ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Timber Committee

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS FORTY-SIXTH SESSION
(11 to 14 October 1988)

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Introduction

1. The ECE Timber Committee held its forty-sixth session at Geneva from 11 to 14 October 1988. The session was attended by representatives from the following countries: Austria; Belgium; Bulgaria; Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic; Canada; Czechoslovakia; Finland; France; German Democratic Republic; Germany, Federal Republic of; Greece; Hungary; Italy; the Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; Ukrainian Soviet socialist Republic; Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United States of America; Yugoslavia.

2. The following United Nations and specialized agencies were represented: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); International Labour Organisation (ILO); Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

3. The following intergovernmental organizations participated: European Economic Community (EEC); International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO).

4. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: European Confederation of Agriculture (CEA); International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU); International Organization for Standardization (ISO); International Technical Association for Tropical Timber (ATIBT); Organization of European Sawmilling Industries (OES); Union of Tropical Timber Traders (UCBT).

5. The Committee paid homage to the memory of Mr. J.C. Westoby, former Deputy Director of the FAO Forestry Division.

Adoption of the agenda (Item 1 of the agenda)

6. The provisional agenda (ECE/TIM/40) was adopted.

Election of officers (Item 2 of the agenda)

7. Mr. J. Saglitz (German Democratic Republic) and Mr. H.J. van der Meiden (Netherlands) were re-elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively.

Matters arising from the forty-third session of the Commission (Item 3 of the agenda) (TIM/R.150)

8. The Committee was informed of the Commission's discussion of its work and the resolution and decisions of the Commission. It agreed to take account of these discussions, resolution and decisions, particularly with regard to its programme of work.

9. Concerning decision A(43), the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, the Committee noted that Principal Subsidiary Bodies had been requested to comment on the Executive Secretary's report (ECE/AC.18/R.1) and the results of an ad hoc meeting which was taking place simultaneously with the Committee session. It agreed that heads of Committee delegations should be invited by the secretariat to comment on these matters, so that the views of the Committee's members could be put before the Commission.

10. With respect to decision H(43), the Committee welcomed the progress accomplished by Canada, the United States and the USSR in the outlook studies which they were undertaking for their countries and which would be complementary to ETTS IV. Several delegations further informed the Committee on actions taken in their countries to disseminate the Policy Declaration and to take it into account for policy making.
Activities of other Principal Subsidiary Bodies of ECE of concern to the Timber Committee (Item 4 of the agenda) (TIM/R.151)

11. The Committee was informed of activities of other Principal Subsidiary Bodies of ECE dealing with matters of concern to it. It took note of this information and agreed to take it into account when discussing its own programme of work.

Activities of FAO and other international organizations of relevance to the Timber Committee (Item 5 of the agenda)

12. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) informed the Committee of the meeting of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) in May 1988. The discussions had focussed on small scale forest industries, logging and harvesting and on wildlife. COFO had given full support to the pursuit of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan.

13. Under the FAO Advisory Committee of Experts on Pulp and Paper, an Expert Consultation on the Outlook for Supply and Demand of Pulp and Paper in Developing Countries had been held in Beijing (China) in July 1988.

14. The Committee was also informed that FAO, in collaboration with ITTO, had been working on the development of statistical information to increase transparency in tropical timber trade.

15. The seventeenth FAO Regional Conference for Europe was held in Krakow (Poland) in August 1988. Among the major items discussed had been the issues and policy options for European agriculture up to the year 2000 and the integration of environment aspects in agriculture, forestry and fisheries policies in the region.

16. The representative of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) informed the Committee of its activities, notably the increasing concern about the working conditions in contract labour operations, which may be discussed at the second meeting of the ILO Forestry and Wood Industries Committee, probably to be held in 1991.

17. The Committee was also informed of the relevant past and planned activities of the International Federation of Building and Wood Workers of the ICFTU, notably its conferences on environment (May 1988), new technology (November 1988) and health risks from chemical products (May 1989).

Subsidiary bodies, special meetings and teams of specialists (Item 6 of the agenda)

(a) Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of forest workers (TIM/EFC/WP.1/18)

18. The Committee was informed of the results of the seventeenth session of the Joint Committee, held in Geneva in August 1988. The session had been combined with a study tour on forest road construction, which took place in the Canton of Valais at the invitation of the Government of Switzerland. The Committee warmly thanked the Swiss authorities for having organized the tour, as well as the following Governments which had hosted seminars since the Joint Committee’s previous session: Austria; Canada; France; German Democratic Republic; Germany, Federal Republic of; Spain; Sweden; and Switzerland.
19. The Committee also considered the proposal submitted to its parent bodies by the Joint Committee to change its title to: "Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training". It noted that the Joint Committee was unanimous in considering that the proposed new title reflected better the scope of its activities, but above all was shorter and easier to understand for all coming in contact with it. However, in view of some reserves on the title in Russian expressed by the USSR delegation, the Committee agreed to postpone its final decision until the other parent body, the FAO European Forestry Commission, had considered the proposal at its next session in June 1989. In the meantime, the Committee asked the secretariat to ascertain that the equivalent of the changed title in the other two official languages (French and Russian) adequately reflected the meaning of the English version and to report to both parent bodies.

20. The Committee approved the report of the seventeenth session, including its programme of work, and welcomed the excellent collaboration at the secretariat level between ECE, FAO and ILO, which played an important role in streamlining these bodies' activities and in avoiding duplication of work.

(b) Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics (TIM/EFC/WP.2/17, TIM/R.153 and Add.1)

21. The Committee was informed of the results of the Working Party's sixteenth session by the Working Party's chairman, Mr. K. Janz (Sweden) and endorsed the report.

22. The Committee approved the draft enquiry on the structure of the sawmilling industry (TIM/R.153/Add.1), as modified in the light of the Working Party's discussions and country comments. It agreed that the enquiry should be despatched to countries in early 1989, with a request for replies by 30 June 1989. The Committee:

(a) requested countries to initiate measures to collect the information required;

(b) noted that 20 countries had nominated correspondents to help the secretariat on this survey as requested by the Working Party (see TIM/EFC/WP.2/17, para. 33). It requested those countries which had not yet done so to nominate a correspondent as soon as possible.

23. The Committee took note of the suggestion that the number of issues of the Timber Bulletin with production and trade data be reduced from two to one per year (TIM/EFC/WP.2/17, para. 63). It considered, however, that such a measure would considerably reduce the service provided by the Committee to its members in the field of current market information, with insignificant cost savings.

24. The Committee expressed grave concern about the continuing late replies to questionnaires, and a possible decline in quality of data. It urged all responsible for providing data in response to ECE/FAO questionnaires to return them by the deadline indicated, with data of satisfactory quality. It also encouraged the secretariat to take vigorous steps to remind countries of their obligations in this respect. Complete and rapidly available statistics were the foundation of many areas of the Committee's work and the service provided to member countries; satisfactory statistical publications and analysis were impossible if countries did not carry out their obligation to provide data, in the form requested, by the agreed deadlines.
25. The Committee also noted that the introduction by many countries on 1 January 1988 of the third revision of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC Rev.3) might have negative consequences for the Committee's information base, notably because SITC Rev. 3 did not identify the traditional roundwood assortments (logs, pulpwood, etc.). The Committee requested the secretariat to convene a small group of experts to examine the situation and make recommendations to the Working Party. The group should meet in summer 1989, when some experience of SITC Rev.3 would be available, and after the inevitable period of initial confusion due to the transition.

