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Timber Committee

European Forestry Commission

Sixty-ninth session

Antalya, 10-14 October 2011

Thirty-sixth session

Antalya, 10-14 October 2011

Report of the joint sixty-ninth session of the Timber Committee and thirty-sixth session of the European Forestry Commission

1. At the invitation of the Government of Turkey, the joint thirty-sixth session of the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) and sixty-ninth session of the UNECE Timber Committee (TC), entitled “Orman 2011: Forests in a Green Economy”, was held in Antalya, Turkey, from 10 to 14 October 2011. Approximately 120 participants from the UNECE region attended the session, in addition to a delegation of approximately 160 national experts. Representatives of the following countries attended the meeting: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States and Uzbekistan.
2. A representative of the European Commission attended the session.
3. A representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) attended the session.
4. The European Environment Agency (EEA), the European Forest Institute (EFI), the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) and the Liaison Unit Oslo of Forest Europe (the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe) were also represented.
5. The following international non-governmental organizations were represented: Bureau of Nordic Family Forestry, Confederation of European Forest Owners (CEPF), Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI), European Network of Forest Entrepreneurs (ENFE), European Panel Federation (EPF), European State Forest Association (EUSTAFOR), Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), International Forestry Students Association (IFSA), Pictet Funds, Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes (PEFC), Unión de Silvicultores del Sur de Europa (USSE) and the University of Padova were also represented.
6. Mr. Ahmet İpek, Head, Department of Foreign Affairs, Training and Research, General Directorate of Forestry, Mr. Mustafa Kurtulmuşlu, Director-General of the

General Directorate of Forestry and Mr. Mahir Kuçuk, Deputy State Secretary from the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs made welcoming remarks and thanked participants for taking part in Orman 2011. The joint session was co-chaired by Ms. Linda Langner (United States), Chair of the Timber Committee, and Mr. Peter Blombäck (Sweden), Chair of the European Forestry Commission. Ms. Langner opened the joint session and thanked the Government of Turkey for the excellent hospitality and meeting facilities.

7. The Assistant Director-General of the FAO Forestry Department and the Deputy Executive Secretary of UNECE welcomed the delegations on behalf of the two organizations.

I. Adoption of the agenda

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2011/1–FO:EFC/2011/1

8. The provisional agenda was adopted without changes.

II. Thesis award

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2011/1–FO:EFC/2011/1

9. The secretariat introduced the ECE/FAO Thesis Award on Sustainable Forest Management. It provided background information on the award, and on the selection process on behalf of Prof. Piotr Paschalis-Jakubowicz from the Warsaw University of Life Sciences, President of the Thesis Award Jury. Mr. Guillaume Chagnard delivered a few remarks on behalf of the sponsor, Pictet Funds, before awarding the prize of USD 10,000 to Ms. Hongyu Ding, who delivered a lecture on “How climate change will alter Europe’s forests in the next 40 years”. Ms. Ding announced she was donating the prize money to support activities of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in the Horn of Africa. The Committee and the Commission expressed their appreciation for this generous gesture.

III. Keynote speech on the Green Economy

10. Mr. Matthias Schwoerer (Germany) delivered a keynote speech on Forests in a Green Economy. He presented the situation in Germany, emphasizing efforts at both the national and international levels to enhance the contribution of the forest sector and forest industry to a greener economy. He also presented the results of the UN country-led initiative on “Contributions of Forests to a Green Economy” held in Bonn, Germany, on 4-7 October 2011, which positioned the forest sector in relation to the transition toward a green economy. The Bonn conference had delivered a strong message for the Rio+20 preparations, outlining the unique opportunity that the transition to a green economy provides for realizing the full potential of forests to contribute toward overcoming today’s global challenges. These included: hunger; water scarcity; employment; renewable energy; resource efficiency and a low-carbon economy; climate change and biodiversity loss. Member States were encouraged to make use of the results of the Bonn conference when providing their input to the Rio +20 preparatory process.

IV. State of UNECE forests

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2011/2; FO: EFC/2011/2

11. A representative of the secretariat made a presentation on “UNECE countries in the Green Economy”. He provided an update on the status of and trends

in forests in the UNECE region drawing from the findings of the State of Europe's Forests 2011 report and the FAO Global Forest Resource Assessment 2010, with a particular focus on data and information related to a green economy.

V. Outlook studies

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2011/INF.4; FO: EFC/2011/INF.4

12. The European Forest Sector Outlook Study II (EFSOS II) was introduced by the secretariat, who gave an overview of the study and its purpose, and explained how the study was developed. The main authors of the study, Mr. Kit Prins, consultant, and Mr. Mart-Jan Schelhaas, researcher at Wageningen University, presented the different scenarios considered in the study, pointing out the implications that policies focusing on different priorities would have on the future of European forests. Ms. Langner gave delegations an update on the North American Forest Sector Outlook Study; and Mr. Maxim Lobovikov, Senior Forestry Officer, FAO, presented an update on the Russian Forest Sector Outlook Study. Mr. Ragnar Jonsson, researcher at the Future Forest Programme, presented an outlook study that applied the EFSOS II methodologies to the Swedish forest sector.

13. Member States were encouraged to adapt the EFSOS II approach to their national context and produce similar studies. The secretariat announced that a series of activities were planned for the upcoming months to reach out to policy makers and other stakeholders. They included presentation of the key findings of EFSOS II and the *State of Europe's Forests 2011* report (SoEF), to the fifteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal, Canada, on 8 November. A policy debate would also be organized in Geneva in December to discuss the significance and use of the EFSOS II and SoEF results.

