

UNECE/FAO Timber Section

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Food and Agriculture
Organization

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Comments and suggestions from the timber and forestry community are most welcome, please write to us at:
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United Nations

Joint UNECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission Policy Forum

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT POLICIES FOR WOOD AND PAPER PRODUCTS AND THEIR IMPACTS ON SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT AND TIMBER MARKETS

The UNECE and FAO will hold a policy forum on Public procurement policies for wood and paper products and their impacts on sustainable forest management and timber markets. The Forum will take place on 5 October 2006 during the 64th session of the UNECE Timber Committee which will be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

The Forum aims to provide a neutral forum for all stakeholders to discuss the role that national public procurement policies can play in making progress towards sustainable forest management, and how these policies affect forest products markets and industries. It shall provide an opportunity to exchange experiences from states having introduced procurement policies, learn about the practical problems of the suppliers that arise from the various existing national rules, and to discuss how the effectiveness of procurement policies could be improved. The forum strives to contribute to the international dialogue among all stakeholder groups, inside and outside the forest sector.

The Forum will focus on the following questions:

1. Are the public procurement policies effective in achieving their goals?
2. What are the impacts of public procurement, including their implications for markets for wood and paper products?
3. How can public procurement policies avoid creating market barriers?
4. How can implementation procedures be improved (including instruments for verification of legality and sustainability as well as alternative options for evidence?)
5. Are there needs or possibilities for harmonized approaches in public procurement policies?

Participation is open to government policy makers (especially those having or considering public procurement policies), as well as experts from NGOs, scientific bodies, industry and trade organizations, national and international certification schemes, private forest owners' organizations and international organizations. Representation will be global.

For further information: www.unece.org/trade/timber/docs/tc-sessions/tc-64/tc-64.htm. Enquiries can also be sent to: christopher.prins@unece.org.

Forest Products Annual Market Review, 2005-2006

The *Forest Products Annual Market Review, 2005-2006* is produced for the integrated programme of work of the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission. The Review analyzes market and policy developments with consideration of economic conditions. It is based on the first available statistics supplied by official country statistical correspondents and is the earliest comprehensive analysis available each year for the UNECE region. It is a key background document for the annual Timber Committee Market Discussions, this year's discussions will be held on 3-4 October.

The Review is also intended for market specialists, Government policymakers and others in the sector, as well as outside. The Review aims at providing an objective analysis of market and policy developments and providing a stimulus for meaningful policy discussion in international fora. This year's Review describes the following policy issues:

- Forest law enforcement, governance and trade and initiatives to retain forestland
- Policies promoting the sound use of wood
- Climate change policy
- Wood energy promotion policies
- Initiatives aimed at increasing global competitiveness in wood and wood products markets, and overall performance of the sector
- Trade policy and tariff and non-tariff barriers
- Emergence of China as a major player in the wood products manufacturing arena.

This year's Review has two themes in addition to the normal market and policy developments, namely: (1) China's forest products trade influences on UNECE region markets; and (2) Public procurement policies affects on forest products markets.

The Review Team in Geneva works over the summer with direct input from 35 experts and partners and over 100 contributors of information and statistics. The *Forest Products Annual Market Review 2005-2006* will be uploaded on the TC/EFC website (<http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/>) in August 2006 and will be available in print before the TC Market Discussions.

Forest Products Marketing Capacity Strengthened in South-East Europe

The countries of south-east Europe are fortunate in having significant forest resources along with a developed wood-processing sector and a pool of skilled and adaptable labour. Building on this foundation, UNECE/FAO Timber Section, with generous support from Austria and the FOPER project (European Forestry Institute) and funds from Serbia, Switzerland, the universities of Belgrade and Louisiana organized a training workshop, "Forest Products Marketing – from Principles to Practice" held in Novi Sad, Serbia from 3 – 6 April 2006.

As the global market for forest products becomes more competitive, companies need to maintain and improve their marketing skills if they are to grow their business and generate the employment that will help to secure the economic development that socially fragile rural regions need, as well as support the long-term sustainability of forest management. The four-day workshop examined marketing principles, reviewed markets in the region and beyond, before considering how to make effective use of a range of marketing tools.

Participants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, as well as Serbia, benefited from the participation of expert speakers from around the world, including Rich Vlosky, Leader of the Team of Specialists on Forest Products and Forest Products Marketing. This was the Team's second workshop, the first having taken place in the Czech Republic in October 2005. Branko Glavonjic of the Faculty of Forestry of the State University of Belgrade, a member of the Team, and his colleague, Nenad Petrovic, were the principal local organizers to the success of the workshop.

