITTO received more questionnaires from African members (last year, it received 5 JFSQ while this year, it received 10).

UNECE

Received 12 questionnaires from 22 countries. This was an improvement by one more questionnaire compared to last year. **UNECE** mentioned that the additional questionnaire received this year was from Azerbaijan.

b) Successes/problems

FAO: successes – Burundi, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Sudan and Uganda were new countries that sent JQ2012 (did not provide JQ2011). Problems: (1) FAO extended deadline from August to September, but this did not yield any improvement in response rate (in 2014 FAO will go back to August deadline); and (2) FAO dispatched JQs late (July instead of planned May) and had problems with access to its FTP server (some countries could not access/download JQ) therefore in future JQ will be posted on HTTP website. These were the main issues that explain why response rates did not improve in 2013. Completeness and quality of responses remain as an issue.

Eurostat mentioned that the problems of compatibility of Excel might prevent members to send the questionnaire. As a consequence, Eurostat uses 2003 Excel version to avoid incompatibility.

FAO asked which version Organizations should use, it was agreed to it should continue with Excel 2003 version.

All the Organizations agreed on the counting methodology of received questionnaires. It was agreed that IWG is the reference period for the received questionnaires. For example, during the period IWG2013-IWG2014 the answer rate is the number of countries which sent anything (current questionnaires or previous questionnaires). **Interval for IWG will be reference period for questionnaire count.**

FAO will recalculate the number of answers of the questionnaires for all the organizations according to this new rule.

ITTO: Nigeria and Bolivia will not send the questionnaire unless there are implementations of statistical projects. India, Gabon and Paraguay did not answer to the ITTO requests for the providing the questionnaire.

UNECE did not receive responses, inter alia, from Belarus, Georgia, Israel, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. **UNECE** is concerned with data from the US and the Russian Federation questionnaires, emphasizing that there were some significant differences between various sources for particular items in the questionnaire for both countries. **UNECE** mentioned that there was a decrease in overall completeness rate of the questionnaires (JQ1 to JQ3) received this year, while there was an improvement in response rate of species trade (9 responses compared to 7 in 2012).

c) Data dissemination

Eurostat updates the online database as needed, at least twice a year. Eurostat publishes its data in its topical pocketbooks (e.g. on agriculture, forestry and fisheries; on transport, energy and the environment), where different subjects are highlighted. It also publishes articles on forestry and on the wood-based industry on a special wiki called "Statistics Explained". It publishes press releases, e.g. on fuelwood, jointly with data from energy statistics. Upon request data is provided for purposes formulated by other Commission Directorates (e.g. DG AGRI in their yearbook).

FAO updates FAOSTAT twice a year and releases a corporate press release in December. Series for wood pellets were launched in FAOSTAT last year. The Yearbook of Forest Products is now in all 6 FAO languages (added Russian in 2013). It publishes the summary of facts and data on global figures. **FAO** also created a new website in 2013 (with contents fully aligned in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Italian, Russian and Spanish).

ITTO updates data in its online database once a year in June. *The Annual Review of the World Timber Situation* became biennial in 2013 and will be published in 2015.

UNECE publishes its data and analysis through the *Forest Products Annual Market Review*. The Electronic annex of the review as well as the data FLAT file is downloadable on **its** website. **UNECE** updates its database at least twice a year in summer and winter, also as needed during the year.

d) Data validation - discrepancies identified:

i) Negative apparent consumption

All the organizations are doing data cross check with apparent consumption.

Eurostat estimates the data in case of no data submission from member countries and does not repeat the data (unless null values). **Eurostat** estimates of production are mostly based on the trend in trade. Estimates are also based on the trend of sawnwood or roundwood production in case no acceptable estimates can be provided by other methods.

ii) Annual changes

FAO uses a 30% annual change threshold and the minimum volume threshold is 10,000 m³/t.

UNECE also examines annual change.

ESTAT provided correspondents with a checking tool to compare annual changes of the last 5 years data on a separate sheet and of the unit price of the two reporting years next to the data table.

iii) Unit price

Eurostat uses the variation of the unit price and sets a threshold of 20% (subject to change by the correspondents) for it.

iv) Other

UNECE is working on new data validation tool called *industrial roundwood balance*.

Eurostat prefills the questionnaire with previous data and includes the data of the last 5 years in extra worksheets.

e) Data exchanges among partner organizations:

- **Eurostat's** estimates of EU-aggregates: were they uploaded to FAOSTAT or does FAOSTAT contain sums of the EU countries' data that Eurostat transmitted (ignoring the missing numbers)? The latter

seems likely, because the FAOSTAT total are slightly lower than the Eurostat totals in the example shown in the **Annex** for Bleached sulphate pulp (2011 and 2012) and because the general bottom-up approach to publish totals.