14. During the discussion, attention was drawn to the need to enhance the skills in the forest sector and ensure that institutions adapted rapidly enough to expected changes. The representative of EFI suggested that the authors of the Russian Forest Sector Outlook Study should focus on the resources in the southern and western fringes of the Russian forests. FAO replied that the study, the first of its kind, would prioritize the issues of economic and physical access to resources.

VI. UNECE/FAO Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2011/3; FO: EFC/2011/3

15. The Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy was presented. It had been prepared under the auspices of UNECE/FAO on the basis of an open consultation with member States and stakeholders, consolidated by the secretariat and reviewed by a stakeholder meeting in May 2011. Mr. Heikki Granholm (Finland) and Mr. Christoph Duerr (Switzerland) presented the Plan and its five areas of activity, which would serve as the basis for the five thematic roundtables during the special green economy segment of this meeting:

- Sustainable production and consumption of forest products
- The low-carbon forest sector
- Decent green jobs in the forest sector
- Valuation of and payment for forest ecosystem services
- Monitoring and governance of the forest sector.

16. The Commission and the Committee:

- (a) Welcomed the Action Plan as the basis for discussion at the session and as a reference for action at the national and international levels;
- (b) Requested the secretariat to organize a one-day stakeholder meeting in the margins of the next session of the Joint Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, in March 2012, in order to further develop the plan and in particular, to identify actions and related actors;
- (c) Requested that the secretariat submit the Action Plan to the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs as a contribution to the Rio+20 preparatory process and present the Action Plan during the Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012 and gather further inputs from stakeholders participating in that meeting;
- (d) Decided to continue to refine the Action Plan in the margins of relevant ECE/FAO meetings in 2012 and 2013 in order to present a final Action Plan ready for adoption at the joint TC-EFC joint session in 2013;
- (e) Recommended that member States and international organizations use the Action Plan as one of the bases for identifying relevant topics to be covered by the Joint ECE/FAO Timber and Forestry Programme of Work during the review process;
- (f) Requested that the Secretariat develop an online database of relevant case studies and experiences in the ECE region on the forest sector in a green economy to be collected from member States and relevant organizations.

VII. Special segment on the Green Economy

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2011/4; FO: EFC/2011/4

(a) Sustainable production and consumption of forest products

17. The first roundtable featured three presentations by: Mr. Robert Jones (Canada) on Canada's experience in "promoting sustainability in pulp and paper production"; Mr. Sylvain Labbé (Canada) on "The wood industry from Kyoto to Rio" focusing on the benefits and opportunities of using wood for sustainable building; and Mr. Guillaume Chagnard (Pictet Fund) on "Timber – Smart investment in a century old, yet 'new' resource", explaining the main trends and main drivers for investing in the timber market. All three highlighted the contributions that sustainable production and consumption of forest products can make to a Green Economy and presented changes required to make the sector greener.

18. Further to the discussion on investing in sustainable timber markets, the Committee and the Commission recognized that the UNECE/FAO Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy currently does not address the issue of sustainable investments and agreed to add a section on this issue.

19. Among the topics raised in the ensuing discussion, were:

- The need to promote sustainable production and consumption of forest products not only through voluntary arrangements but also through mandatory measures.

- The need for a level playing field between wood and other products and materials, making best use of the life-cycle analysis.
- The issue of better communicating the environmental performance of timber, as there is currently a lack of common messages from the sector on its sustainability.
- The need to include the building sector in the value chain. Given its recognized environmental sustainability, the forestry sector should be in a position to lead by example and the Action plan provides a tool to pursue this goal.

(b) Low-carbon forest sector

20. The roundtable reviewed opportunities and related financial, technical, and policy requirements to move towards "green growth" on a low-carbon path. Mr. Christophe Besacier (FAO) delivered the presentation on "Payment for Ecosystem Services and REDD+ opportunities in Mediterranean Forests", on the latest scientific methods and results in the modelling, valuing and managing of non-timber forest products and services in different Mediterranean countries. Mr. Gert-Jan Nabuurs (EFI) presented the "Potential role and limitations of Europe's forests the low-carbon forest sector" stressing the importance of developing site-specific adaptation measures and how the sector has a high potential to contribute to bioenergy supply, although this is often overshadowed by other bioenergy sectors (e.g. agriculture). Mr. David Ellul (UNECE/FAO) presented the "Joint Wood Energy Enquiry" (JWEE). All three presentations highlighted ways to maximize the forest sector contribution to the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.

21. In the subsequent discussion, the need to follow market and policy developments in the wood energy sector was discussed. Wood energy was recognized as a sector evolving at a fast pace and deserving increased attention. In view of this, the information provided by the JWEE was highly appreciated. Opinions differed on the best instruments to stimulate the cascaded use of wood and whether this should be driven by market forces or by policy decisions. Developments in the accounting for carbon in forests and forest products within the UNFCCC¹ regime were discussed and delegates agreed that all forest-related components of mitigation (sequestration, substitution and storage) should be strengthened.

(c) Green jobs in the forest sector

22. The round table presented the green economy as a way to generate more—and decent—green jobs. Through their presentations, speakers showed how green jobs help reduce the consumption of energy and raw materials, avoid greenhouse gas emissions, minimize waste and pollution, and protect and restore ecosystems. Mr. Edgar Kastenholz (ENFE) delivered a presentation on the "Future of forestry work - opportunities and threats for traditional green jobs"; Mr. Christian Salvagnol (Forestry Training Center for the Region Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur) delivered a presentation on "Greener jobs in the forest sector: Dare to dream in color"; and Dr. Richard Vlosky (Louisiana State University) provided the results of an enquiry about green jobs in the Louisiana forest sector supply-chain.