26. The Committee agreed that the Working Party's next session should be in late 1989, thus restoring the biennial alternation of sessions with the Joint Committee.

(c) Seminar on the valorization of temperate zone, secondary-quality hardwoods (TIM/EFC/SEM.1/3)

27. The Committee was informed of the results of this seminar which had been held at Nancy (France) in November 1987 under the joint auspices of the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission. It recognized that the problem of secondary qualities was an important one, both for broadleaved and coniferous species, even if the seminar had indicated areas where progress could be achieved through appropriate efforts.

28. As a first step to improving the situation, it would be useful to have a more precise definition of the terms "secondary quality". It would also be desirable to dispose of information on how much of the European forest resource was composed of trees which would provide secondary quality wood. The possibility should be examined of incorporating a question on this point into the forthcoming forest resource assessment enquiry. It was agreed to refer the question to the next session of the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics for further consideration.

29. The Committee thanked the authorities of France for providing host facilities for the seminar.

(d) Study tour in Poland, May 1988

30. The Committee was informed of the results of this tour by Mr. P.M. Garrido (Spain). The theme of the tour was "Techniques of industrial utilization of damaged and low quality wood". The programme of the tour had been well balanced, and participants had had a good opportunity to visit sawmills, wood-based panel mills, and pulp and paper plants as well as Polish forests. They had been given detailed explanations of the methods being used for industrial utilization of damaged and low quality wood. The Committee warmly thanked the Polish authorities as well as the organizing institutions and individuals for a very interesting tour and for the generous hospitality extended to participants.

(e) Seminar on products from the Mediterranean forest

31. The Committee was informed of the results of the above seminar held at Florence (Italy) from 20 to 24 September 1988, under the joint auspices of the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission and in co-operation with the AFC/EFC/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions "Silva Mediterranea". The seminar had covered a rather wide subject area where the particular problems of woods from the Mediterranean forests were discussed, but the main emphasis had been given to the non-wood products. The role of non-wood products as an often significant source of income for the local population was
being increasingly recognized. In this connexion attention was drawn to the intention of FAO to devote greater attention to this aspect of the forest resource. In this sense the seminar had been breaking new ground and had helped to increase awareness of the role of these products with which the Committee had been only marginally concerned in the past, for instance in the context of ETTS IV.

32. The Committee noted that due to time constraints, it had not been possible to issue the report for the present session. It would therefore consider it at its next session in October 1989. The report will also be considered by the European Forestry Commission at its next session in June 1989.

33. The Committee expressed its appreciation and thanks to the authorities of Italy for providing host facilities for the seminar.

(f) **Team of specialists on wood and energy (TIM/R.154 and Add.1)**

34. The team had met in February 1988. The Committee took note of its review of recent developments and of competition and co-operation in the use of wood for energy and as raw material and in particular of the team's opinion that there was little harmful competition at present for supplies of wood between raw material and energy uses.

35. The Committee was informed that an enquiry on trends in the use of wood for energy in the 1980s, approved by the team, had been circulated to national correspondents. So far 11 replies had been received. The replies to the enquiry would be presented and analysed in the forthcoming medium-term survey of trends for pulpwood, wood for energy and miscellaneous roundwood, to be prepared in late 1988 and issued in spring 1989. The Committee strongly urged those countries which had not yet done so to reply as soon as possible, so that the secretariat would have sufficient data for the survey.

36. The Committee was informed that the team had reviewed the proposals by the USSR at the Committee's forty-fifth session (TIM/R.139, Annex III) and considered "that there probably was an interest in a seminar on the technical aspects of the use of wood for energy, perhaps concentrating on the two subjects proposed (fluidized bed techniques and high calorific value gas)". The Committee was also informed of the results of an enquiry, carried out in accordance with the team's suggestions, into countries' interest in the proposed seminar. Eighteen replies had been received, eleven countries indicating that such a seminar would be of interest to them and ten countries indicating they would be prepared to participate actively in the seminar, if held.

37. The Committee requested the team at its next meeting to consider the scope and organization of such a seminar and make concrete proposals to the Committee's forty-seventh session. Taking into account the period necessary to prepare the seminar, and the fact that the seminar on wood-based panels was scheduled for 1991 (see para. 67), it would probably not be possible to hold the seminar on wood and energy before 1992. The team should also take the opportunity to review the above-mentioned survey of trends in wood energy in the 1980s.

38. The Committee was also informed that the USSR was organizing a symposium on ecological, economic and technological aspects of the fuller use of wood biomass, including its use for energy purposes, in Moscow from 16 to 20 September 1989 in connection with the fourth International Specialized Exhibition LESDREVMASSH-89 (see preliminary outline in TIM/R.154/Add.1). It agreed to the proposal that it should be a co-sponsor of the symposium and
warmly thanked the authorities of the USSR for the invitation extended to the team members as well as other specialists from the Committee's member countries to participate in the symposium. It was suggested that the secretariat examine, with the team leader, the possibility of convening the team's next meeting in conjunction with this symposium. The delegation of the USSR offered its help in making the practical arrangements for the team's meeting.

(g) Team of specialists on the stress grading and finger-jointing of coniferous sawn timber (TIM/R.155)

39. The Committee noted than an informal meeting had been held to draft a recommended standard on finger-jointing of sawnwood. It:

(a) approved the revised recommended standard, prepared by the informal meeting and noted with satisfaction that it had been transferred to ISO TC 165 as a basis for work on an international standard;

(b) agreed that the revised recommended standard on finger-jointing, along with the recommended standard on stress grading (with the minor modifications approved by the Committee in 1985 - see ECE/TIM/28, para. 20) be made widely available for the convenience of governments, institutes and enterprises concerned with the question.

40. The representative of ISO welcomed the co-operation between his organization and the Timber Committee in this field. He noted that the Committee's work had facilitated and accelerated the standardization process.

41. The Committee noted that, in accordance with its programme (project 14.2.2), the Committee's work on standardization had now been concluded. It expressed its deep appreciation to Mr. Townsley (Canada), who had led the work from the start in 1973 to its completion in 1988, as well as to all the experts who had participated in the work.

(h) Team of specialists on the implications of air pollution damage to forests for roundwood supply and forest products markets (TIM/R.156 and addenda)

42. The Committee was informed of the team's activities by the team's leader, Mr. L Schotte (Sweden). It endorsed the team's conclusion that major market disturbances due to air pollution damage had not been observed, although there had been some local effects. Economic factors and the effects of other types of damage, notably from storms, played a much greater role on roundwood markets, which in any case had considerable scope for absorbing even quite large increases, of a temporary nature, in supply. Nevertheless, the Committee stressed the importance of further controlling emission of air pollutants.