UNECE and **FAO** tried to adjust their EU data by using **Eurostat** EU aggregates in the summer 2013 but several discrepancies arose on certain countries and products after transmission of data from Eurostat in November (Greece, Denmark as well as Other Agglomerates statistics that contained obvious errors). Updates on these were not received from Eurostat by mid-December. Both Organizations eventually did not use the **Eurostat** EU aggregates in validation of final data (December) as time was not sufficient for adjusting the data.

The EU total aggregates differ between **FAO** and **Eurostat** because both organizations have different estimates for certain EU countries. The reason for discrepancy: **Eurostat** does not publish its own estimates and does not communicate them to **ITTO**, **UNECE** and **FAO** as its members do not allow it to do so. **Eurostat** would like **FAO/UNECE** and **ITTO** to not publish EU country estimates and to use the EU aggregates provided by Eurostat. However, **FAO**, **UNECE** and **ITTO** have to make their own estimate of non-shared data, as their stakeholders and users of their data expect and use country level data.

As long as estimates are not communicated, there will be discrepancies for the EU countries between Organizations. **The Organizations will try to do their best to adjust and harmonize their data within the timeframe of each publication/data release and the mandate of each agency.**

f) Ancillary statistical activities by individual organizations

- **Eurostat** plans to collect basic data on forest area and wood stocks in an accounting framework (IEEAF), with a reference to the data on removals collected with the JFSQ, as discussed with the Working Group on Forestry statistics and accounting of 22-23 January 2014
- **Eurostat's** regular updating of statistics on EU imports of tropical wood products of HS-Chapter 44 from FLEGT countries. It was noticed that there was a **decline in the quantities imported in the last two years.**
- **ITTO** briefing on its work on marketing studies on the implementation of the FLEGT licences in the EU. **ITTO** is at the very beginning of the implementation of the Independent Market Monitoring System. The planning phase of the IMM which should be fully implemented **in 2014.**
- **UNECE** plans to update the conversion factors and to add more countries.
- **UNECE** Joint wood energy enquiry.
- **UNECE** FRA reporting and pan European reporting.
- **UNECE** will release species trade if time permits.
- **UNECE** Timber Forecast/**UNECE** Forecast Questionnaire.
- **FAO** trade flow pulp and paper publication.
- **FAO** Recovered paper survey.

4) **The JFSQ cycle in 2014**

a) 2013 JFSQ revision/improvements:

FAO will refer metric tonnes in the Spanish JFSQ as "t.m."

FAO will review JQ3 cross reference table and delete reference to HS 4815 for the item 12.6

i) **Eurostat's** document on possible changes to the JFSQ definitions, as discussed with the Working Group on Forestry statistics and accounting of 22-23 January 2014.

It was agreed that apparent consumption of chips does not have to be balanced.

Definition of Woodfuel (1.1) was revised, now it covers roundwood used for the production of wood pellets and other agglomerates.

Definition of Wood residues (3.2) was revised, now it clarifies that post-consumer wood is not included.

Definition of Other fibre pulp (8.1) was revised, now it covers non-wood pulp for other uses (e.g. non-wood dissolving pulp).

Eurostat will look into available data (statistics on waste) for recovered wood or post-consumer wood and will report to the next IWG.

UNECE will share EPF table about raw material used for particleboard with **FAO/Eurostat** (done immediately during the meeting)

It was agreed that veneer will remain as it is in the JFSQ (under wood-based panels) at least until next “big bang”. Organizations don’t oppose changing product codes in the next “big bang.” It was agreed that apparent consumption of veneers does not have to be balanced, nor does the total of wood panels (Product 6).

Eurostat could use separate sheets in JFSQ for collecting data on glulam and CLT on an extra worksheet for exploratory purposes.

ii) Other changes:

iii) How could the JFSQ sheets JQ1 and JQ2 be simplified, in response to Eurostat’s long-standing request?

Eurostat proposed to simplify the wood pulp grades but it was decided that things stay the same and will be discussed in future meetings.

Since the availability and quality of data from Comtrade improved over the last decade, FAO and ITTO proposed to remove DOT tables from JQ. **All the Organizations agreed to abolish the DOT tables in the JFSQ.**

JQ3 trade in secondary processed wood products: **UNECE** is the only Organization using the data reported in JQ3 and will consider using other complementary sources of information and will report to the next IWG. **Eurostat** publishes these data, but they come mainly from COMEXT, meaning that the JQ3 could be deleted. **FAO** does not disseminate JQ3 data.

b) Deadlines and data exchanges

ITTO requested **Eurostat** to send each questionnaire as soon as it is received.

- Proposal for deadlines for data exchanges(see below)

(a) FAO will prepare and send master JQ-2013 and definition copies in English, French and Spanish to partners by **17 February 2014**. Russian and Chinese versions will be adapted later (FAO and UNECE).