The workshop's discussion groups identified several conclusions and produced the recommendations below (for more information, pls. see: http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/Workshops/2006/2006_balkanworkshop.htm):

1. Establish a common marketing information system covering all the countries in the region, with different levels for government, education, private forest owners and the wood processing industry.
2. Initiate a coordinated, region-wide promotional campaign, targeted at improving the image and sound use of wood, including its environmental advantages, for the benefit of the entire region including, ideally, Romania and Bulgaria.
3. Set up strong industry associations.
4. Conduct a follow-up workshop on practical principles and tools to train-the-trainers; topics to include long-term assistance, strategy development, new market penetration and emerging competition.

5. Develop markets for non-wood forest products and services, including recreation and ecotourism.

There is enthusiasm for further training events in the region and a clear message to emerge was that the workshop should be regarded as a beginning and not a one-off event. Darko Motik from the University of Zagreb, Croatia has begun to plan a two-day workshop to be held in Dubrovnik, tentatively on 7-8 December 2006, targeted at the wood processing sector. Register your interest by contacting Douglas Clark@unece.org.

Off the Press



UNECE/FAO Discussion Paper 44, *Forest Certification – Do Governments Have a Role?* is the proceedings and summary of the discussions from the "Policy Forum: Forest Certification – Do governments Have a Role?" held in September 2005 during the Timber Committee's annual session. This Geneva Timber and Forest Discussion Paper captures the essence of the discussions, and incorporates all available expert papers and presentations.

Eastern Europe still facing challenges in forest management - Appropriate strategies needed

While the rest of Europe is steadily progressing towards sustainable forest management, eastern European countries are facing many challenges, following the restitution of forests from the State to their previous owners, FAO said at the European Forestry Commission (EFC) meeting held from 23 to 26 May 2006 in Zvolen, Slovakia.

Many countries in eastern Europe restructuring their economic and social systems from central planning to market-based systems have made huge progress in developing a private forestry sector and adapting their institutions. The State has returned forests to former owners or their heirs; changes have been made in policy and legislation for greater private-sector involvement in the forestry sector; and forest institutions, notably State forest services, are adapting to the market economy. As a result, the forest sector in eastern Europe is benefiting from a general recovery.

Many new forest owners are seeking new skills and resources to manage their forest in a sustainable way. However, their holdings are so small that many owners cannot afford professional advice. There is no established tradition of forest management, nor institutional advice and support. As a result, forest owners are often tempted to sell all the timber to the first buyer, and then abandon active and responsible management.

"It is important for policymakers in these countries to identify ways and means to assist private smallholdings

with professional advice, to enable them to take advantage of expanding markets while maintaining forest quality," said Wulf Killmann, FAO Director, Forest Products and Economics Division.

Close collaboration FAO and UNECE

FAO and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) are working together with other international organizations and with governments to assist in solving problems.

Countries in the region could benefit from the experience of the new European Union members in adapting to profound changes in their social and economic environments. Increased efforts are needed to combat forest fires and support forest law enforcement.

Greater demand for social and environmental benefits from forests, such as water management, soil erosion control and leisure, is expected. Improved policy coordination across sectors will be indispensable, according to FAO.

Discussions at the EFC meeting were aimed at helping policymakers identify and solve problems.

The EFC meets every two years and is part of a global network of regional forestry commissions which together feed ideas and suggestions to the FAO Committee on Forests, scheduled to meet in March 2007. Documents for the 2006 EFC are available on the website: <http://www.fao.org/forestry>.

Geneva Forests, Then and Now



In the fifteenth century, Conrad de Witz painted an altarpiece, showing the Miraculous Draft of Fishes with Jesus walking on the Sea of Galilee. His innovation was not in the subject, but in the way he treated the landscape in the background. Unlike earlier painters, who had constructed ideal, imaginary, landscapes, de Witz painted a real landscape, known to him. The altarpiece, now in the Musée d'Art et d'Histoire in Geneva, showed Lake Geneva and the Alps as seen from the Geneva countryside – in fact from near where the Palais des Nations stands now.

This gives us the opportunity for direct comparison of the same landscape at a six hundred year interval (see pictures). For foresters, what is most striking is the expansion of forests over the period. In the fifteenth century, there were open fields right to the top of the Voirons (the low mountain range to the left), and there appear to be no trees at all on the slopes of the Môle (the triangular green mountain in the centre). Now both areas are heavily forested. The reasons for this may be in the intensification of agriculture and in reforestation programmes in France.

