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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
Timber Committee

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
European Forestry Commission

JOINT FAO/ECE WORKING PARTY ON FOREST ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS
Twenty-second session

to be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva
26-28 May 1999
starting at 10.00 hrs on Wednesday, 26 May

Provisional agenda

	(TIM/EFC/WP.2/1999 series)
1. Adoption of the agenda	1
2. Temperate and Boreal Forest Resource Assessment 2000: review of final draft, consideration of future work	2
3. Experience with joint FAO/ECE/Eurostat/ITTO forest products questionnaire	3
4. Next steps in programme of outlook studies for Europe	4
5. Survey of users of FAO/ECE information and analysis	5
6. Review of collection and dissemination of statistics, including use of Internet for dissemination	6
7. Interorganisation co-operation on forest and forest products statistics (activities of Intersecretariat working group on forest sector statistics)	7
8. Programme of work for 1999-2004	8
9. Any other business	
10. Election of officers	
11. Adoption of the report	

EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

General

The Working Party will hold its regular biennial session, the twenty-second, in May 1999. 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>). However, some papers will be too large or prepared too late to be issued as official Working Party documents. For instance, this will apply to the draft of the TBFRA (item 2 of the provisional agenda). These will be circulated directly to "known" delegates, including those who have attended earlier sessions of the Working Party. Delegates who wish to receive such documents should inform the secretariat as soon as possible, preferably by e-mail (to <info.timber@unece.org>), or by fax (+4122 917 0041).

The secretariat proposes the following timetable:

Wednesday 26 May	Morning	Items 1-2
	Afternoon	Item 2 (cont.)
Thursday 27 May	Morning	Item 3
	Afternoon	Item 4
Friday 28 May	Morning	Items 5, 6
	Afternoon	Items 7, 8, 9, 10, 11

However, given the complexity of some issues, this timetable should only be considered indicative and it may be changed.

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 : Temperate and Boreal Resource Assessment 2000: review of final draft, consideration of future work

The final draft of TBFRA, taking into account, to the extent possible, the recommendations of the team of specialist (which will meet on 22-23 March) will be presented to the Working Party. Delegates will be invited to review the draft and make suggestions for improvement, and methods of dissemination of the results. They should also start consideration of follow-up and preparation for future work in this field.

Item 3 : Experience with joint FAO/ECE/Eurostat/ITTO forest products questionnaire

The first joint questionnaire was distributed in March 1999 (data for 1998). The Working Party will be invited to review all aspects of the process, and make suggestions for the future.

Item 4 : Next steps in programme of outlook studies for Europe

The Working Party will be invited to approve suggestions and a timetable for the next "round" of work on the outlook for the sector.

Item 5 : Survey of users of FAO/ECE information and analysis

The first objective survey of users of the ECE/FAO publications was carried out in 1998. Results will be presented to the Working Party and delegates invited to consider the implications for work by ECE and FAO.

Item 6 : Review of collection and dissemination of statistics, including use of Internet for dissemination

Under this item the Working Party will be invited to carry out its regular review of the collection and dissemination of statistics, taking into account all factors, including technological changes (Internet), interorganisation cooperation and user needs and wishes.

Item 7 : Interorganisation co-operation on forest and forest products statistics (activities of Intersecretariat working group on forest sector statistics)

The Working Party will be informed of the activities of the Intersecretariat Working Group.

Item 8 : Programme of work for 1999-2004

The Working Party will be invited to approve a work programme on the basis of the discussions under other items, as well as the instructions by parent bodies and the resources likely to be available.

Item 9 : Any other business

At the time of writing the secretariat has no matters for discussion under this item.

Item 10 : Election of officers

The Working Party is expected to elect chairman and two Vice-Chairmen. At its twenty-first session, the Working Party elected Mr. H. Ollmann (Germany) Chairman and Messrs. D. Brooks (USA) and R. Michalak (Poland) Vice-Chairmen to hold office until the end of the twenty-second session.

Item 11 : 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.