(b) Eurostat will help FAO with translation of JQ definition amendments to French and Spanish

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2014 agreed data exchange plan and implementation

Agency	Eurostat	UNECE	ITTO	FAO
Dispatch deadline	April 2	April 2	June 16	May 29
External deadline	May 15 / Oct 8	May 15	September 30	August 31
Internal deadline (last day for new data additions)	June 11 / Oct 8	June 21	Draft AR Oct 31 (TCQ forecasts in December) Final AR Jan 30	Preliminary July / Final Nov 30
Basic validation	June 15 / Oct 21	June 24	March 1	To Sep 30 (as received)
Analytical validation (last day for data corrections)	June 21 / Oct 21	July 5	March 1	July 15 / Nov 30
Dispatch to ECE	June 24 / Oct 23			
Dispatch to FAO		July 11 / Oct 31	weekly JQ, final 2012 dataset in June 2	
Dispatch to ITTO	JQ originals for ITTO countries as received, eliminating any confidential elements	JQs originals as received. July and Nov 14 (forecast). Advise them when final data in December are available (third week)		
Database upload	July / November	July / December	June 1	July 31 / December 15

- Confidential data

Since **Eurostat** is not publishing its estimates, this also helps it to protect and hide confidential data.

- Estimates

Eurostat encourages countries to estimate data, because these estimates are published and exchanged with partner organizations.

FAO estimated Russia and some other countries data, case by case depending on the quality on the data.

UNECE also estimates data ad hoc.

Eurostat proposed to change “*weight*” to “*mass*” in all three languages in the JFSQ definitions. This is postponed until next year.

c) Country handling (Croatia, new ITTO members, etc.)

Eurostat will send the questionnaire to Croatia (one down for **UNECE**)

ITTO will send the questionnaire to Costa Rica (one down for **FAO**)

d) Status codes (flags)

Eurostat has an initiative to harmonize the flags used for all of its validation procedures. **FAO** tries to harmonise flags with ITTO dataset, ECE/Eurostat flags are converted to FAOSTAT flags automatically during data upload.

5) **HS2017 round**

a) Update on current status and future meetings. Pending issues:

i) Tropical species list

Will be decided at WCO Harmonized System Committee meeting in March. **ITTO** and **FAO** will review the list again and will send comments to WCO (if any needed).

6) **Other Business**

a) Organizational and staff changes

Eurostat will be down by 1 staff for some months. It is unlikely that the new person will start before the summer 2014. The partner Organizations will be happy to provide support to **Eurostat**, if any is needed.

UNECE/FAO Geneva hired one new staff who will support work on FPAMR.

FAO and ITTO did not experience any change in the staff.

b) National correspondents

FAO wants to send the yearbook to all national correspondents, Organizations will exchange contacts when needed.

c) Rotation in hosting IWG meetings

ITTO proposed the next IWG to be held in Japan next year as the last and only IWG meeting held in Japan was in 1998. There was no objection in principle.

d) Place and date of 28th IWG meeting (2015)

This should be convened during mid-February 2015.

e) Membership of IWG and role of observer organizations

N/A.

7) **Meetings of Interest to IWG**

a) **Eurostat** Working Group "Forestry statistics and accounting", January 2014

The next meeting will be held in February 2015.

b) METSÄ December 2013

This will be called KAZAN COFFI 2014 and will be held in Oct-Dec. 2014.

Workshops in 2013: **ITTO and FAO held workshops in China (Apr) and Ethiopia (Dec). ECE organised 1-day workshop for Central Asia in Geneva (Oct).**

c) Future workshops

UNECE and **FAO** will organize one workshop in Central Asia and in the Caucasus in 2014. The date has still to be decided. **ITTO** and **FAO** plan to organize 2 workshops in Africa in 2014.

d) Future meetings:

i) FAO/ITTO

FAO wants to increase visibility of forest products statistics work in FAO Committee on Forestry and Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries meetings (both in June).

- ii) 36th FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management, 2014
17-18 June 2014
Team of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics, 6-8 May 2014.
- iii) Other meetings

N/A

ANNEX 1: JQ distribution in 2014:

AFRICA (54):

FAO (40): Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

ITTO (14): Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Togo.

ASIA (47):

ECE (10): Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

Eurostat (1): Cyprus.

FAO(28): Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iran (Islamic Rep.), Iraq, Jordan, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam, Yemen.

ITTO (8): Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand.

EUROPE (40):

ECE (9): Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, The FYR of Macedonia, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia, Ukraine.

Eurostat (31): Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom.

NORTHERN AMERICA (2)

ECE (2): Canada, United States of America.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN (33)

FAO(18): Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Chile, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and Grenadines, Uruguay.

ITTO (15): Bolivia (Plurinational state of), Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

OCEANIA (16)

FAO(13): Australia, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federal States of), New Zealand, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu.

