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Timber Committee

Sixty-ninth session

Antalya, 10-14 October 2011

Item 10 (a) of the provisional agenda

UNECE Timber Committee matters

Food and Agriculture Organization

European Forestry Commission

Thirty-sixth session

Antalya, 10-14 October 2011

Matters arising from the sixth-fourth session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This note contains information on the decisions taken by the sixth-fourth session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, held in Geneva from 29 to 31 March 2011, which are of relevance to the work of the Timber Committee and the joint ECE/FAO programme of work on timber and forestry.

The Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission may wish to take note of the decisions and suggest ways forward for their implementation.

1. The Economic Commission for Europe heard about developments and new challenges addressed by the different ECE sub-programmes, including Timber and Forestry.
2. Specifically, on the issue of sustainable forest management and the International Year of the Forests, the Commission:
 - (a) Reiterated *its commitment and support to the work on forests and timber undertaken by ECE* and welcomed *the proposed activities for the International Year of the Forests*;
 - (b) Also reiterated *the need to avoid duplication of efforts and activities and to develop and strengthen synergies at the pan-European level on work on forests, building upon the already excellent cooperation with FAO where there is a joint ECE/FAO programme of work and joint Secretariat arrangements to support this programme*;
 - (c) It requested *the secretariat to continue to offer the expertise and services of the ECE/FAO Joint Section in support of Pan-European forest activities, including the Forest Europe process as well as other relevant processes at the global level (e.g. the United Nations Forum on Forest)*.¹
3. The Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission are requested to keep these decisions in mind while undertaking their work, including in the review of the joint programme of work to be carried out in 2012-13.
4. The Commission also *invited the ECE Executive Committee to decide on the modalities of the upcoming review [of ECE programmes] which it will carry out with a view to proposing decisions on the matter to be taken by the next ECE session [in spring 2013]*.²
5. While the ECE will be carrying out a thorough review of its programme in the upcoming biennium, to cover the Timber and Forestry programme, during the same period, the ECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission will also undertake a review of the joint ECE/FAO programme of work on forestry and timber (please refer to document ECE/TIM/2011/9 – FO:EFC/2011/9). This review will lead to the development and approval of a new joint ECE/FAO programme of work for the period 2014-2017.
6. It is important to avoid duplication of efforts and, to this end, it is necessary to inform the ECE Executive Committee of the latter review. In particular, proposed modalities and the timetable of the ECE/FAO review are contained in document ECE/TIM/2011/9 – FO:EFC/2011/9 and will be considered by the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission at this joint session. Results should then be forwarded to the next session of the ECE Executive Committee for its consideration.
7. The Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission may wish to invite the secretariat to inform the Executive Committee at its next session of decisions they took at their joint session on the upcoming review of the programme of work on Timber and Forestry, in order to avoid duplication of efforts and overlaps of review processes.

¹ Paragraphs 25-27 on page 4 of the decisions adopted by the sixty-fourth session of the Economic Commission for Europe, available at:

http://www.unece.org/commission/2011/Adopted_ECE_Decision_31March2011.pdf

² Paragraph, 40, page 6ib.