43. As regards the team's future activities, the Committee decided:

(a) that the team should continue to monitor and analyse the situation, notably by an annual meeting;

(b) that at its next meeting the team should explore whether it should undertake activity on economic consequences and policy options, taking into account the work done by other international organizations;

(c) that the question of "materials for presentation of main issues" should be removed from the team's mandate;
(d) to urge countries to contribute as much as possible further to improve the flow of information on this subject, by providing information and by enabling their experts to attend meetings.

44. The Committee also reviewed the report on forest decline in Europe in 1987 attributed to air pollutants, prepared by Mr. S. Nilsson (Sweden), consultant to the secretariat (TIM/R.156/Addenda 1, 2 and 3). It took note of the report, asked delegations to check the data for their countries and transmit any corrections to the secretariat by 15 November 1988, and agreed that it be published thereafter.

45. The Committee expressed its thanks to Messrs. Schotte and Nilsson and the team members for their valuable work.

(i) Ad hoc meeting of experts on the practical application of satellite sensing for forest damage assessment (TIM/R.157)

46. The Committee was informed by Mr. L. Schotte (Sweden), Chairman of the meeting, of the results of the meeting and endorsed its report, including its conclusions and recommendations, notably that a team of specialists be set up with the task of:

(a) defining the criteria for the establishment of a network of test areas to develop the use of satellite imagery (SI);

(b) selecting test areas in different member countries that meet the relevant criteria and could be used in an international project.

Mr. Schotte mentioned a number of countries which had particular experience in the field of SI: Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Federal Republic of Germany, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and USSR. A number of these countries expressed their interest in participating in the work. The Committee invited these countries as well as other countries, if they so wished, to nominate experts to participate in the work of the team of specialists. The team should also co-operate with other international organizations, notably EEC, to avoid duplication of effort.

Market developments in 1988 and prospects for 1989 (item 7 of the agenda)


48. With regard to the organization of the market discussions, one delegation suggested that it would be more logical to discuss the question of roundwood removals before the markets for forest products. In addition it considered this item might benefit from a more in-depth analysis linking removals of different assortments to developments in the processing sectors. The Committee invited its office-holders to consider these suggestions at their next meeting.

Medium-term survey of the sawnwood and sawlog sector (Item 8 of the agenda) (TIM/R.159)

49. The Committee welcomed the survey, issued as Timber Bulletin, Vol. XLI No.2. The survey had adopted a new format; it now consisted of a systematic presentation of broad trends, including a comparison with the projections in
ETTS IV, an in-depth analysis of certain specific aspects and a data base. It considered that this type of format, suitably adapted to the product groups being treated, would be appropriate for use in future medium-term surveys.

Special topic: Tropical hardwoods (Item 9 of the agenda)

(a) Draft study on the trade and markets for tropical hardwoods (TIM/R.160 and addenda 1-3)

50. The draft study was presented to the Committee by Mr. J. Wadsworth, consultant to the secretariat. The Committee noted that, due to time constraints, it had not been possible to circulate the full draft in advance; nor had all the data, analysis and conclusions been checked before being submitted. The data used in the draft had been drawn from FAO, FAO/ECE, UCBT as well as national sources, including timber trade associations. Interviews had been conducted with associations, members of the trade and others in several countries.

51. The draft study traces the development of Europe's trade in tropical hardwood logs, sawnwood, plywood and veneer sheets within the context of total trade in forest products and shows their relative importance in the European markets. It discusses the factors affecting the supply and demand of tropical hardwoods and offers some pointers as to possible future trends.

52. The representative of the International Technical Association for Tropical Timber (ATIBT) expressed his association's interest in the study and outlined activities being carried out by ATIBT in such fields as transportation, standardization, grading and the dissemination of information about tropical timbers. The representative of the Union of Tropical Timber Traders (UCBT) also gave support to the study.

53. Several delegations offered detailed comments on the contents of the draft study, which should be taken into account when it is revised. The Committee was informed that the draft study would next be submitted to the meeting of the ITTO Council in November 1988, together with those delegations' comments on it which were available by that date.

54. The Committee noted that the project was being undertaken under the direction of its secretariat according to an agreement between ECE and ITTO. It agreed, therefore, that the final version of the study, assuming it would be published, should be issued under the responsibility of the secretariat of one or both of these organizations.

55. Accordingly, it invited delegations to submit their comments on the draft study in writing to the secretariat as soon as possible and in any case not later than 15 December 1988. The documents containing the draft (TIM/R.160 and addenda) should keep their 'restricted' status, i.e. should not be published, quoted or made available for widespread distribution. It requested the secretariat to take all comments carefully into account in revising the draft and to discuss with ITTO the most appropriate way of publishing the final version to ensure that it would be widely available to producers, traders and consumers of tropical hardwoods and others interested in the topic.

56. The Committee thanked Mr. Wadsworth for his valuable contribution to the preparation of the study. It welcomed the fact that the draft, together with the views expressed on it at the session, would be presented by its secretariat to the ITTO Council, which would ensure that close co-ordination would be maintained on the further work to be carried out on it.
57. The Committee considered possible further co-operation with the ITTO as a follow-up to the above study. It agreed that the already established co-operation at the secretariat level should be continued and if possible strengthened. It suggested that document TIM/R.161 should be drawn to the attention of ITTO, which should be invited to comment on it and, if it wished, indicate in what fields it would like to see further co-operation.

58. The Committee's attention was drawn to a proposal by the timber trade federations of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom for a levy to be collected on imports of tropical hardwoods. The levy's revenue would be channeled through ITTO to fund activities concerned with tropical forest conservation.

Review and revision of the draft programme of work for 1989 to 1993 (Item 10 of the agenda) (TIM/R.162 and Add.1)

59. The Committee considered its programme of work on the basis of the draft prepared by the secretariat which took into account the programme adopted by the Committee's forty-fifth session, the results of the meetings of the Committee's subsidiary bodies, as well as the changes decided upon by the Commission at its Special Session in November 1987 and the resolution and decisions of the Commission at its forty-third session. The Committee also took into account its own discussions and decisions under other items of the agenda. It approved its programme of work as set out in annexes I and II.

60. Delegations expressed their appreciation of the Committee's programme, as drawn up by the Special Session, which they considered corresponded well to member countries' needs and priorities. Nevertheless it agreed with the opinion that had been expressed by its office-holders that the recent phase of streamlining of the Committee's activities should not be allowed to inhibit the introduction of new projects which countries considered important into the programme, which must evolve to satisfy countries' changing needs. The Committee stressed that countries were welcome to present to the Committee at any time proposals for new activities. If these suggestions could not be directly included in the programme, they could be incorporated into the programme as projects for possible implementation at a future time, according to the procedure laid down by the Commission (see E/ECE/1150/Rev.1, para. 131).

