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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
Timber Committee

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
European Forestry Commission

JOINT FAO/UNECE WORKING PARTY ON FOREST ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS

Twenty-eighth session

to be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva
2 - 4 May 2006, starting at 10.00 hrs on Tuesday 2 May

Provisional agenda

(ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2006/..series)

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Note – Working Party documents will be distributed to the official list as in previous years. However, the provisional agenda and other session documents will be available on the Timber Committee/European Forestry Commission's website: <http://www.unece.org/trade/timber>.

EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

General

During the strategic review of the UNECE/FAO integrated programme of work in the field of forest and timber (see TIM/2001/2 and 8), it was agreed that the Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics should provide guidance for work areas 1, 2 and 3 of the integrated programme, and act as an interface between the technical and the intergovernmental levels. The Working Party should henceforth meet annually.

The provisional agenda has been drawn up to allow the Working Party to concentrate on the guidance function and discussion of major topics, with formal parts of the agenda kept to a minimum.

Documents will be issued in advance to the regular mailing list, and will also be available for downloading from the Timber website (<http://www.unece.org/trade/timber>).

Kindly note that delegates are requested to be prepared to speak on the substantive items (3-5 and 7-9). Views of all delegates will be sought by the Chairman.

Tentative Timetable

The secretariat proposes the following timetable:

Tuesday 2 May 2006

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Items 1-3

3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Items 4-6

Wednesday 3 May 2006

9 a.m. - 12 noon

Item 7

2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Item 8

Thursday 4 May 2006

9 a.m. - 12 noon

Items 9-13

2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Open

Detailed Agenda

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure and established practice, the first item on the agenda is the adoption of the agenda.

Item 2: Matters referred to the Working Party by its parent bodies

Under this item the Working Party's attention will be drawn to questions referred to it by its parent bodies, excluding those questions which will be addressed under individual work areas.

Items 3-5: Guidance of work areas

For each of the work areas, the Working Party will be informed of activities, results and plans for the next two years, and invited to review and comment on these activities and plans, and to approve the detailed section of the integrated work programme referring to each work area. Decisions from the meetings of the respective Teams of Specialists will be reviewed. There will also be a special focus for each area:

- Work Area 1: improving information base of Timber Committee Market Discussions, including recycled wood in Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire;
- Work Area 2: briefing on global forest resources assessment, reporting on state of European forest for Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) meeting in Warsaw 2007;
- Work Area 3: recommendations from Workshop on Policy Conclusions and Options arising from EFSOS (Budapest) and the Workshop: Forests - Common Benefits, Shared Responsibilities, Multiple Policies (Riga), status of Forest Outlook for Western and Central Asia (FOWECA), global outlook programme.

Item 6: Dissemination of outputs (publications, website, databases)

The Secretariat will review the various methods used to distribute information. A report will also be made on the results of an analysis of ECE web statistics and queries submitted to FAOSTAT Forest Products database. Information on the Global Forest Information System will also be provided.

Item 7: Monitoring and analysis of wood energy developments

The secretariat will inform delegates of the work undertaken in following up the recommendations of the 2005 Working Party meeting. Proposals for future data collection and/or monitoring will be made and discussed. Relationships with partner organizations will be discussed. An overview of the wood energy situation will be made by the secretariat. Delegates are invited to prepare information on national developments.

Item 8: Information on certified forest products

Following a request from the Timber Committee policy forum in October 2005, the secretariat will seek input from the Working Party on what information should be gathered and how this could best be done.

Item 9: Information on illegal logging and related trade

Following a request made to UNECE and FAO at the MCPFE Madrid workshop and the ENA-FLEG St. Petersburg ministerial meeting, we are seeking to develop information on this issue. The secretariat will propose how to measure illegal logging and related trade, a review of techniques used to do so and review organizations active in this area.

Item 10: Capacity building for sector information

Delegates will be informed of the recent meeting at Krtiny with delegations from Central Asia and the Caucasus and the planned April 2006 marketing workshop in Serbia. Further efforts to improve forest information capacity in these countries will be outlined.

Item 11: Any other business

At the time of writing the secretariat has no matters for discussion under this item. Delegates should feel free to raise issues that are of concern to them prior to the meeting to facilitate discussion.

Item 12: Election of officers

The Working Party is expected to elect a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen. At its twenty-seventh session, the Working Party re-elected Mr. M. Aarne (Finland) Chairman and Ms. S. Phelps (Canada) and Mr. M. Gecovic (Slovakia) Vice-Chairmen to hold office until the end of the twenty-eighth session.

Item 13: Adoption of the report

The Working Party will be invited to adopt the report of its session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat. However, in order to use meeting time in the most efficient way possible, and in view of the detailed nature of some of the discussions which may take place, it may not be possible to present a full draft report at the end of the session, so that it may be necessary for the Working Party bureau to finalise the report after the session.



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