23. From the ensuing discussion, the current lack of a common definition of green jobs in the forest sector was highlighted. On the other hand, it was pointed out that too narrow a definition might lead to a loss of opportunities and potentially to the marginalization of certain job categories. On account of the ageing forest workforce, the pressing need to attract young workers to the sector was emphasized. That called for campaigns to raise awareness about the fundamental role of forest workers in the management of ecosystems and in meeting societal demands. Decent incomes, proper training and safe work conditions were preconditions for recruiting and retaining a skilled workforce. The role of governments in creating an enabling

environment for research and training was recognized. In addition, the role of the public and private sectors, and their cooperation, was emphasized.

(d) Biodiversity, and valuation of and payment for forest ecosystem services

24. The round table outlined the concept of ecosystem valuation and services in a green economy. Ms. Ivonne Higuero (UNEP) delivered a presentation on "Payments for ecosystem services: a tool for leveraging political attention and private and public finance", explaining the main concepts behind payment for ecosystem services (PES). Dr. Pat Snowdon (Economics and Climate Change Adviser, UK Forestry Commission) gave an overview of "PES and the green economy in the UK". Both panellists demonstrated that PES can provide effective financing arrangements for activities related to the conservation and sustainable use of natural ecosystems such as forests. In addition, they demonstrated the need to increase investments in natural and human capital and to promote equally the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development.

25. Comments were made from the floor regarding the applicability of compulsory versus voluntary schemes. It was also agreed to look further into the possible role of insurance in the development of PES schemes.¹

(e) Monitoring and governance in the forest sector

26. The round table focused on opportunities for ensuring that policies and institutions enhanced the forest sector's contribution to a greener economy, on both the national and international levels. Mr. Kit Prins presented objectives, modalities and results of the new assessment method for sustainable forest management that was applied on a pilot basis in the "State of Europe's Forests Report 2011". Mr. Steve Smith (European Commission) updated the meeting on the status and plans for developing a new EU Forest Strategy and Forest Action Plan, also in the light of the requirements for a green economy. Mr. Kai Lintunen (Finnish Forest Association and ECE/FAO Forest Communicators Network) presented the Strategic Framework for Forest Communication in Europe, its objectives, modalities and instruments. The Strategic Framework is currently ready for implementation by countries and relevant institutions and organizations at all levels.

27. The discussion highlighted that good information was indispensable for meaningful assessment, informed policymaking and successful communication. Efforts should continue to enhance the completeness of forest sector reporting, to develop methods for analysing collected information, and to communicate results. Activities undertaken on a national level were recognized as fundamental. Delegates noted that strategies should be visionary, provide for coordination with other sectors' strategies and policies, and integrate financial measures. They should also be well communicated in order to gain the required political and public support. The means of communication should be diverse and tailored to the objectives and to the audience. More attention should be paid to the identification of the key recipients, bearing in mind that successful communication is always a two-way process. Synergies and coordination among regional communication strategies are also needed.

28. Mr. Peter Csoka (FAO) informed the meeting about recent initiatives to implement decisions of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO) on supporting international forest communication networks. This includes addressing issue at Regional Forestry Commission Sessions and by considering the establishment of networks for forest communication at the regional level.

29. Representatives of the ECE/FAO Forest Communicators Network, Ms. Marta Gaworska (Policy Advisor, Confederation of European Forest Owners) and Mr. Gerben Janse (International Coordinator, Swedish Forest Agency) presented the

¹United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

draft “take home message” prepared in the form of objectives and actions that are to be promoted as an outcome of the joint session. Comments were made and a second draft was presented to the Committee and the Commission. The “take home message” as well as the main issues raised during the round tables are contained in annex I. The message will be distributed through media as the main outcome of the round-table discussions.

VIII. Market discussions

30. The segment opened with a presentation summarizing the state of forest products markets in the UNECE region, highlighting the sluggish recovery and some of the challenges facing the forest sector. It also pointed towards innovations that, if commercially successful, could create important new opportunities for the industry.

31. A series of presentations followed. Dr. Richard Vlosky (Louisiana State University) presented his experience in working with the forest products industry and in conducting capacity-building workshops targeted at increasing competitiveness through proven business practices and innovation. Mr. Peter Wilson (Wood Centre at Napier University, Edinburgh) showed how the role of wood was beginning to expand in the construction of large, architecturally advanced structures and presented a strong case for architects and engineers to develop new perspectives on wood’s potential. Innovation in the pulp and paper industry and the factors driving these developments formed the subject of a presentation by Mr. Ulrich Leberle (Confederation of European Paper Industries). Mr. Francisco Aguilar (University of Missouri) stressed the increasing prominence of wood energy, driven by policy measures aimed at enhancing energy security and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Markets for industrial pellets were forecast to expand but reviews by the United States and the EU of the previously accepted carbon neutrality of wood energy could alter the situation, depending on their outcomes.

32. The new format of the market discussions was welcomed. For the next market review, several countries called for an emphasis on the cascaded use of wood while respecting market mechanisms (e.g. producing primary products, recycling these products into other products before, as the final stage in the chain, using the recovered wood for energy). However, concern about the suitability for energy of wood containing contaminants, such as salts, formaldehyde and copper sulphate, prompted calls to raise awareness of the cascading approach in order to ensure that provisions were made for cascaded use from first processing to design to final use. It was recommended that the UNECE Timber Committee raise the profile of this issue, also possibly through the development of related guidance.