61. The Committee noted that in decision H (43) - Policy implications of the study European Timber Trends and Prospects to the Year 2000 and Beyond (ETTS IV) the Commission had "invited the Timber Committee to ensure that its own programme of work reflected the concerns and priorities of member Governments as expressed in the Declaration (on the policy implications of ETTS IV)." The Committee agreed that the best way of carrying out the provisions of this decision would be to review the whole of its programme in the light of ETTS IV and the suggestions of the Committee's subsidiary bodies, in order to identify any new activities which should be undertaken and existing activities which may be less relevant than before. The Committee agreed on the following course of action:

- Early 1989: the secretariat to prepare proposals, based on the concerns and priorities identified in the ETTS IV Policy Declaration and any further suggestions which countries may wish to submit
- April 1989: preliminary consideration of proposals by office-holders
- October 1989: decision by Committee on the basis of revised proposals.
62. In accordance with the Commission's request (E/ECE/1150/Rev.1, para. 146), the Committee examined the periodicity of its meetings. It decided that it was necessary to maintain the present system of annual sessions, notably because of the important item on the market review, which could not be effectively dealt with at longer intervals than one year or by a working group meeting in alternate years.

63. With reference to the Commission's request to its Principal Subsidiary Bodies to establish priorities among their programme elements every three years (E/ECE/1150/Rev.1, para 133), the Committee recalled that it had established priorities at its forty-fifth session in 1987 (ECE/TIM/38, paras 19-28).

64. The Committee noted that, although Principal Subsidiary Bodies should not hold more than one ad hoc meeting or seminar serviced by the United Nations in any one year, it had so far been possible to maintain the Committee's active programme of exchange of information and experience thanks to the generosity of member Governments who had provided host facilities. One delegation expressed concern that this degree of dependance on the generosity of member Governments could lead to a reduction in the Committee's control of its own programme and could stifle initiatives for new activities by the Committee. The Committee reiterated the statement made at its forty-fifth session that a strict limitation on the number of meeting days with UN interpretation which were to be made available to seminars and ad hoc meetings would discriminate against bodies, like the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers, which had adopted flexible working methods, notably seminars, as the main method of carrying out their programme.

65. The delegation of Spain confirmed its offer to organize the Committee's study tour in early June 1989 and informed the Committee of preparations for it. The tour would visit the major forested regions of Galicia, Asturias and Cantabria as well as a training centre, pulp mills and wood-based panel mills. The Committee agreed that the study tour should be held under the joint auspices of the FAO European Forestry Commission, which was scheduled to meet in Rome in the week after the tour. The Committee requested the Spanish authorities to transmit the programme of the tour to the secretariat for wide distribution as soon as possible.

66. The delegation of Hungary confirmed its offer to organize the Committee's study tour in 1990. It invited countries to indicate whether they preferred a tour of the Hungarian forest and forest products sector or one with a narrower theme, possibly the black locust (Robinia pseudoacacia) from the point of view of forest management and of manufacturing. One delegation expressed its preference for a broad theme. The Committee requested the office-holders to consider the question and advise the Hungarian authorities.

67. The Committee took note of the outline for the seminar on new technologies in the wood-based panels sector (project 14.4.1), scheduled to be held in Gdansk (Poland) in May or September 1991 (see TIM/R.162/Add.1). It requested the secretariat and the Polish authorities to continue the preparations for the seminar. The Committee stressed the desirability of seeking the support of the European federations of wood-based panels manufacturers and requested the secretariat to take the necessary steps.

68. With regard to project 14.5.4 - Measures to be taken in the event of sudden and severe damage to forests, the Committee considered there was a need for the rapid international dissemination of reliable information on these events and decided to maintain the existing mechanism to achieve this. Initially, however, this project had aimed to promote a more widespread exchange of experience.
This work was now being carried out under the auspices of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee (project 14.3.1.1) and the European Forestry Commission, which would have a special discussion on this subject at its session in June 1989. This aspect should accordingly be removed from project 14.5.4 and its title and description modified accordingly.

Adoption of the report of the Committee's session (Item 12 of the agenda)

69. The Committee adopted the present report of its forty-sixth session, subject to the reservation mentioned below.

Other business

70. The delegation of the USSR expressed its regret that the draft report was not available to delegates in Russian, at the closing session and asked the secretariat to inform the Executive Secretary of its position. It further stated that it reserved the right to propose changes when the Russian version had been made available. The Committee requested the secretariat to incorporate any subsequent changes made by the USSR delegation before publishing the present report.

Date of next session

71. The Committee agreed that its next session should be held from 9 to 13 October 1989, subject to the availability of conference services for that period.
Annex I

TIMBER COMMITTEE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1989-1993:

PROGRAMME 14 - TIMBER

This programme is carried out by the Timber Committee and its subsidiary bodies. The Committee meets annually, usually in October. In addition to the activities specified under the individual programme elements or sub-elements, the Committee also furthers the dissemination and exchange of information and experience by organizing study tours at the invitation of the Governments concerned: in Spain in 1989 and in Hungary in 1990.

SUB-PROGRAMME 14.1: MEDIUM- AND LONG-TERM TRENDS, PROSPECTS AND POLICIES FOR FORESTRY AND FOREST PRODUCTS

14.1.1. Appraisal of long-term timber trends and prospects

Description: The Committee will keep under review and up-date projections and forecasts of long-term trends in production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products, comparing them with projections made in previous long-term studies. The studies will provide Governments with the latest projections and forecasts of long-term prospects at the regional and sub-regional level as a framework for national studies and as a basis for drawing up national policies for the forest and forest products sector. Amongst other factors, the Committee's analyses will take into account the impact of air pollution on the forestry and forest products sector, including the prospects for future wood supply.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The Declaration on the policy implications of European Timber Trends and Prospects to the Year 2000 and Beyond (ETTS IV) was given wide distribution. The authorities of Canada, the USSR and the USA, in cooperation with the secretariat, are preparing studies of the outlook for the forest and forest products sector in their countries. The target date for completion of the drafting of these studies is mid-1989. The next major study of long term trends and prospects in Europe will be prepared in the early 1990s.

Duration: Continuing.

14.1.2. Medium-term trends in industry structure and markets in specific forest products sectors

Description: The Committee will review medium-term (3-5 years) trends in the production, consumption, trade and prices of major forest products and the structure and capacity of the sawmilling and wood-based panels industries so that governments may be continuously informed of structural trends in the forest products sectors of the ECE region. The medium-term surveys will allow recent trends to be compared with the projections made in the long-term studies (project 14.1.1) and provide early warning to Governments of deviations from expected developments.
Work accomplished and to be undertaken: Medium-term surveys are carried out on a 3-year rotation of the following sectors: pulpwood, wood for energy and miscellaneous roundwood (1988, 1991); wood-based panels (1989, 1992); and sawnwood and sawlogs (1990, 1993). The surveys of the wood-based panels sector will include the results of the regular triennial surveys of the structure and capacity of these industries. The 1990 survey of the sawnwood and sawlog sector will include the results of the survey of the sawmilling industry. The Committee will decide whether the sawmilling survey should continue to be carried out on a 6-year cycle.

Duration: Continuing.

14.1.3. Trends, prospects and policies in forestry and forest products in southern Europe

Description: The forest and forest industry policy and environmental problems facing countries in the Mediterranean area will be reviewed in the light of the long-term outlook for their forest economies (see 14.1.1.)