The UNECE/FAO Timber Section is lucky enough to have forest history lessons by looking out of the window! Can any readers of the newsletter contribute similar local insights on forest history?

Cedar trees in Geneva

Beautiful and mighty cedars are the remarkable feature of the urban landscape in Geneva and its surroundings. The Geneva territory numbers some 3 800 cedars out of about 40 000 trees growing in the city area. The oldest Geneva cedars are located in the park Beaulieu, near Rue du Grand-Pré. They were planted in 1735 by Baron J.-F. de Sellon, who was the Minister representing the Republic of Geneva in Paris, and who brought this species as a gift from King's Botanical Garden (Jardin du Roi).

One of the main entrance gates of the Palais des Nations goes along the very impressive alley of 24 mighty Atlas Cedars (*Cedrus atlantica*). This alley provides an excellent frame for the national flags.

In front of the "parade" entrance of Palais des Nations you can see two beautiful Cedar of Lebanon (*Cedrus Libani*), which are the close "relatives" to the cedars located at the Beaulieu. If you go to these big cedars by the armillary sphere (sphère armillaire) in the park of the Palais des Nations, you will see the cedars' genealogy.

The plaque attached to one of these cedars says: "Cèdre du Liban. Graine provenant des cèdres de Beaulieu à Genève. Semée en 1823 et élevée en serre. Planté en avril 1832 par Philippe Revilliod." There are a number of more young Atlas Cedars in the park, but these two are among the most beautiful.

The third, much rarer cedar species, which can be found in Geneva is Deodar / Cedre de l'Himalaya (*Cedrus Deodarus*). This species is native of Himalayas and Baluchistan, where they feel much better at the altitude of 1100 – 4000m.

Did you know...

- that cedar oil is an excellent mosquito repellent ?
- that cedar bark was used to make clothing in the 16th century, and that it is both insect repellent and waterproof?
- that for every kilo of essential oil you need some 30 kilos of cedar wood?

The oil smells of wood and balsam ...

- that the Egyptians used cedar wood to build temples, sarcophagi and ceremonial boats ?
- that cedar wood incense is burnt during Tibetan religious ceremonies, thus favouring spiritual elevation ?
- that cedar oil stimulates circulation in the tissues (in cellulite), as well as the regeneration of arterial tissues (in arteriosclerosis) ?



Monitoring forest resources for sustainable forest management in the UNECE Region

UNECE/FAO works with many partners to provide up-to-date, well documented policy relevant information on the status and trends of forest in the region. One major preoccupation is to limit the reporting burden on national correspondents, the unsung heroes of forest resource information. In practice, this involves a huge volume of coordination between data providers (often national forest inventories), researchers, data users and, increasingly, other sectors which interact with forests, such as biodiversity, climate change. Coordination of definitions, questionnaires and timing between national, regional and global levels is essential, so that there is a core set of global variables around which regional and national information can be

organised. Spring and summer 2006 have seen a rapid sequence of coordination and planning meetings:

- Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, (Geneva, 2-4 May 2006)
- UNECE/FAO team of specialists on monitoring forest resources (Hamburg, 29-30 May)
- Advisory group on the preparation of the report on sustainable forest management for the Warsaw ministerial conference in 2007 (Hamburg, 31 May)
- Global Expert Consultation Kotka V (Kotka, Finland, 12-16 June)
- Informal meeting of EU standing forestry committee on Forest Focus (Brussels, 3 July)

Major outputs in the next few years, and the subject of the coordination above are:

- Report on State of Forest and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe for the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, Warsaw 2007 (led jointly by UNECE/FAO and the MCPFE Liaison Unit)
- Global Forest Resource Assessment 2010 (led by FAO, with UNECE/FAO leading work for Europe)
- A forest monitoring system for the EU.

Resources are being sought from many different organisations. A high level inventory expert, Stein Tomter, has been loaned to the Geneva team to help prepare the report for the Warsaw conference. He arrived in Geneva in July.

Upcoming events

- UNECE/FAO Team of specialists on forest products markets and marketing, 6th meeting, Geneva, 2 October
- UNECE Timber Committee Market Discussions, Geneva, 3-4 October
- UNECE Timber Committee, 64th session, Geneva, 3-6 October
- Joint UNECE/FAO Policy Forum: Public procurement policies for wood and paper products and their impacts on sustainable forest management and timber markets, Geneva, 5 October