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European Forestry Commission

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION



JOINT FAO/ECE/ILO COMMITTEE ON FOREST TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING

twenty-fourth session

Ennis, Co. Clare, Ireland, 12-14 September 2002

International dialogue on forests, notably the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe and activities of other international organizations of relevance to the Committee

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Note by the secretariat

This document briefly reviews activities in support to the international dialogue on forests and to the global and regional processes, notably the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forest in Europe (MCPFE). Cooperation with other international organizations, IUFRO and EFI is reviewed. Delegates are invited to supplement the information provided during the session.

The attention of the Joint Committee will be drawn to the points of decision included in the text (bold, italic type).

Introduction

1. The present document briefly reviews cooperation of the Joint Committee with the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forest in Europe (MCPFE), IUFRO and EFI

The Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE)

Background

2. The Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) is a high level process of cooperation between countries in Europe aimed at achieving sustainable forest management in the region. Ministers have made far-reaching commitments at conferences in Strasbourg, Helsinki and Lisbon, and are preparing for the fourth Conference at Vienna in April 2003. In the mid 1990s the Joint Committee's parent bodies decided to cooperate actively with the MCPFE in a number of ways, and the Joint Committee was also called on to contribute. A Joint Committee team of specialists made a major contribution to the preparation of the Lisbon resolution on socio-economic aspects of forests.

3. In October 1999, MCPFE approved a programme of work for European forests. This included a number of activities carried out by the Joint Committee.

MCPFE HEADING	JOINT COMMITTEE ACTION	REFERENCE
Public Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarification of concept of "participation" and development of a conceptual framework. Activities of team 	Public Participation in Forestry, in Europe and North America, report of the Team of Specialists on Participation in Forestry Sectoral Activities Department International Labour Office, Geneva 2000
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seminar on "Public Relations and Environmental Education in Forestry" ("Forestry meets the public") 	Rütthubelbad, Switzerland 8-11 October, 2001 TIM/EFC/WP.1/SEM.52/2
Training, Education and Gender Aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop on "Reducing the impact of forest operations on ecosystems" 	Gmunden, Austria 20-27 September, 1998 TIM/EFC/WP.1/1998/6/Add.1
Training, Education and Gender Aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop on "New trends in wood harvesting with cable systems for sustainable forest management in the mountains" 	Ossiach, Austria 18-24 June, 2001 TIM/EFC/WP.1/SEM.51/2
Training, Education and Gender Aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop on "Forestry Information Systems 2000" 	16-20 May 2000 Hyytiälä, Finland TIM/EFC/WP.1/AC.1/2000/1
Training, Education and Gender Aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seminar on "The role of women in the forestry sector in Europe and North America" 	Viseu, Portugal 2-6 April, 2001 TIM/EFC/WP.1/SEM.50/2

4. This makes clear that the Joint Committee has made a significant contribution to implementing work identified as of high priority by the Ministerial Conference. It is noteworthy that many of the Joint Committee's contributions have been in the social field.

5. At present (June 2002) MCPFE has begun to prepare the Ministerial Conference in Vienna in April 2003. No indications are yet available of what the results of this process will be (documents are available on the MCPFE website, <http://www.minconf-forests.net>). The Joint Committee session will be informed orally of the situation in September, and invited to comment.

Points for decision:

- ***The Joint Committee may wish to review its cooperation with MCPFE and consider, in the light of information available how the cooperation should continue in future.***

ACTIVITIES OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

IUFRO

IUFRO's mandate and image

6. Like the Joint Committee, IUFRO is an organization with a long tradition that has kept up with changes in the forestry sector, but has struggled to communicate to the forestry sector and beyond that and how it has adapted to new problems, opportunities and circumstances. Several steps have been taken to make these adjustments more visible and to develop a forward looking 'corporate image' as the new IUFRO president Risto Seppälä (Finland) called it at its last world congress in 2000, IUFRO changed its name slightly, but significantly to International Union of Forest Research Organizations, from Forestry Research;

- it introduced a new logo, replacing the stylized spruce by a broad leaf;
- the IUFRO newsletter had an overhaul of its layout and presentation.