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: A seminar on the products from the Mediterranean forest was held in 1988 in Italy, co-sponsored by the FAO European Forestry Commission and with the cooperation of the AFC/EFC/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions "Silva Mediterranea". The Committee will decide at its forty-seventh session on future action in the light of the seminar's recommendations.

Duration: To be determined by the forty-seventh session of the Committee.

SUB-PROGRAMME 14.2: CURRENT FOREST PRODUCTS MARKET DEVELOPMENTS AND SHORT-TERM PROSPECTS, INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL TRADE

14.2.1. Review of production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products

Description: The Committee will analyse, on a continuous basis, short-term trends in the production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products and forecast short-term prospects, with a view to providing Governments and the forest products sector with accurate and up-to-date information and assessments, necessary for an orderly development of the supply/demand mechanism.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The annual session of the Timber Committee reviews short-term trends and prospects in the production, trade and consumption of coniferous and non-coniferous (including tropical) logs and sawnwood, wood-based panels and pulpwood, on the basis of estimates and other market information prepared by delegations for the year in progress and the forthcoming year. An analysis of market trends, based on the Committee's discussions, is published after the session, as well as an Annual Forest Products Market Review based on data supplied by Governments in connection with project 14.6.1. The study on the European trade and utilization of tropical hardwoods, undertaken in 1988, in cooperation with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), will be published in 1989.

Duration: Continuing.
SUB-PROGRAMME 14.3: FOREST WORKING TECHNIQUES AND TRAINING OF FOREST WORKERS

This sub-programme covers the activities of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers, which normally meets biennially (1990, 1992, etc.), with meetings of its Steering Committee in the intervening years. Its task is to foster international collaboration on technical, economic and organizational aspects of forest working techniques and training of forest workers in logging and forest operations. Special attention is given to the development and implementation of forest use planning and general management aspects; increasing the efficiency of labour, the reduction of the physical efforts of the worker and prevention of accidents; the reduction of waste; and the establishment of an adequate balance between technical, social and economic requirements and protection of the environment.

14.3.1. Silvicultural operations and general management aspects

14.3.1.1. Development and use of methods and equipment for silvicultural operations, including stand establishment and multiple use forestry

Description: The Joint Committee will promote the exchange of information and further silvicultural methods and techniques, which do not damage the forest ecosystem and which take account of the multiple use of forests, by regularly reviewing machines and techniques applied in silviculture, including afforestation and reforestation, with a view to assisting Governments in these fields.

Work accomplished:

(a) A seminar on acute forest damage on harvesting and silvicultural operations was held in the Federal Republic of Germany in 1987 and the proceedings were published. A seminar was held in 1988 in the German Democratic Republic on reforestation methods after harvesting, in particular artificial regeneration.

(b) The draft study on afforestation techniques in Spain was completed and its publication approved by the seventeenth session of the Joint Committee.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Seminars will be held at intervals on selected items: in 1989 a seminar will be held in Belgium in collaboration with IUFRO on the impact of mechanization of forest operations on the soil; in 1990 in the Federal Republic of Germany on forest site conservation and improvement for sustained yield (provisional title); in 1991 in Denmark (subject to confirmation) on thinning operations.

(b) The study on afforestation techniques in Spain, supplemented by material from other Mediterranean countries, will be completed and published.

(c) A team of specialists will be established to prepare a Model Forest Damage Manual, for use throughout the ECE region, based on the manual currently in use in Switzerland. In addition, the team will prepare a framework for national reporting on experience in dealing with catastrophes.

Duration: (a) Continuing; (b) 1989; (c) to be proposed by the ninth session of the Steering Committee.
14.3.1.2. Forest fire prevention and control

Description: The Joint Committee examines techniques and equipment used in forest fire control, as well as preventive measures, with a view to assisting Governments in these fields.

Work accomplished: A seminar on methods and equipment for the prevention of forest fires was held in Spain in 1986, and the proceedings published. A new team of specialists on forest fires was established; the first (trial) Forest Fire Newsletter was prepared.

Work to be undertaken: the team of specialists will meet if possible before the end of 1988 to draw up proposals for future work, including the organization of a seminar on forest fire prevention in 1991. It will also explore ways and means of issuing a forest fire newsletter on a regular basis, including the support of other bodies which might assist financially.

Duration: To be proposed by the ninth session of the Steering Committee.

14.3.1.3. Methods and procedures for the preparation and implementation of working forest management plans

Description: The Joint Committee will survey practical methods and procedures for the preparation and implementation of working forest management plans, with special emphasis on the determination, collection and processing of relevant data with a view to assisting forest managers in the execution of their tasks.

Work accomplished: A seminar on the preparation and implementation of forest management plans was held in the Netherlands in 1986 and the proceedings prepared for publication;

Work to be undertaken: Seminars on advanced planning and control techniques will be organized; one should deal with the impact of automation and computerization on forest management practices.

Duration: To be considered by the ninth session of the Steering Committee.

14.3.2. Wood harvesting and transport

14.3.2.1. Development and use of harvesting machinery and systems

Description: The Joint Committee will keep under review trends and prospects in the development and use of harvesting machinery and systems, taking into account specific conditions and cost/price relationships so as to encourage rational harvesting methods in flat, hilly and mountainous regions from the economic, ergonomic and environmental points of view.

Work accomplished: A seminar was held on small-scale logging operations and machines in Sweden in 1987 and the proceedings were published.

Work to be undertaken: Seminars on selected items will be held at intervals: in Turkey in 1989 on the mechanization of harvesting operations in mountainous terrain; in 1990 or 1991, a seminar on multi-functional logging operations or another subject to be considered by the Steering Committee at its ninth session.

Duration: Continuing.
14.3.2.2. Forest roads and transport of wood raw material

Description: The Joint Committee will promote the exchange of information on methods of construction of forest roads and on the transport of wood raw material from the forest by road or other means, with a view to assisting countries to rationalize their transport systems and reduce costs.

Work accomplished: A study tour on forest road construction was held in Switzerland in 1988 on the occasion of the seventeenth session of the Joint Committee.

Work to be undertaken and duration: The Steering Committee will make proposals at its ninth session in the light of the results of the study tour.

14.3.2.3. Harvesting of wood for energy purposes

Description: The Joint Committee will review methods and equipment suitable for the production and harvesting of wood specifically destined for energy production, so as to determine the potential of the forest or special plantations to contribute economically to total energy supply.

Work accomplished: A report was presented to the seventeenth session of the Joint Committee on activities in the field of wood harvesting for energy purposes by the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations, the International Energy Agency and the FAO Cooperative Networks on Rural Energy;

Work to be undertaken:

(a) A report will be presented to the Joint Committee's eighteenth session on relevant activities of IUoro, IEA, and the FAO Cooperative Networks on Rural Energy.

(b) The secretariat will explore, with the FAO European Regional office, the possibility of organizing a joint seminar with the FAO Cooperative Network on Rural Energy in 1990 or 1991 and will report to the ninth session of the Steering Committee.

Duration: (a) Continuing; (b) To be decided by the eighteenth session of the Joint Committee.

14.3.3. Vocational training, applied ergonomics, occupational safety and health

14.3.3.1. Vocational training in forestry

Description: By keeping under review developments and trends in vocational training in forestry, the Joint Committee will assist Governments in planning their national vocational training policies, in raising the efficiency of forest operations and in improving working practices with regard to safety and health.

