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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
Timber Committee

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
European Forestry Commission

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION



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

PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION

to be held in Groningen, the Netherlands
from 9 to 12 September 2004

a field trip is scheduled on Sunday 12 September 2004 in conjunction with the seminar on
“Building bridges between people and forests: changing roles of National Forest Services”

Agenda item

Document

- | | | |
|-------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Adoption of the agenda | TIM/EFC/WP.1/2004/1 |
| 2. | Fiftieth anniversary of the Joint Committee, 1954-2004 | TIM/EFC/WP.1/2004/3 |
| (i) | Achievements of the Joint Committee on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary, 1954-2004; | |
| (ii) | Forestry in the Netherlands; | |
| (iii) | Developments on the utilisation of wood fuels. | |

PARTICIPATION

Delegates attending the session are invited to fill in the forms set out in annexe II. The deadline for hotel reservations is **1 June 2004**.

DOCUMENTS

Joint Committee documents will be distributed by mail and will also be posted at the Committee's website <http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/joint-committee>.

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|-----|---|---------------------|
| 3. | Achievements, problems and priorities in the Joint Committee's field of interest (summaries of national reports) | |
| 4. | 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 | TIM/EFC/WP.1/2004/4 |
| 5. | Strategic review of the integrated programme of work on forests and timber of the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission | TIM/EFC/WP.1/2004/5 |
| 6. | Review of the activities in silviculture and forest management (subject area 1) and programme for 2004-2007 | TIM/EFC/WP.1/2004/6 |
| 7. | Review of the activities in wood harvesting and transport (subject area 2) and programme for 2004-2007 | TIM/EFC/WP.1/2004/7 |
| 8. | Review of the activities in vocational training and applied ergonomics (subject area 3) and programme for 2004-2007 | TIM/EFC/WP.1/2004/8 |
| 9. | Adoption of programme of work | TIM/EFC/WP.1/2004/9 |
| 10. | Any other business | |
| 11. | Election of officers | |
| 12. | Date and place of the next session | |
| 13. | Adoption of the report | |

TENTATIVE TIMETABLE

It is proposed that the Joint Committee session adhere to the following timetable:

Thursday, 9 September	Morning	Items 1 and 2(i)
	Afternoon	Items 3, 4 and 5
Friday, 10 September	Morning	Items 2(ii), 6 and 7
	Afternoon	Items 8 and 9
Saturday, 11 September	Morning	Items 2(iii), 10 to 13
	Afternoon	excursion to a wood fuel plant in the Flevopolder near Lelystad (<i>to be confirmed</i>)
Sunday, 12 September	All day	Field trip (see annex III)

EXPLANATORY NOTES ON THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

GENERAL

The government of the Netherlands kindly offered to host the twenty-fifth session of the Joint Committee (JC) in conjunction with the seminar on Building bridges between people and forests: changing roles of National Forest Services. The session will take place from Thursday 9 to Saturday 11 September 2004. A joint field trip to the island of Terschelling (annex III) will be organized on Sunday 12 September with seminar participants. JC delegates wishing to take part in the field trip are invited to indicate it when filling in the form in annex II.

Groningen is the major city of Northern Netherlands with a population of 179 000, the seventh largest city in the country. It is situated at 200 km N.E of Amsterdam, with good connections by train and highway to the rest of the country, Germany and Scandinavia. The Groningen Airport Eelde is at some ten minutes drive from the city centre, there are daily flights to London Stansted. Groningen boasts a level of amenities which can only be found in major cities. Institutions such as the University and the Academisch Ziekenhuis make Groningen the regional centre for more than half a million people.

The session will be held in the Conference Centre of Meerwold. This building has outstanding congress facilities, including hotel accommodation. Reservation of hotel accommodation is possible as from April 2004. Delegates who have filled the registration form will be contacted automatically and provided with further details.

Opening of the session

The Dutch Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality will open the session.

Item 1 - Adoption of the agenda

In accordance with established practice, the adoption of the agenda is the first item on the agenda.

Item 2 - Fiftieth anniversary of the Joint Committee, 1954-2004

In 2004 the Joint Committee will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary. The Steering Committee agreed to mark this occasion by publishing a book on the Committee's achievements, and have a special topic on this theme. Other celebrations will consist of a special topic and an excursion at

the joint session of its parent bodies, the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO Forestry Commission in October 2004 in Geneva.

Other special topics at the session:

- Forestry in the Netherlands; and
- Developments on the utilisation of wood fuels.

The Steering Committee will invite speakers for the special topics

Item 3 - Achievements and problems in the Joint Committee's field of interest

Under this item the Joint Committee will review achievements, problems and priorities on the basis of country reports. Delegations are requested to prepare their reports in accordance with the guidelines set out in annex I. Country reports are extremely important for the Joint Committee's work, as they facilitate the exchange of information and the preparation of a programme of work in line with the needs and priorities of member countries.

Countries are invited to send a copy of their national report to the secretariat by **1 July 2004**. The secretariat will distribute the reports among Joint Committee Coordinators who will present the synthesis to the session. Delegations are urged to respect the above deadline. Country reports will also be posted at the website.

