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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ninth meeting
Geneva, 8 November 2006

DECISIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE TIMBER COMMITTEE

Note by the secretariat

Programme of work to 2008

Terms of Reference of the Timber Committee, FAO/ECE Working Party on
Forest Economics and Statistics

The Timber Committee, at its sixty-fourth session (Geneva, 3-6 October 2006), adopted its programme of work to 2008, as attached as Annex I. The Executive Committee is invited to approve it.

At the same session, the Committee adopted its revised Terms of Reference (Annex II). The Executive Committee is invited to endorse them.

The Timber Committee also adopted the terms of reference for the FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics (Annex III). The Executive Committee is invited to approve them.

ANNEX I

FAO EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION AND UNECE TIMBER COMMITTEE INTEGRATED PROGRAMME OF WORK ON FORESTS AND TIMBER, 2005 TO 2008

UNECE SUBPROGRAMME 7: Timber and Forestry

Work area 1 Markets and Statistics

Programme elements

- 1.1 Statistics on production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products
- 1.2 Analysis of markets for forest products, notably topical and policy relevant aspects
- 1.3 Capacity building for forest products marketing in countries in transition
- 1.4 Monitoring and analysis of markets for certified wood products
- 1.5 Statistics on forest fires
- 1.6 Team of Specialists on Forest Products Markets and Marketing

Work area 2 Forest resource assessment and indicators of sustainable forest management in the region

Programme elements

- 2.1 Indicators of sustainable forest management in the region
- 2.2 Regional contribution to global Forest Resource Assessment
- 2.3 Support to development of national systems for forest monitoring
- 2.4 Servicing of Team of Specialists on Forest Resource Assessment

Work area 3 Sector outlook studies: analysis and follow-up

Programme elements

- 3.1 Implementation and follow up of European Forest Sector Outlook Study (EFSOS) to be determined
- 3.2 Forest relevant cross-sectoral issues at the pan-European level
- 3.3 Sector policy aspects of increased use of wood energy

Work area 4 Social and cultural aspects of forestry

Programme elements

- 4.1 Role of women in forestry
- 4.2 The social dimension of sustainable forest management in Europe, e.g. safety and health aspects
- 4.3 Role of contractors

Work area 5 Policy and cross sectoral issues

Programme elements

- 5.1 Contribution to the regional dimension of the global dialogue
- 5.2 Monitoring recent developments in policies and institutions
- 5.3 Trends in policies and institutions for the sector in CIS and South-east Europe
- 5.4 Trade and environment issues:
 - 5.4.1 – extent and cause of illegal logging and trade
- 5.5 Forest fires
- 5.6 Sectoral and cross-sectoral communication
- 5.7 Preparation of forest and forest products country profiles

ANNEX II

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE TIMBER COMMITTEE

The Timber Committee, as a Sectoral Committee of UNECE, constitutes a forum for cooperation and consultation among its member countries. Its objective is to improve sustainable forest management, including the sound and legal use of wood, other forest products and services throughout the UNECE region.

The Timber Committee shall, within the context of sustainable development, provide member countries with the information and services which they need for policy- and decision-making as regards their forest and forest industry sector, including the trade and use of forest products ("the sector") and, when appropriate, formulate recommendations addressed to member Governments and interested organizations. To this end, it shall:

1. With the active participation of member countries, undertake short-, medium- and long-term analyses of developments in, and having an impact on, the sector, including those offering possibilities for the facilitation of international trade and for enhancing the protection of the environment;
2. In support of these analyses, collect, store and disseminate statistics and other information relating to the sector, and carry out activities to improve their quality and comparability;
3. Provide a framework for cooperation, e.g. by organizing seminars, workshops and ad hoc meetings and setting up time-limited ad hoc groups, for the exchange of economic, environmental and technical information between Governments and other institutions of member countries that is needed for the development and implementation of policies leading to the sustainable development of the sector and to the protection of the environment in their respective countries;
4. Carry out tasks identified by the Commission or the Committee as being of priority, including the facilitation of subregional cooperation and activities in support of the economies eastern Europe Caucasus and Central Asia and the Mediterranean region;
5. It should also keep under review its structure and priorities and cooperate with other international and intergovernmental organizations active in the sector, and in particular with the FAO and its European Forestry Commission (EFC), the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and with the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE), in order to ensure complementarity and to avoid duplication, thereby optimizing the use of resources. Its work programme is fully integrated with that of the EFC.

The integrated work programme of the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission has five work areas:

1. Markets and statistics
2. Forest resource assessment and indicators of sustainable forest management
3. Sector outlook studies
4. Social and cultural aspects of forestry
5. Policy and cross sectoral issues

ANNEX III

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE FAO/ECE WORKING PARTY ON FOREST ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS

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 those two bodies. It meets annually to provide guidance on the implementation of work areas 1, 2 and 3 of the integrated programme:

- Markets and statistics
- Forest resource assessment and indicators of sustainable forest management
- Sector outlook studies

In particular, within the framework of the integrated programme, the Working Party shall:

- (i) keep under review the needs at the international level for statistics and other information relating to the forestry, wood-processing and forest products sector; and develop programmes to meet these needs. Particular attention shall be paid to improving concepts, definitions and methodologies in order to increase the international comparability of statistics;
- (ii) develop, upon request from the parent bodies, methodologies for use in economic analysis of the sector as well as techniques for the collection, validation analysis and dissemination of information and statistics;
- (iii) undertake, upon request from the parent bodies, ad hoc projects in the field of economics and statistics relating to forestry and forest products;
- (iv) work together with other international bodies, including MCPFE, Eurostat and the Conference of European Statisticians with a view to achieving coordination of activities and avoiding any unnecessary duplication of effort.