7. IUFRO also adopted a statement of its vision and mission. The vision is: 'of science-based sustainable management of the world's forest resources for economic, environmental and social benefits'. IUFRO defines its mission as: 'to promote the coordination of and the international cooperation in scientific studies embracing the whole field of research related to forests and trees'.

Joint Committee-IUFRO relationship

8. There continue to be numerous joint activities, in particular concerning seminars. Relationships have traditionally been strongest with Division 3 Forest Operations. The good rapport with Division 3 needs to be maintained and cultivated, but it is no longer sufficient. Joint Committee activities in recent years have fallen increasingly in the realm of other IUFRO Divisions and we have been less successful in establishing contacts. An indication is the fact that seminars in cooperation with Division 3 appear in the IUFRO calendar of meetings whereas other seminars, such the one on afforestation are not mentioned there. The routine of communicating the entire Joint Committee programme to the IUFRO secretariat and of contacting the leaders of relevant IUFRO Divisions or working groups at an early stage in seminar/activity preparations should be reinstated. The FAO secretariat member may be best placed to liaise with IUFRO given FAO's numerous contacts with the Union.

IUFRO programme relevant to the Joint Committee

9. A full calendar of IUFRO meetings is available on their homepage at: <http://iufro.boku.ac.at>. In addition to title, venue and dates the names and addresses of the organizers are indicated. Unfortunately, at the time of writing neither the paper edition of the calendar nor the homepage provided much information of meeting and activities beyond 2002. Noteworthy activities are:

- Management of fast-growing plantations, Izmit, Turkey, September 2002, Mr Ercan;
- Mountain forests - conservation and management, British Columbia, Canada, July/August 2002, Mr Rankin;
- International symposium on contributions of Family-Farm-Enterprises to Sustainable Development, Gengenbach, Germany July 2002, Prof. Brandl;
- Forest information technology 2002, Helsinki, Finland, September 2002, Prof. Mikkonen;
- 2nd Forest Engineering Conference, Växjö, Sweden, May 2003, Ms Iwarsson;
- 5th IUFRO European Forum on Urban Forestry, May 2002, Trondheim, Norway, Mr Konijnendijk;
- IUFRO European Regional Conference: Forestry Serving Urbanized Societies, Copenhagen, Denmark, August 2002 (with EFI), Mr Konijnendijk;
- IUFRO World Congress in Australia, 2005.

10. IUFRO has been trying for some years to generate momentum concerning urban forestry. The group still seems to be rather small. The 4th Forum in Durham, UK, in 2001 was attended by 25 persons from 10 countries. At any rate, contact with IUFRO would appear imperative should the Committee consider work on urban forestry.

11. The Committee Chairman has contacted Skogforsk, the main organizer of the Second Forest Engineering Conference by to be held in 2003 and suggested that the Conference be held in cooperation with the Joint Committee. The answer was positive and the Steering Committee has been asked to give its opinion.

EFI- the European Forestry Institute

12. EFI has currently rather few activities that related closely to the Joint Committee's field of interest. The most relevant would appear to be a meeting on 'the challenge for forestry in European countries with economies in transition, Kiev, Ukraine, September 2002 which is organized by EFI in cooperation with IUFRO. The presence of the EFI's Director General at the Session should allow exploring this and other areas of common interest.

FAO -World Forestry Congress.

13. The next world congress is scheduled for 21-28 September 2003 in Quebec, Canada. The full programme is available at www.wfc2003.org.

Points for decision:

- ***The Committee is invited to take of the activities of other organizations in deciding its future programme of work and to suggest ways of cooperation, in particular with IUFRO, EFI and the organizers of the European forest engineering conferences.***