Item 4 - 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

The Joint Committee will be informed of relevant activities of other international organizations and invited to comment on present cooperation and whether it should be further intensified. Representatives of the Warsaw Liaison Unit of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE), of IUFRO and of the European Forest Institute (EFI) will be invited to address the session.

The Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission have accorded the highest priority to the follow up to the MCPFE, the activities of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and the UN Forum on Forests (UN-FF). The Joint Committee will be informed of developments since its last session and will be invited to review its role in the process and to adapt its programme of work accordingly, if necessary, taking into account the secretariat resources available.

Item 5 - Strategic review of the integrated programme of work on forests and timber of the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission

The secretariat will present to the Committee a draft report of the status of the Strategic Review process, the results of the Extended Bureaux Meeting of the parent bodies (April 2004), and a summary of responses received from partners in the forestry sector, these can be consulted at <http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/>. The Committee will be invited to make comments on the process. The results of the discussion will be transmitted to the joint session of the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission in October 2004, which will adopt the Strategic Review process.

Items 6 - 8 - Review of activities and programme for 2004-2007

The Joint Committee will be informed of developments in each subject area. The Committee is expected to review past activities and agree on a programme for the period 2004-2007, taking into account the availability of secretariat resources. The documents under each item will provide an overview of activities, with cross references to original documents, and draw the Joint Committee's attention to points where a decision is required.

The activities and proposals to be reviewed are the following:

Subject area 1

- 1.1. Forest fire prevention and control
- 1.2. Building bridges between people and forests: changing roles of National Forest Services
- 1.3. Afforestation
- 1.4. Disaster preparedness in forestry
- 1.5. Information systems in forestry
- 1.6. Close to nature forestry
- 1.7. Contingency planning in forestry
- 1.8. Other topics

Subject area 2

- 2.1. Environmentally sound forest roads and wood transport
- 2.2. New trends in wood harvesting
- 2.3. Optimising the utilisation of thinnings
- 2.4. Multi-functional forestry in protected and vulnerable areas
- 2.5. Forest operation improvements in farm forests

- 2.6. Mechanization of forest operations in the mountains
- 2.7. Harvesting of non wood forest products
- 2.8. The role of forests in torrent control and watershed management
- 2.9. Role of contractors in forestry
- 2.10. Other topics

Subject area 3

- 3.1. Forestry workforce network
- 3.2. EDUFOREST– the Forestry Education Network
- 3.3. Public participation and partnerships in forestry
- 3.4. Social and cultural dimensions of SFM
- 3.5. Safety and health in public and small-scale private forests
- 3.6. Forestry workforce
- 3.7. Gender and forestry
- 3.8. Other topics

Item 9 - Adoption of the programme of work

The Joint Committee will be expected to adopt its programme of work, including a tabular presentation, on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat and in the light of its discussions under other items of the agenda. As a result of the strategic review of the Integrated Programme of work of the ECE Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission, the Joint Committee will be invited to report to its parent bodies problems or deviations, if any, in the implementation of its programme as well as on the adequacy of resources.

Item 10 - Any other business

At the time of drafting the secretariat has no points to propose under this item.

Item 11 - Election of officers

The Joint Committee will be invited to elect a Steering Committee to hold office until its next session. At present, the Joint Committee has a Chairperson, a past Chairperson, two Vice-Chairpersons, three subject area coordinators and two special coordinators. At its last session the Joint Committee elected the following to hold office until the end of the twenty-fifth session:

Function	Name	Responsibility
Chairman	Mr. H. Höfle (Germany)	Overall coordination
Past Chairman:	Mr. P. Efthymiou Greece)	Liaison southern Europe
Vice- Chairmen:	Mr. D. McAree (Ireland)	European Union & North America reporting to the SC on the international dialogue on forests
	Mr. M. Büchel (Switzerland)	Liaison central and western Europe, public relations and fund raising activities
Coordinators:	Mr. J. De Sousa Teixeira (Portugal)	Subject area 1, liaison with Forest Communicators Network (FCN)
	Mr. J. Begus (Slovenia)	Subject area 2
	Mr. C. Salvignol (France)	Subject area 3
Special Coordinators	Ms. E. Horvathné Sandor (Hungary)	Women in forestry, Liaison central and eastern Europe
	Mr. J. Ilavský (Slovakia)	Liaison Timber Committee, European Forestry Commission, central and eastern Europe and EFI

(TIM/EFC/WP.1/2002/2, para. 90)

Item 12 - Date and place of the next session

The Joint Committee should decide on the date and place of its next session. Countries are requested to consider before the session whether they might be in a position to offer host facilities for the twenty-sixth session in 2006.

Item 13 - Adoption of the report

The Joint Committee is expected to adopt the report of its session on the basis of a draft to be prepared by the secretariat.

ANNEX I

COUNTRY STATEMENTS

Invitation to countries

Delegations are invited to submit statements on achievements and problems encountered in their countries in the Joint Committee's field of interest ahead of the Session. They are also requested to indicate priority issues for possible action by the Joint Committee.