Work accomplished: A seminar on extension activities for owners of small woodlands (woodlots) was held in Canada in 1987 and the proceedings issued.

Work to be undertaken: Seminars will be organized at intervals on selected problems: in 1989 in Finland on the training of professional forest workers, in connection with which a simple enquiry will be circulated to member countries on this topic; the Steering Committee will draw up a proposal at its ninth session for a seminar in 1991 on a vocational training topic.

Duration: Continuing.
14.3.3.2. Applied ergonomics, safety and health in forest operations

Description: The Joint Committee will help Governments in their national health and employment planning by keeping under review developments and trends in ergonomics applied to forestry, occupational safety and health, with a view to improving working methods and recommending safety standards in various operations, preventing occupational injuries and diseases, increasing work performance and forest workers' satisfaction with their job.

Work accomplished: A seminar on the employment of contractors in forest work was held in France in 1988.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Seminars will be organized at intervals on selected problems: in 1990 in the United Kingdom (subject to confirmation) on the use of chemicals in forestry; the Steering Committee will draw up a proposal at its ninth session for a seminar on a topic related to ergonomics applied to forestry in 1992.

(b) The team of specialists will submit a proposal on the programme for the seminar on the use of chemicals in forestry in 1990 and on its future work to the ninth session of the Steering Committee.

Duration: (a) Continuing; (b) 1990.

14.3.3.3. Transfer of technical information and experience

Description: The Joint Committee will promote the transfer of technical information and experience by the countries of the ECE region to those in other regions, with a view to assisting the latter to develop their forestry capabilities.

Work accomplished: A workshop was held in Austria, the Federal Republic of Germany and Switzerland in 1986, on the transfer of basic technology from the ECE region to other regions and the proceedings published.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Wherever possible, the proceedings of Joint Committee seminars will be published by the host country or by other means.

(b) Wherever possible, host countries of Joint Committee seminars and other countries will offer fellowships to assist participants from developing countries to attend the seminars of special interest for them.

(c) Member countries will be invited to give assistance to the secretariat in its project to establish a task force for assisting developing countries in the event of forest catastrophes by advising on the availability of experts who might serve on the task force.

Duration: (a) and (b): Continuing; (c): 1990.
SUB-PROGRAMME 14.4: ECONOMIC, TECHNOLOGICAL AND MANAGERIAL ISSUES FOR THE WOOD-WORKING INDUSTRIES

14.4.1. Development and introduction of new technologies and management methods in the wood-working industries, including furniture

Description: The Committee will further the exchange of information and experience on technological developments in the wood-working industries, including the use of process- and quality-control equipment (electronics, robotics, lasers, etc.), and on management techniques, particularly at the senior and middle-management levels with a view to helping countries to improve efficiency in the production of forest products, including furniture, to the benefit of the national economy and of the users of those products.

Work to be undertaken: A seminar will be held on new technologies in the wood-based panels sector, in Poland in 1991.


14.4.2. Development of new products, markets and applications for forest products

Description: The Committee will further the exchange of information and experience on new products, markets and applications for forest products, with a view to helping countries to improve efficiency in the use of raw materials and products, and provide technologically and economically better products to the consumer.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: A seminar on the valorisation of secondary quality temperate zone hardwoods was held in France in November 1987. Further activities will be decided in the light of the results of the seminar, including its proposal to hold a seminar on pallets and packaging, and the review of the Committee's work programme in the light of ETTS IV.

Duration: To be determined by the forty-seventh session of the Committee.

14.4.3. Energy conservation and self-sufficiency in the mechanical wood-processing industries

Description: The Committee will encourage the exchange of information in this field, with a view to furthering the conservation of energy and, where appropriate, the increase of energy self-sufficiency in the mechanical wood-processing industries.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The team of specialists meets every 1-2 years, most recently in February 1988. The team will work both on the exchange of technical information and on statistics and analysis of trends. An enquiry on the trends in the use of wood for energy was circulated in 1988. The results will be issued in the medium-term survey of trends for pulpwood, wood for energy and miscellaneous roundwood. At its next meeting the team will prepare proposals for the scope and nature of a seminar on the technical aspects of the use of wood for energy, possibly to be held in 1992, for submission to the Committee's forty-seventh session. The Committee will be co-sponsor of the symposium on ecological, economic and technological aspects of the fuller use of wood biomass, including its use for energy purposes to be organised by the USSR in Moscow in September 1989.

Duration: Continuing.
SUB-PROGRAMME 14.5: ENVIRONMENTAL AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION ISSUES

(All the Committee's activities in this work area will be carried out in co-operation with the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems).

14.5.1. Quantification and evaluation of the environmental benefits of forests

Description: The Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics will examine methods of quantifying and evaluating the environmental benefits of forests with a view to assessing forests' contribution to society, to calculating compensation for the environmental services of forests and to facilitating comparisons between countries.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The enquiry and definitions for the forest resource assessment, to be prepared according to the timetable given in 14.6.3, will contain a section covering the environmental benefits of forests. A team of specialists met in October 1987 and work is in progress on a revised enquiry and definitions.

Duration: Three years 1988-1990.

14.5.2. Economic, silvicultural, ecological and technical problems of the rational use of forest biomass

Description: The team of specialists will collect information on woody biomass on the basis of existing data in the ECE member countries and analysis of the current situation and trends in the rational use of woody biomass. Special attention should be given to economic, silvicultural, ecological and technical aspects. The main objective of the work is to help Governments and other institutions to choose the most effective ways of using forest resources in order to meet the requirements of the country for all assortments of forest products.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: A report by Mr. Burdin (USSR) was submitted to the sixteenth session of the Working Party. A team of specialists will be set up to carry out further work. Collection of all statistical data, analysis and preparation of the report will be carried out by the specialists of the USSR. The team will make a progress report to the seventeenth session of the Working Party.


14.5.3. Implications of air pollution damage to forests for the forestry and forest products sector

Description: The Committee will examine the implications of air pollution damage to forests for the forestry and forest products sector, taking into account the work being carried out by other competent bodies, notably the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, the FAO European Forestry Commission, the European Economic Community, IIASA and IUFRO.
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Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The team of specialists monitors and analyses developments in forest damage, notably that attributed to air pollution, and its consequences, notably economic, and policy options. It prepares an annual review of developments for the Committee, and works to improve the flow of information. It will present proposals for future activities on economic consequences and policy options to the Committee's forty-seventh session, taking into account the results of recent international meetings on these subjects. The team will co-operate with the ad hoc Working Group "Impact of Air Pollution on Forests" of the European Forestry Commission in setting up a working group to implement the recommendations of the ad hoc meeting of experts on the practical application of satellite sensing for forest damage assessment.

Duration: Continuing.

14.5.4. Information exchange on occurrences of sudden and severe damage to forests

Description: The Committee will promote the rapid international dissemination of reliable information on sudden and severe damage to forests in ECE countries, notably that caused by fire, windblow, snow and insect infestation, in order to reduce disruption of roundwood markets.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The mechanism set up by the Committee to disseminate information in this field is put into operation as and when necessary.