33. During the discussion, participants indicated that the main obstacles preventing wood from forming a larger share of construction materials were: the fragmentation of the industry (lack of a common message) as compared to steel and concrete; restrictive and outdated building regulations; the difficulty of fully costing wood construction, as well as ingrained cultural perceptions that view wood as old-fashioned. Green Building Codes, which might be expected to favour wood as the only truly renewable and carbon-neutral construction material, appeared to have been framed in such a way that they conferred little if any advantage to wood. Without action by the industry to change perceptions, this situation was unlikely to improve. However, in spite of these difficulties, wood construction was gaining market share in many countries.

34. It was also noted that pellets had become one of the most important raw materials for wood energy because of their high energy and low moisture content, and because their form allowed easy handling and shipping. There were many circumstances, however, where unprocessed wood fuel such as chips made more economic sense, especially when the wood could be produced and used locally.

35. Mr. Vlosky moderated a session reviewing the draft market statement, which was later reviewed by the drafting committee on 14 October (the Timber Committee Statement on Forest Products Markets in 2011 and 2012 can be viewed on the Forestry and Timber Section's website). Delegates requested that the secretariat disseminate the market statement widely and encouraged member States, stakeholders and participants to also circulate it widely and make use of it.

36. Mr. Chris Gaston (FPInnovations, Canada) presented the results of the comprehensive, web-based reader survey for the *Forest Products Annual Market Review 2009-2010* that had been conducted jointly by UNECE/FAO and the Team of Specialists on Forest Products Marketing. There had been 355 respondents, covering every UNECE member State, with most being affiliated to government agencies, academia and research institutes. Respondents indicated high regard for the value and usefulness of the publication. They were divided equally in their preference for print or web-based publications. There was a notable desire for more features in the electronic version, such as hyperlinks to more extensive data tables and a linkable table of contents.

37. In the discussion, delegates noted the relatively limited number of readers from industry, as compared with other sectors, and suggested a need to better inform industry about this publication. There was strong support from many delegates for the Forest Products Annual Market Review to remain a key work area within the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section. The secretariat commented that non-staff funding for the next two years would be reduced to about one third of the level of 2010. Therefore, while the secretariat shared the view that the Market Review was a key output that was highly valued by Member States, extra efforts would be needed to find the funds for the publication as it would require extrabudgetary funding, and the secretariat appealed for offers and suggestions of sources of funding.

38. The Timber Committee recommended:

(a) That the marketing activity should continue and the Market Review should continue as an annual publication;

(b) That improvements should be made to the web-based version of the review, based on the suggestions from respondents.

39. A proposal to change the name of the Team of Specialists on Forest Products Marketing to "Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products" was presented and accepted. The new name better reflects the present focus, mandate and terms of reference, and also the work of the Team bearing in mind this will be considered in the upcoming ECE&FAO Strategic Review.

IX. Joint Committee/Commission matters

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2011/7; FO: EFC/2011/7
ECE/TIM/2011/9; FO: EFC/2011/9

ECE/TIM/2011/10; FO: EFC/2011/10; ECE/TIM/2011/10/Add.1;

FO: EFC/2011/10/Add.1

ECE/TIM/2011/11; FO: EFC/2011/11

40. The Committee and the Commission were invited to take note of the activities under the Programme of Work; to review the list of outputs planned for 2011-2012; and to consider a revision of the terms of reference of the Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics. The Committee and the Commission were also invited to consider the proposal for the strategic review of the integrated programme of work on Forestry and Timber and review the activities of the International Year of Forests.

(a) United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in a changing international environment: briefing and discussion of recent developments.

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2011/7; FO: EFC/2011/7

41. The secretariat briefed delegates on activities, recommendations and decisions made by the FAO Committee on Forestry, the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Mediterranean Forest Week and Forest Europe (Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe).

42. Mr. Arne-Ivar Sletnes (Forest Europe Liaison Unit Oslo) further briefed delegates on the Oslo Conference and the ministerial decision to negotiate a Legally Binding Agreement (LBA) on Forest in Europe (14-16 June 2011).

43. A short discussion followed. The Russian Federation stated that while supporting the decision to start negotiations on the LBA, it consistently stressed that elaboration of such a document should be carried out in accordance with the practices and standards of the United Nations. It also stressed that all documents adopted in Oslo, which are of a statutory nature, must be translated into Russian.

44. The delegation of Switzerland reiterated that conditions were attached to the decision by their Federal Council to participate in negotiating a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe. In particular, negotiations should take place under an independent body and serviced by the United Nations, more specifically UNECE, FAO and UNEP. On that understanding, Switzerland had been able to sign the Oslo ministerial mandate for negotiating the agreement. Switzerland would also provide financial assistance to fund the travel of countries in transition to participate in Bureau meetings as well as in the negotiations of the LBA.

45. The representative of Norway thanked the countries for their contributions to the results of the Forest Europe Ministerial Conference in Oslo in June 2011. Norway highlighted the importance of the decision documents from the conference and stressed that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee would decide on the negotiating process, on the basis of the Oslo Ministerial Mandate, including the Rules of Procedures. This statement was also supported by Austria

46. Other interventions followed which stressed the importance of cooperation among organizations in support of this effort.