The Steering Committee at its 14th session in 1999 expressed its regret that relatively few member countries do provide country statements. It reconfirmed that these statements are important for the Joint Committee's work, as they facilitate the exchange of information and the preparation of a programme of work in line with the needs and priorities of member countries. The country statements are not expected to be major formal reports, but rather to provide a quick overview based on the views of knowledgeable individuals in your country.

Points to cover in the statement

It is suggested to follow a similar pattern to that of previous sessions, i.e. the statements should be subdivided according to the Joint Committee's three main subject areas:

Subject area 1: Management (silviculture, multiple use forestry, ecological and economical issues, marketing, information systems);

Subject area 2: Technology (wood harvesting and transport, forest engineering, ecologically and economically sound operations in silviculture);

Subject area 3: Training (of workers, supervisors and managers; applied ergonomics and occupational safety and health).

Under each subject area they should concentrate on:

- (a) achievements and important innovations, changes in legislation and policy over the past two years;
- (b) difficulties that have arisen and measures initiated to deal with them;
- (c) emerging priorities for Joint Committee activities.

Length of the statement - The statements should **not exceed two pages** per subject area.

Deadline - Countries are requested to respect the deadline for submission of reports of 1 July 2004, by which date complete statements should reach the secretariat:

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Economic Affairs Officer
Timber Section, UNECE Trade and Timber Division
Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Fax + 41 22 917 0041
E-mail Jorge.Najera@unece.org

The secretariat will forward a copy of the country statements to the subject area coordinators, who will prepare syntheses to be presented to the Joint Committee's session. Replies will also be posted at the website.

ANNEX II

REGISTRATION FORM

TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION JOINT FAO/ECE/ILO COMMITTEE ON FOREST TECHNOLOGY,
MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING
Groningen, the Netherlands
9 - 12 September 2004

Please return before 1 June 2004 to:

Westerlaken Congress Organization Services
P.O.Box 1558
6501 BN Nijmegen
The Netherlands
Telephone; +31-24 323 44 71
Fax: +31- 24 360 11 59
E-mail: jc-session2004@congres.net

With copy for information to:

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Mr./Ms./Dr.

Family Name: First Name:

Title:

Organization/ministry/governmental department:

Full mailing address:

Telephone number (with country code):

Fax number (with country code):

E-mail:

Other requests or comments.....

Arrival:

Departure:

I will attend the 25th session of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training (9–11 September), and wish to participate in the field excursion to be held in conjunction with the seminar on “Building bridges between people and forests: changing roles of National Forest Services on Sunday 12 September 2004

YES

ANNEX III

The National Forest Service on the island of Terschelling Field trip scheduled on Sunday 12 September 2004

What makes Terschelling so special? It's an important link in the chain of islands extending from Esbjerg, Denmark to Den Helder, Netherlands. This is, together with the Wadden Sea bordering on it, the largest undivided nature area of western Europe.

With a length of 30 km and an average width of 3.5 km, the island of Terschelling boasts a quite varied landscape; 20% consists of cultivated meadows, villages, roads etc, 80% is pure nature and unspoiled scenery. Mud flats, tidal marshes, beaches, dunes, woods, fresh water, salt water. All this is to be found here. The diversity of the landscape, flora and butterflies alone, is exceptional and is hardly found elsewhere in the Netherlands. In addition Terschelling lies on one of the major bird migration routes between the northern breeding areas and the winter quarters in the south. As nature is concerned, the island's crowning glory is *the Boschplaat*, which in 1970 was awarded the status of European Nature Reserve. The Wadden Islands have a history stretching back some 2000 years. The restless waves of the North Sea threw up a sand bar and, in turn, the drifting sand shaped the dunes. On the side bordering the Wadden Sea tidal marshes have developed and are flooded at high tide.

In 1910 the management of the 'waste dune lands' was entrusted to the National Forest Service. The assignment was to fix drifting sand and to produce wood for the mining industry. Until 1940 some 550 hectares of dune woods were established, using the unique 'Terschelling planting method'. Peat, soaked in water, was laid in the plant hole at the roots of the young pine trees. Excellent results were achieved this way.

A remarkable feature of Terschelling is that only a few mammal species are indigenous to the island. The squirrel, mole, field vole and fox never made the crossing and consequently do not occur. Because there are only a few predators and owing to the diversity of the landscape and vegetation no less than 125 bird species find a quiet breeding place on the island. The proximity of the Wad, which is uncovered twice every 24 hours, makes Terschelling a favourite feeding area for migratory birds.

The island offers a great variety of growing conditions for many plant species. In addition the sea nearby keeps temperatures lower in summer and higher in winter, creating favourable conditions for plant species from both northern and southern regions. From the 1360 species of higher plants occurring in the Netherlands over 600 thrive on this island.

The National Forest Service on Terschelling offers a wide range of possibilities for nature recreation. There are over 125 miles of unpaved tracks, 18 miles of which have been especially equipped as nature trails. Concerning cycling: there is a cycle path network covering over 35 miles and thousands of bikes are for hire. As to camping, the Service runs three nature camping sites on the island. A visitor's centre was set up and fitted out in cooperation with the National Forest Service.