Duration: Continuing.

SUB-PROGRAMME 14.6: FOREST AND FOREST PRODUCTS ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS

14.6.1. Publication of the Timber Bulletin

Description: The Committee will collect statistics on production, trade and prices of forest products, with a view to providing Governments and the forest products sector with data on the basis of which to formulate policies and make decisions.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The secretariat publishes 9 issues a year of the Timber Bulletin. Of these, two contain annual and quarterly statistics on production and trade of forest products, collected from Governments by means of quarterly questionnaires, and other relevant information, one contains annual data on trade flows collected from the same sources, and two contain monthly and annual prices and price indices of forest products and related data extracted from official national publications. Country forest and forest products profiles are prepared by the secretariat, in collaboration with the Governments of the countries concerned, and published.

Duration: Continuing.

14.6.2. Selected problems of economics and statistics of forestry and forest products

This programme element, together with programme elements 14.6.3. and 14.6.4., is carried out by the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics which normally meets biennially (in 1989, in 1991, etc.). In doing so, it co-operates with the Conference of European Statisticians.
14.6.2.1 Organization and periodicity of statistical data collection and dissemination

Description: The Working Party will review periodically the Committee's programme for the collection and dissemination of statistical data, to ensure that it corresponds with the needs of Governments.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken:

(a) The Working Party formulates proposals for improving the Committee's programme of collection and dissemination of statistical data, with regard to its organization, method of collection, periodicity, and the improvement of the accuracy and comparability of data obtained from and used by Governments. Countries will review the procedures for filling in and returning the FAO/ECE Forest Products Questionnaires with a view to improving, where necessary, the punctuality and completeness of their replies.

(b) The Working Party will make recommendations as appropriate, as regards the classification and definitions in the field of forest products, to improve the comparability of data and the usefulness of the statistical system as a whole;

(c) At its seventeenth session the Working Party will consider the possible consequences of the introduction of SITC Rev. 3, and if necessary make recommendations. The discussion will be prepared by a small group of experts, who will meet in summer 1989.

Duration: (a) and (b) continuing, (c) 1 year 1989.

14.6.2.2 Conversion factors

Description: The Working Party will review the conversion factors (raw material input/product output) for forest products applicable to individual countries, in order to facilitate international comparison of yields and to ensure that the conversion factors used by the secretariat in its analyses reflect current technology.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The Working Party reviews at four-yearly intervals (the next in 1989) conversion factors communicated by Governments in reply to a questionnaire.

Duration: Continuing.

14.6.2.3 Productivity in the forest sector

Description: The Working Party will collect statistics on and analyse trends in productivity in the forest sector. The purpose will be to provide information on the inputs of labour, capital, raw materials and energy in relation to outputs in member countries. This will assist Governments and other decision-makers in their policies towards the forest sector and in finding the appropriate solutions to technical and economic problems.
Work accomplished and to be undertaken: A study on productivity, profitability and relative prices in the forest industries of the ECE region was reviewed by the Working Party. It will be revised and published. The Working Party will decide at its seventeenth session whether to undertake further work on productivity questions (e.g. the updating of the study on productivity in logging TIM/EFC/WP.2/R.76.).

Duration: To be determined by the Working Party at its seventeenth session.

14.6.2.4 Forest fire statistics

Description: The Working Party will seek to facilitate the exchange of information on forest fires, their causes and methods of prevention and protection and the costs involved.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: Biennial enquiries on forest fires are circulated and the results are published.

Duration: Continuing.

14.6.2.5 Methodologies, including projection and modelling techniques, and data base for long-term outlook studies for the forest and forest products sector

Description: Methodologies, including projection and modelling techniques, and the data base needed for the analysis of long-term trends and prospects, will be refined and strengthened. The purpose will be to prepare for future work that may be undertaken by the European Forestry Commission and the Timber Committee on monitoring developments in relation to forecasts in the latest study and to prepare for an eventual new long-term study. This will help to improve the reliability of information available to Governments and other decision-makers needed for the formulation of policies towards the forest and forest industries sector.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: A team of specialists held its first meeting in December 1987. In accordance with its suggestions, endorsed by the Working Party, an enquiry will be carried out into the objectives and uses of outlook studies. In the light of the results of the enquiry, the team will prepare recommendations for the seventeenth session of the Working Party on methodology for the next outlook study, and on necessary action to improve the data base. Thereafter the team will advise the secretariat during the preparation of the study.


14.6.2.6 Roundwood price statistics and specification

Description: The Working Party will improve the coverage of roundwood prices in the Timber Bulletin and other international publications and improve the comparability of series, notably by providing precise specifications for them. The objective is to improve the accuracy of studies by international agencies, Governments or research institutes which use roundwood price series.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: A team of specialists made preliminary proposals to the Working Party's sixteenth session. It will prepare proposals for the seventeenth session on the basis of the results of an enquiry into the objectives of collecting and publishing roundwood price statistics at an international level.

14.6.3 Forest resource analysis

Description: The Working Party will review methods of forest inventory used by Governments and by the secretariat to ensure that all parameters relevant to measuring actual productive potential of the forest, as well as parameters measuring change, both for wood and non-wood benefits, are taken into account and that the methods adopted correspond as closely as possible to the needs of all users.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: A meeting took place on global forest resource assessment in November 1987. On the basis of its results, an enquiry and definitions for the 1990 world forest resource assessment will be prepared by the FAO and ECE/FAO secretariats, in consultation with national correspondents, and submitted to the seventeenth session of the Working Party. It will then be circulated, modified if necessary, with a request for data referring to 1990. This project is linked with projects 14.5.1 and 14.6.4.


14.6.4 Transfer of economic and statistical methods and experience in the forest and forest products sector

Description: The Working Party will contribute to the building up of statistical services in countries inside and outside the ECE region through the transfer of know-how and experience in methods of data collection, assembly and dissemination in the forest and forest products sector.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: Participation of experts from other regions in Working Party activities is encouraged. An ad hoc meeting on assessment of the different functions of the forest will be held, subject to a country offering the necessary facilities (linked with projects 14.5.1 and 14.6.3).