47. The Committee and the Commission:

- Welcomed the commitment of interested donors to provide extrabudgetary resources in support of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, including secondment of staff;
- Requested that UNECE and FAO contribute to the servicing of the negotiation of the Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe, as appropriate. This includes the preparation and processing of related documents, their translation into the UNECE working languages, and making them available to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee.
- Requested that ECE/FAO continue to contribute to the development and implementation of the Forest Europe Work Programme in concordance with the ECE/FAO Integrated Programme of Work.

(b) Proposed revision of the terms of reference for the Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2011/8; FO: EFC/2011/8

48. The Committee and the Commission examined a proposal by the TC and EFC Bureaux to extend the mandate of the Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics to include the work of teams of specialists and harmonize their

reporting lines. The proposal of the Bureaux was accepted with the understanding that the new arrangements would be valid for a trial period of two years, until the 2013 Strategic Review of the Integrated Programme of Work on forestry and timber was completed and the work of the Working Party reviewed again. The Committee and the Commission amended the name to “Joint Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management”. The new terms of reference of the Working Party are included in Annex II.

(c) Toward the 2013 Strategic Review of the Integrated Programme of Work on Forestry and Timber

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2011/9- FO:EFC/2011/9

49. The secretariat introduced document ECE/TIM/2011/9-FO:EFC/2011/9 containing a proposal from the TC and EFC Bureaux on the approach, methodology and timeline that could be employed in the Strategic Review of the joint ECE/FAO Integrated subprogramme on Timber and Forestry, which has to be undertaken every four years. The outcome of the strategic review process will determine priorities through 2017.

50. The Committee and the Commission adopted the proposal, as contained in document ECE/TIM/2011/9-FO:EFC/2011/9, and authorized the secretariat to implement it so that the results, including a new Joint ECE/FAO Integrated Programme of Work on Forestry and Timber for the period 2014-2017, could be presented at the joint session in 2013.

(d) Review of activities and the programme of work for 2011

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2011/10; FO: EFC/2011/10

ECE/TIM/2011/10/Add.1; FO: EFC/2011/10/Add.1

51. The secretariat briefly introduced the activities undertaken in 2010-2011 to implement the programme of work, as well as a list of expected activities and outputs for 2011-2012, placing particular emphasis on those activities that would require additional funding.

52. Based on the discussion, an updated list was prepared and included in annex III. Asterisks indicate activities that are partially funded or require funding to be completed.

53. The Committee and the Commission reviewed document ECE/TIM/2011/10/Add.1-FO:EFC/2011/10/Add.1, which sets out the draft Programme of Work of the Timber and Forestry subprogramme for 2012-2013 and is based on the existing Joint ECE/FAO Programme of Work on Forestry and Timber adopted in 2008. The meeting took note of the document and authorized its submission to the UNECE Executive Committee for formal approval.

54. Presentations on the activities of the FAO Subregional Office for Central and Eastern Europe in Budapest and the FAO Subregional Office for Central Asia in Ankara concluded this agenda item.

(e) Review of activities during the International Year of Forests.

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2011/11; FO: EFC/2011/11

55. The secretariat introduced document ECE/TIM/2011/11-FO: EFC/2011/11, which presented a list of activities that the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section had undertaken during 2011 to celebrate the International Year of Forests, including exhibits, seminars, public awareness events and a video clip. A presentation from FAO followed, describing various activities undertaken to celebrate the International Year of Forests, including the production of publications and films; TV commercials aired on major TV channels; media and outreach events; meeting and conferences; and a production of a web-based toolkit for communicators.

56. The secretariat recalled a recommendation from the last session of the European Forestry Commission, held in Lisbon from 27 to 30 April 2010, which requested that the Commission decide about the organization of a second European Forest Week in 2013. One option could be to hold it in conjunction with the TC/EFC session. The Committee and the Commission decided to delegate this decision to the TC/EFC Bureaux, who, in their discussions, would take into account the availability of resources for that work.

X. Timber Committee matters

(a) Matters arising from the sixty-fourth session of the UNECE

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2011/12 FO: EFC/2011/12

57. The secretariat introduced a note containing information on the decisions taken by the sixty-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 Forestry and Timber. The ECE reiterated its support to the joint secretariat arrangements, the ECE/FAO Programme of Work (PoW) and the assistance under the joint PoW that the joint section provides to other regional and global processes. The participants were also informed about the current review of ECE programmes and agreed that the ECE Executive Committee be informed about the ongoing review of the ECE/FAO Integrated Programme of Work on Forestry and Timber, which runs in parallel to the ECE review of programmes, in order to guarantee consistency between the two exercises.

58. The Committee took note of the decisions and the information provided.

(b) UNECE Timber Committee: election of officers

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2011/13; FO: EFC/2011/13

59. The secretariat introduced a proposal, based on a request from the TC Bureau, to modify its current composition in order to align it with EFC practice. The proposal would increase the membership of the TC Bureau from three to four. The Committee agreed on the proposed changes and invited nomination of a new TC Bureau member. Mr. Christoph Duerr (Switzerland) was elected to the post of vice-Chair.

60. The Committee also elected Mr. Branko Glavonjić (Serbia), Vice-Chair, Mr. Heikki Granholm (Finland), and Ms. Linda Langner (United States), Chair, to hold office until the end of the seventieth session.

(c) Date and place of next session

61. The secretariat informed the Committee that the seventieth session of the Timber Committee would be held in Geneva from 15 to 19 October 2012.