ITTO (3): Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu.

Total (192): ECE - 21, Eurostat - 32, FAO - 99, ITTO - 40.

ANNEX 2: Data on Bleached sulphate pulp: FAOSTAT and Eurostat

Production (tonnes)

		year							
country	item	2009		2010		2011		2012	
		Austria	Bleached Sulphate Pulp	390212.00	tonnes	400081.00	tonnes	395336.00	tonnes
Finland	Bleached Sulphate Pulp	5119000.00	tonnes	6273000.00	tonnes	6286000.00	tonnes	6274000.00	tonnes
France	Bleached Sulphate Pulp	625386.00	tonnes *	654659.00	tonnes *	672787.00	tonnes	F	645339.00
Germany	Bleached Sulphate Pulp	930773.00	tonnes *	929468.00	tonnes *	953000.00	tonnes *		972000.00
Italy	Bleached Sulphate Pulp	0.00	tonnes	0.00	tonnes	0.00	tonnes		0.00
Poland	Bleached Sulphate Pulp	380266.00	tonnes *	391001.00	tonnes *	396322.00	tonnes *		383646.00
Spain	Bleached Sulphate Pulp	1452715.00	tonnes	1570507.00	tonnes *	1659096.00	tonnes *		1659096.00
Sweden	Bleached Sulphate Pulp	5319000.00	tonnes	5414000.00	tonnes	5385000.00	tonnes		5467000.00
European Union + (Total)	Bleached Sulphate Pulp	17203553.00	tonnes A	18386678.00	tonnes A	19099516.00	tonnes A		19225220.00

* = Unofficial figure | [] = Official data | A = Aggregate, may include official, semi-official or estimated data | F = FAO estimate

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Pulp, paper and paperboard

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+
 +
 Thousands of tonnes

+
 +

+
 +

	2009	2010	2011	2012
European Union (28 countries)	17,203.55(e)	18,386.68(e)	19,104.78(p)	19,552.20(p)
European Union (27 countries)	17,203.55(e)	18,386.68(e)	19,104.78(p)	19,552.20(p)
Germany (until 1990 figures only)	930.77 (e)	929.47 (e)	953.00 (e)	972.00 (e)
Spain	1,452.71	1,570.51 (e)	1,659.10 (e)	:
France	625.39 (e)	654.66 (e)	672.79 (p)	645.34 (p)
Italy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Austria	390.21	400.08	395.34	412.04
Poland	380.27 (e)	391.00 (e)	396.32 (e)	383.65 (e)
Finland	5,119.00	6,273.00	6,286.00	6,274.00
Sweden	5,319.00	5,414.00	5,385.00	5,467.00

Available flags:

- b break in time series c confidential d definition differs, see metadata
- e estimated f forecast i see metadata
- n not significant p provisional r revised
- s Eurostat estimate u low reliability z not applicable

Excerpt from 25 th IWG meeting minutes			Current status (as of 24 Jan. 2014) and comments
Parag raph	text	Who will do	
2)e)ii)	Species codes ECE to ITTO. Not implemented, ECE to do in future.	ECE	ECE and Eurostat agree to discuss on bilateral talk for species code Deadline: end of April 2014
4a)v)	DOT, Mixed plywood (6.2NC.T). ITTO will reconsider and carry out a study if needed.	ITTO	On-going joint FAO-ITTO study on plywood in China, should be finished by the end of 2014 Report to next IWG
c)	Conversion factors - mt in trade stats to m3 in JQ: UNECE Conv. Factor sheet was reviewed, it looks good. FAO will have a look into problems with Chips units reported (Australia, others) and report to IWG next year.	FAO	FAO will present short note about this to IWG 26 th . Revised series for Australia, biggest exporters. Not open issue anymore
d)	ITTO showed differences between their DB and data in other organizations. It was agreed, that proposed changes become part of Eurostat, ECE and FAO databases unless Eurostat, ECE, FAO objected the proposed change.	Eurostat, ECE, FAO	Agreed and done. ITTO will send its comments every year after receiving UNECE dataset
4)a)	ITTO proposed adding Trop. IRW (1.2.NC.T) in JQ1 in big-bang change next year (JQ2011). Issues for including this: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not all tropical countries are ITTO producers. • definition of “tropical” products differs between JQ1 (production, JQ def) and JQ2 (trade, HS def.). Needs to be resolved by next IWG. 		Agreed not to expand since it is already in ITTO1.
4)c)	Eurostat will stop estimating some non-reported detailed production sub-items, as outlined in their document FO/2011WG/9. Eurostat will flag empty cells where they have <u>no data</u> and <u>no estimate</u> was made. UNECE will estimate missing values and flag them as ECE estimates, making sure that the higher-level totals are not modified and return these to Eurostat.	Eurostat, UNECE	Discussed later under data exchange