Duration: Continuing.
## ANNEX II

**TABULAR PRESENTATION OF TIMBER COMMITTEE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1989-1993**

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**SUBPROGRAMME 14.1: MEDIUM- AND LONG-TERM TRENDS, PROSPECTS AND POLICIES FOR FORESTRY AND FOREST PRODUCTS**

14.1.1. Appraisal of long-term timber trends and prospects
- Studies on Canada, USSR and USA
- Preparatory phase of study ETTS V

14.1.2. Medium-term trends in industry structure and markets in specific forest products sectors
- Wood-based panels, including survey of the structure of these industries
- Sawmills and sawlogs, Pulpmill, wood for sawmilling industry, roundwood
- Wood-based panels, Sawmills and sawlogs

14.1.3. Trends, prospects and policies in forestry and forest products in southern Europe
- As determined by the Committee

**SUBPROGRAMME 14.2: CURRENT FOREST PRODUCTS MARKET DEVELOPMENTS AND SHORT-TERM PROSPECTS, INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

14.2.1. Review of production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products
- Continuing: annual review by Committee of short-term prospects; preparation of Annual Forest Products Market Review
- Publication of study on trade and utilization of tropical hardwoods

**SUBPROGRAMME 14.3: FOREST WORKING TECHNIQUES AND TRAINING OF FOREST WORKERS**

- 19th session of the Steering Committee in Finland
- 10th session of the Joint Committee in the Federal Republic of Germany 2

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<td>14.3.2.1 Development and use of harvesting machinery and systems</td>
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<td>14.3.2.3 Harvesting of wood for energy purposes</td>
<td>Report on new developments to each session of the Joint Committee</td>
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<td>14.3.3.2 Applied ergonomics, safety and health in forest operations</td>
<td>Seminar in the United Kingdom 2/</td>
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<td>Seminar in ...</td>
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<td></td>
<td>chemicals in forestry</td>
<td>topic to be decided by 9th session of Steering Committee</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Team of specialists on chemicals will submit proposal on programme for</td>
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<td>seminar in 1990 and on its future work to the 9th session of Steering Committee</td>
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1/ Host country to be decided.
2/ Subject to confirmation.
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<tr>
<td>14.3.3.3 Transfer of technical information and experience</td>
<td>Publication of seminar proceedings; provision by seminar host countries of fellowships for participants from developing countries</td>
<td>Member countries will be invited to give assistance to secretariat in its project to establish a task force for developing countries in the event of catastrophes by advising on availability of experts to serve on the task force</td>
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**SUB-PROGRAMME 14.4: ECONOMIC, TECHNOLOGICAL AND MANAGERIAL ISSUES FOR THE WOOD-WORKING INDUSTRIES**

| 14.4.1. Development and introduction of new technologies and management methods in the wood-working industries, including furniture | Seminar in Poland on new technologies in the wood-based panels sector |
| As decided by the Committee |

| 14.4.2. Development of new products, markets and applications for forest products | Seminar in USSR on the technical aspects of the use of wood energy |
| As decided by the Committee (meetings of team of specialists every 1-2 years) |

**SUB-PROGRAMME 14.5: ENVIRONMENTAL AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION ISSUES**

| 14.5.1. Quantification and evaluation of the environmental benefits of forests | Development of relevant part of forest resource enquiry (see 14.6.3) |

1/ Host country to be decided.
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14.5.2. Economic silvicultural ecological and technical problems of the rational use of forest biomass</td>
<td>Report by team to the seventeenth session of Working Party</td>
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<td>14.5.3. Implications of air pollution damage to forests for the forestry and forest products sector</td>
<td>Annual reviews by teams of specialists which will consider proposals for a seminar on economic consequences and policy options.</td>
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<td>14.5.4 Information exchange on</td>
<td>Countries where sudden and severe damage to forests occur should send an assessment of such damage to the secretariat for rapid circulation and severe damage to forests</td>
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<td>SUB-PROGRAMME 14.6: FOREST AND FOREST PRODUCTS ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS</td>
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<td>14.6.2. Selected problems of</td>
<td>Together with the programme elements 14.6.3. and 14.6.4., activities of the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest economics and statistics of forestry and forest products</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.6.2.1. Organization and periodicity of data collection and dissemination</td>
<td>Continuing review at each session of the Working Party</td>
<td>Discussion of consequences of SITC Rev. 3</td>
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<td>14.6.2.2. Conversion factors</td>
<td>Four-yearly survey at the seventeenth session and publication</td>
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<td>14.6.2.3. Productivity in the forest sector</td>
<td>Publication of study</td>
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<td>Further work as</td>
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<td>14.6.2.4. Forest fire statistics</td>
<td>Biennial survey of forest fire statistics</td>
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<td>Biennial survey of forest fire statistics</td>
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<td>14.6.2.5. Methodologies, including</td>
<td>Proposals on methodology</td>
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<td>and data base for long-term outlook studies for</td>
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<td>of specialists on the forest and forest products sector</td>
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<td>basis of enquiry into</td>
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<td>objectives of studies</td>
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14.6.2.6. Roundwood price statistics and specification of next study and of team of specialists

14.6.3. Forest resource analysis and | Preparation and carrying out of 1990 forest resource assessment, with the following timetable:
| (all activities in co-operation with FAO and national correspondents)
| Submission of revised | Circulation of enquiry | Preparation and issue |
| | of assessment | |

14.6.4. Transfer of economic and statistical methods and An ad hoc meeting on assessment of the different functions of the forest will be held, subject to availability of host facilities and forest products sector
ANNEX III

PROVISIONAL LIST OF MEETINGS IN 1989 and 1990 FALLING WITHIN
THE TIMBER COMMITTEE PROGRAMME OF WORK

Note: The meetings are sub-divided into two categories: meetings marked (A) are open to delegates or approved representatives from all member countries of ECE as well as from other countries that are members of the United Nations and organizations accredited to ECE (or to FAO and ILO, in the case of meetings co-sponsored by them), while meetings marked (B) are those restricted to the countries or individual nominated by their countries to take part in the activity concerned, e.g. a team of specialists.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12-13 April</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
<td>Timber Committee office-holders, jointly with Executive Committee of European Forestry Commission (B)</td>
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<td>(dates to be confirmed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-21 May</td>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Steering Committee of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers (9th session) (B)</td>
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<tr>
<td>22-26 May</td>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Seminar on the training of professional forest workers (A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 May – 3 June</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Timber Committee/European Forestry Commission study tour (A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-15 September</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Seminar on the impact of mechanization of forest operations on the soil (A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>16-20 September</td>
<td>Moscow (USSR)</td>
<td>USSR symposium on ecological, economic and technological aspects of the fuller use of wood biomass, including its use for energy purposes, co-sponsored by Timber Committee (A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Moscow (USSR)</td>
<td>Team of specialists on wood and energy (B), possibly in conjunction with above symposium (to be confirmed)</td>
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<td>(dates to be confirmed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-13 October</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
<td>ECE TIMBER COMMITTEE (47th session) (A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-24 November</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>Seminar on the mechanization of harvesting operations in mountainous terrain (A)</td>
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<td>April</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
<td>Timber Committee office-holders (B)</td>
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<td>26-30 June</td>
<td>Federal Republic of Germany</td>
<td>Seminar and study tour on forest site conservation and improvement for</td>
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<td>(dates to be</td>
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<td>sustained yield (A)</td>
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<td>2-4 July</td>
<td>Federal Republic of Germany</td>
<td>Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training</td>
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<td>(dates to be</td>
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<td>of Forest Workers (18th session) (A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-7 September</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Seminar on the use of chemicals in forestry (A)</td>
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<td>confirmed)</td>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>Timber Committee study tour (A)</td>
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<td>8-12 October</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
<td>ECE TIMBER COMMITTEE</td>
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<td>(dates to be</td>
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<td>(48th session) (A)</td>
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<td>Seminar on multi-functional logging operations (topic to be confirmed)</td>
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<td>(undecided)</td>
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<td>Seminar on rural energy (B)</td>
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