62. The representative of Finland offered to host the next joint session of the TC/EFC, to be held in 2013, and indicated his government's readiness to cover all additional costs related to the convening of the meeting outside of UN premises. He was requested to liaise with the ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section to finalize arrangements.

11. FAO European Forestry Commission Matters

(a) FAO climate change activities since the thirty-fifth session of the Commission

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2011/14-FO:EFC/2011/14

63. The secretariat recalled recommendations on forests and climate change made by the Commission (EFC) and the Committee on Forestry at their previous sessions and informed the Commission about FAO's related activities. FAO's work on forests and climate change currently focuses on the following main objectives: stimulating regional cooperation; assisting countries to mainstream climate change into their forest sectors; supporting REDD+ development and implementation, facilitating exchange of experiences and information dissemination; and enhancing forestry content in cross-sectoral initiatives in climate change.

64. The Commission noted with appreciation the work products reported in the secretariat paper. It underscored the need for coordinated efforts to support countries in mitigating and adapting to climate change. The Commission proposed the establishment of a global platform on forests and climate change to facilitate exchange of experience, science and policy effectiveness. At the European level, FAO and ECE were requested to integrate and coordinate their efforts with existing initiatives for maximum impact and synergy. The Commission highlighted the ability of renewable wood products to provide long-term carbon storage and substitute for materials from non-renewable resources. It urged FAO and ECE to highlight the positive attributes of wood products in their action plans for greening European economies.

(b) Preparation of a long-term strategy for the Global Forest Resource Assessment programme

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2011/15-FO:EFC/2011/15

65. Mr. Ken MacDicken (FAO) described the preparation of a long-term strategy for the global forest resources assessment process, based on the request of the twentieth session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO). He outlined the objectives, activities and outputs for the period 2012-2030. As part of this strategy, FAO identified: how to use the strengths of the current process; continuous improvements to meet global needs; opportunities to build successful partnerships; improved communication and outreach approaches; and resource needs.

66. The Commission appreciated the long-term strategy draft as presented, with broad agreement on the goals, intent and content. It was agreed that the greatest emphasis should be placed on quality rather than expansion of scope. The need to concentrate on key issues and to produce results that are consistent over time was noted. The idea of a separate voluntary, generic guide on national forest monitoring was briefly discussed and considered worthy of exploration. Compatibility of the Forest Resources Assessment with other regional and global forest reporting processes was noted as highly important, as was the need to keep countries involved and informed of changes in the FRA methods and variables, as the strategy is implemented. The strategic view of continuous improvement was underscored as vital, since the strategy covered nearly two decades during which technology and information needs would change. The close cooperation between Forest Europe/TC/ECE and the FRA was highlighted as very positive and the significant contributions of TC/ECE to the FRA process were noted by participants.

(c) FAO Committee on Forestry Multi-Year Programme of Work for the period 2012-2015

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2011/16-FO:EFC/2011/16

67. Mr. Peter Csoka (FAO) provided information on the process for the development of a Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) for the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO).

68. The Commission considered the MYPOW and the input to COFO as two interlinked processes to increase efficiency. While the inputs would shape the agenda of the forthcoming sessions of the Committee and help in addressing emerging issues and issues of particular relevance for the regions, the MYPOW

would help Member States evaluate how well the Committee could exercise its mandate.

69. The COFO Chair explained the contribution expected from regional forestry commissions to establish the COFO agenda and identify priorities for FAO's programme of work.

70. The Commission developed its recommendations accordingly, as presented under agenda item 11 (e).

(d) Review of the mandate and modus operandi of the EFC Working Party on Management of Mountain Watersheds

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2011/17-FO:EFC/2011/17

71. Mr. Thomas Hofer (FAO) explained the procedures taken to review the mandate and modus operandi of the EFC Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds. After an explanation of the background of the review, the topics and its preliminary findings, he presented the recommendations from the twenty-eighth session of the Working Party, which had been held from 13 to 15 September in Kastamonu, Turkey.

72. The Commission took note of the review and expressed appreciation for the recent increase in activity of the Working Party. It decided to include the mandate and modus operandi of the Working Party in the overall review process of the joint ECE/FAO Integrated Programme of Work on Forestry and Timber, including resource implications. The Commission requested that the secretariat update the review questionnaire accordingly.

(e) Recommendations to be drawn to the attention of the twenty-eighth session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe and the twenty-first session of the FAO Committee on Forestry

73. The Commission's recommendations are presented as annex IV to this report. While the Commission focused its attention on identifying key issues during the session, it requested that the Bureau complete the template by providing further details regarding possible activities and indicators.

(f) Election of officers

74. The Commission elected Mr. Andrey Filipchuk (Russian Federation) as Chair and Messrs. Peter Blombäck (Sweden), Bekir Kayacan (Turkey) and Robert Busink (Netherlands) as vice-chairs, to hold office from the end of the thirty-sixth session until the end of the thirty-seventh session. It thanked Ms. Conceição Ferreira (Portugal) for her contribution to the Commission's work during her tenure as Chair and Vice-Chair.

(g) Date and place of next session

75. At the invitation of the Government of Finland, the thirty-seventh session of the EFC will be held jointly with the seventy-first session of the TC in 2013. The exact date will be established in consultation with the secretariat.

12. Any other business

76. No other business was brought to the attention of the Committee and the Commission.

13. Adoption of the joint session report and closure of the joint session.

77. The Committee and the Commission adopted the present report. They paid tribute to the Government of Turkey for the warm hospitality and excellent organization. The secretariat confirmed that the final report in the four languages of the Committee and the Commission would be distributed as soon as possible.

ANNEX I

Take Home Messages on “Forests in a Green Economy” developed by the Forest Communicators Network

After five round table discussions,² during which a tremendous amount of information was presented and further ideas were provided in over 200 written comments, three main objectives were identified:

Highlight forest benefits. Champion the multiple benefits for people, the economy and the environment of forests, forest products and services. Do so with key decision makers, business, media and the general public. Communicate the innovative potential of forest products. Examples of such innovation include smart paper, wood-based composites and cellulose-based biofuels. Participate in fora and establish dialogues to further develop interaction between the forest sector and society. A special focus of these efforts should be partners in the green economy such as green builders and biofuel providers.

Recognize the low-carbon footprint of forest products. Ensure that full life-cycle analysis is used whenever comparisons are made between forest products and alternatives; for example in green building and green public procurement schemes. In this way, the full environmental impact of all products will be taken into account and better environmental results achieved. Provide authorities with information on the full economic and environmental impact of measures that affect the forest sector so that they can make better informed decisions.

Develop green economy policies that fully benefit from forest-based measures. Provide political arguments backed by economic and scientific evidence to politicians. Use these arguments to support the role of forest products and services, as well as forest-based jobs, in the green economy. Demonstrate the value of ecosystem services to decision makers. To achieve better environmental and economic results, take into account the value of ecosystem services in policy and regulatory decisions.

This is the conference “take home message” – a summary of the main points that all should understand and promote as an important outcome of this conference. One resource available for achieving these objectives is the Strategic Framework for Forest Communication in Europe.

KEY POINTS FROM ROUND-TABLE SESSIONS

1. Sustainable Consumption and Production

- a. Encourage investors to actively work with companies to ensure sustainable corporate practices
- b. Develop and promote innovative forest products and services
- c. Focus on competitiveness and ‘sell’ the sustainability of forest products and forestry
- d. Get close to the consumer: develop products people want (easy to use, attractive, cost effective, etc.)
- e. Create a level playing field for forest products by using full life cycle analysis when comparing forest products with competitors such as steel, concrete and petrochemicals.
- f. Plan, in particular by improving efficiency, to address foreseen gaps in supply and increased competition for wood products due to the growing demand for wood energy and eco-friendly products.

2. Low-carbon Forest Sector

² The 5 round tables were: 1- Sustainable consumption and production of forest products; 2 – Low-carbon forest sector; 3 – Green jobs in the forest sector; 4 – Biodiversity, and valuation of and payment for ecosystem services; 5 – Monitoring and governance in the forest sector

- a. Maximize the contribution of forests to climate change mitigation by optimizing Sequestration (tree growth), Storage (forests and wood products) and Substitution (the 3 S's)
- b. Include full life cycle analysis in green policy and market schemes such as green procurement and green building schemes
- c. Integrate the value of ecosystem services into political decision making.
- d. Improve public awareness of the status, use and unique nature of forests in the ECE region

3. Green Jobs

- a. Increase the attractiveness of forest-based careers.
- b. Highlight the potential of the forest sector for creating new jobs.
- c. Invest in good working conditions and take action on training for green jobs
- d. Develop further the concept of decent green jobs (i.e. both work content and requirements)

4. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

- a. Actively identify opportunities to establish Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) projects
- b. Clarify the models and evidence supporting PES, including its limitations as well as its impact on markets and less advantaged populations
- c. Clearly identify the (long term) provider(s) and the user(s) for individual projects
- d. Encourage politicians and national governments to support PES, grants, and other forest-related green economy initiatives

5. Monitoring and Governance

- a. Collect national data that is harmonized with international principles so that comparative analyses can be made to support decision making.
- b. Base policy decisions on objective assessments of sustainability.
- c. Engage stakeholders in developing actions that respond to monitoring results.
- d. Address public concerns about forestry in the ECE region by communicating findings.

Annex II

Terms of Reference of the Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management

1. The Working Party is a subsidiary body of the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission and contributes to the implementation of the integrated programme of work of those two bodies. It meets annually to provide guidance on the implementation of all five areas of the programme of work. The Working Party also facilitates exchange of information on the work of the Teams of Specialists, identifies priorities for action and relevant emerging issues; and transmits suggested priorities to the Committee and the Commission for consideration.

2. The Working Party shall:

(a) Review, on an ongoing basis, the needs at the international level for statistics and other information relating to forestry, wood-processing and forest products, including wood energy, and develop programmes to meet these needs. Particular attention shall be paid to improving quality, concepts, definitions and methodologies to increase the international comparability of statistics and other information;

(b) Develop, upon request from the parent bodies, methodologies for use in economic analysis of the sector, as well as techniques for collecting, validating, analysing and disseminating information and statistics;

(c) Undertake, upon request from the parent bodies, ad hoc projects in economics and statistics relating to forestry, forest products and forest policies and institutions;

3. Within the framework of the integrated programme:

(a) Contribute and provide technical advice to the Committee and the Commission on issues under consideration by those bodies, including on the preparations of studies such as the Outlook and the Forest Products Annual Market Review:

(i) Receive and discuss the reports from the Teams of Specialists to enhance the understanding of their respective mandates and work; identify possible synergies; and facilitate the exchange of experiences between Teams of Specialists and delegations from member States. When needed, the Working Party would be requested to review and update mandates which are to be endorsed by the parent bodies;

(ii) Increase the visibility and impact of the work of Teams of Specialists among Member States and within the relevant bodies in the United Nations.

(b) Reach out to other sectors to discuss related to forest information and management matters of common interest, including best practices in sustainable forestry management and their impact on the overall sustainability of forests, natural resources management, and other issues such as biodiversity and climate change;

(c) Identify themes and issues for in-depth discussion and review as part of the annual workshop held back-to-back with the Working Party session;

(d) Work together with other international bodies, including Forest Europe, Eurostat, the International Tropical Timber Organization and the Conference of European Statisticians, with a view to coordinating of activities and avoiding any duplication of effort.

Annex III

Indicative list of activities for 2011-2012

A. Forest resources

Publications and Research:

- Contribution to the strategy of FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA)
- Contribution to the draft enquiry for GFRA 2015
- Contribution to the electronic format of the FRA report
- Web-based information Platform for SoEF 2011, jointly with Forest Europe (planned for 2011)
- Educational material for students based on State of Europe's Forests 2011 report *
- Discussion paper on European Forest Types
- Brochure on European Forest Types (planned, autumn 2011)
- Contribution to the EFI project on SFM application on a national level (participation in organisation of the series of sub-regional workshops)
- Cooperation with Criteria and Indicators processes (Forest Europe and the Montreal Process)
- Further development of sustainable forest management and its tools *
- Further improvements in forest monitoring and reporting *

Meetings and events:

- Meeting of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management *
- Last meeting of the Advisory Group on SoEF 2011 reporting.

B. Forest policies and institutions

Meetings and events:

- Preparing and servicing the meetings of the intergovernmental negotiating Committee (INC) to prepare a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe (LBA), including organization and servicing of INC bureau meetings (together with other partners)
- Meeting(s) to further refine the Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy.

C. Markets and statistics

Publications and Research:

- Publication of 2009 data on wood energy scheduled end of 2011 or early 2012
- Forest Products Annual Market Review 2011-12 *
- TC Market Statement 2012

- Improve wood pellets production and trade statistics *
- Collection and validation of 2010-2011 data on the trade, consumption, production of forest products (for UNECE and other databases, e.g. FAOSTAT)
- Publication of forest products data 2007-2011, including secondary products
- Timber Committee market forecasts for 2012-2013 - tables
- Timber Committee market forecasts for 2012-2013 - market discussion graphs
- Maintenance of price statistics on-line.
- Initiation of 2011 data collection on wood energy sources and uses in the UNECE region (Joint Wood Energy Enquiry) *

Meetings and events:

- FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics (WPFES) 2012
- Annual session of the UNECE Timber Committee 2012
- Meeting of the Team of Specialists on Forest Products Marketing
- Meeting of Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics

D. Capacity building activities carried out under all work areas

Meetings and events:

- Workshop on mobilizing “green” resources – the sustainable approach in Romania (planned for end of 2011)
- UNECE/FAO Workshop on: “Improving wood energy data in international statistics – based on the experiences from the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry” *
- Workshop of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists for Forest Policy in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (to be planned in 2012) *

E. Outlook studies and cross-sectoral component

Meetings and events:

- Workshop on the impact of climate change on forestry work, organized by the ECE/FAO/ILO Expert Network on implementing sustainable forest management *
- Conference on forest fires
- Meetings of: UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook; Core Group of Experts on Forest Sector Outlook; Forest Communicators Network; Joint ECE/FAO/ILO Expert Network to Implement Sustainable Forest Management; Team of Specialists on Forest Fire
- Participation in and organization of various events for dissemination of SoEF 2011 and EFSOS II results. *

Annex IV

RFC recommendations for the attention of COFO

| Priority issues for COFO to consider | Expected outcome of the considerations (information/decision) | Possible follow up activities for COFO and FAO |
|--|---|--|
| How to operationalize the outcome of Rio+20 for the forest sector taking into account developments in other sectors. | Advice for members and FAO | Review at next session (2014) |
| <p>How to strengthen the role of assessment, analysis and monitoring in policy formulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term strategy for the global forest resource assessment (FRA). • Role of analysis and outlook in support to forest policy development • Monitoring state of forests and progress made on sustainable forest management | <p>Decision</p> <p>Advice for members and FAO</p> <p>Advice for members and FAO</p> | <p>Periodic review by COFO of progress under FRA</p> <p>Results and highlights of regional and global outlook studies are brought to the attention of COFO</p> <p>Periodic reviews</p> |
| How to promote inter-organizational and inter-sectoral cooperation on forest issues at regional level to ensure streamlined and focused action | Recommendation | Periodic review of progress |

RFC recommendations for the attention of COFO regarding FAO Programme of Work

| Priorities for the FAO programme of work | Objectives for work on the priorities | Activities to accomplish the objectives, and the level at which these should be implemented (national/regional/global) | Indicators of achievement |
|---|---|---|----------------------------------|
| Clarify, enhance and communicate the contribution of forests and forest sector to green pathways for sustainable development. | Comprehensive approach to greening the economy. | | |
| Implement FRA long-strategy as adopted by COFO. | FRA programme satisfies the growing intergovernmental need for information on forests. | | |
| Continue and enhance programme in forest sector outlook studies. | Provide solid basis for policy and strategy development in the forest sector. | | |
| Create regional climate change adaptations platforms and promote science policy interface and learning. Improve the understanding of the role of forest products in climate change mitigation. | Facilitate science policy interface in climate change; help better integration of the forest sector in mitigation and adaptation policies and actions | | |