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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED
NATIONS**

TIMBER COMMITTEE
Sixty-sixth session
Rome, 21-24 October 2008

EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION
Thirty-fourth session
Rome, 21-24 October 2008

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE JOINT SESSION¹
to be held at the FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Opening of the joint session

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Arrangements for chairing the joint session.

Plenary discussions of the European Forest Week

3. Forests and climate change.
4. Forests and energy.
5. Forests and water.
6. Working together for forests.

¹ **DOCUMENTS** - Joint Session documents will be distributed by mail and will also be posted at the UNECE Timber Committee/FAO European Forestry Commission website <http://www.unece.org/trade/timber> as well as the website of the European Forest Week: www.EuropeanForestWeek.org. The documents will also be available via the Official Document System of the United Nations: <http://documents.un.org/>.

Market discussions

7. Market discussions: (i) Sustainable markets and climate change;
(ii) Sustainable markets and energy: forecasts by sector.

Strategic Plan

8. Strategic Plan of the UNECE/FAO integrated programme of work on timber and forestry 2008-2013.

FAO European Forestry Commission

9. FAO European Forestry Commission issues.
 - (a) FAO activities of interest to the region, including the FAO strategy for forestry.
 - (b) Recommendations to be drawn to the attention of the 19th Session of the Committee on Forestry.
 - (c) Election of officers.
 - (d) Date and place of next session.

UNECE Timber Committee

10. UNECE Timber Committee issues.
 - (a) Formalities and elections.
 - (b) Date and place of next session.

Conclusion of the joint session

11. European input to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF).
12. Other business.
13. Adoption of the joint session report and closure of the joint session.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

OPENING

1. The opening of the joint session of the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission will take place in conjunction with the opening of the Rome segment of the European Forest Week.

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2008/1/Rev.1; FO:EFC/08/1

2. In accordance with both bodies' internal Rules of Procedure, the adoption of the agenda is the first item of the agenda.

Item 2. Arrangements for chairing the joint session

3. The joint meeting of the bureaux of the Committee and Commission proposed that the Chairs of the two bodies be co-Chairs of the joint session.

Item 3. Forests and climate change

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2008/2; FO:EFC/08/2

4. During a plenary session on Tuesday morning, 21 October, the linkages between forests and climate change and possible responses of the forest sector to emerging climate change challenges and opportunities will be discussed. A particular focus will be on adaptation of forest management to climate change as well as mitigation strategies through sustainable forest management.

Item 4. Forests and energy

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2008/3; FO:EFC/08/3

5. The plenary session on Wednesday morning, 22 October, will be devoted to forest and energy related issues, considering the implication of energy policies and renewable energy targets for the forest sector, and related opportunities. Wood energy, potential wood supply and harvested wood products will be discussed in greater detail during the policy dialogues and information events of the European Forest Week.

Item 5. Forests and water

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2008/4; FO:EFC/08/4; ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2008/3

6. The plenary session on Thursday morning, 23 October, is organized by the secretariats of the UNECE Water Convention and the FAO Working Party on Mountain Watersheds, together with the MCPFE Liaison Unit Oslo, to present the linkages between forests and water, promote the implementation of MCPFE Warsaw resolution 2 "forests and water," and contribute to closer interaction between the forest and water communities. Topics covered will range from financial instruments and economic incentives such as payments for ecosystem services to forests and water-related risk management in the context of climate change and transboundary forest-water related issues.

Item 6. Working together for forests

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2008/5; FO: EFC/08/5

7. During this plenary session, the work programmes of the Timber Committee and European Forestry Commission as well as the MCPFE will be jointly presented along with the approach to collaboration for the benefit of the European forest sector. The outcome of the workshop on "Forests in a changing environment" in Koli, Finland, in September 2008, will be presented, as a basis for a regional input to the United Nations Forum on Forest (UNFF), and the European perspective on global issues discussed.

Item 7. Market discussions

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2008/6; FO: EFC/08/06

8. The annual Timber Committee Market Discussions will be held jointly with the European Forestry Commission and have the theme of "Green building's impact on the forest sector." The Market Discussions will be held on two afternoons, Tuesday 21 October and Wednesday 22 October, and be linked to the themes of each day, i.e. "forests and climate change" and "forests and energy", respectively.

9. Delegations will be invited to review and discuss developments in 2007 and 2008 prospects for 2009 on the basis of the *Forest Products Annual Market Review, 2007-2008*, countries' market statements and forecasts. An agreed statement synthesizing the discussions and forecasts will be available as a working draft on Thursday afternoon, 23 October. Delegates will meet on Friday morning, 24 October to finalize the statement for adoption in the afternoon. A note by the secretariat will provide further information for joint Timber Committee and European Forestry Commission Market Discussions, country market statements and forecasts.

Item 8. Strategic Plan of the UNECE/FAO programme of work on timber and forestry 2008-2013

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2008/7; FO: EFC/08/07

10. The Timber Committee and European Forestry Commission will be requested, at their joint session, to approve the Strategic Plan 2008-13 of the joint integrated work programme on timber and forestry, agreed during the Special Session, 28-30 April 2008, and subsequently finalized by the joint bureaux.

Item 9. FAO European Forestry Commission issues

(a) FAO activities of interest to the region, including the FAO strategy for forestry

Documentation: ECE/TIM/2008/8; FO: EFC/08/08

11. The European Forestry Commission will be presented with an overview of activities of interest to the region, including the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010, State of the World's Forests 2007, XIII World Forestry Congress and information on the forthcoming International Years relevant to forestry. Delegates will be informed of the responses received through the consultation on the FAO strategy for forestry and they are invited to provide further feedback.

(b) Recommendations to be drawn to the attention of the 19th Session of the Committee on Forestry

12. The European Forestry Commission will be requested to consider the topics recommended to be considered at the 19th session of the Committee on Forestry in March 2009.

(c) Election of officers

13. In accordance with its Rules of Procedure and established practice, the Commission is expected to elect a Chair and three Vice-Chairs, who will hold office until the end of the thirty-fifth session. At the thirty-third session, Mr. Alain Chaudron (France), Chair, Mr. Peter Blombäck (Sweden), Ms. Conceição Ferreira (Portugal), and Mr. Jan Ilavsky (Slovakia), Vice-Chairs, were elected to hold office until the end of the thirty-fourth session.

(d) Date and place of next session

14. The next session of the European Forestry Commission is scheduled to take place in 2010. Countries interested in hosting the next session are invited to contact the secretariat.

Item 10. UNECE Timber Committee issues

(a) Formalities and elections

15. In accordance with its Rules of Procedure and established practice, the Committee is expected to elect a Chair and two Vice-Chairs, who will hold office until the end of the sixty-seventh session. At the sixty-fifth session, Mr. Johann Dengg (Germany), Chair, Mr. Branko Glavonjic (Serbia) and Mr. Heikki Pajuojja (Finland), Vice-Chairs, were elected to hold office until the end of the sixty-sixth session.

(b) Date and place of next session

16. Provided that conference services are available, the week of 12-16 October 2009 has been provisionally reserved for the sixty-seventh session of the Committee to be held in Geneva.

Item 11. European input to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)

17. The Committee and the Commission have been invited, along with other regional entities such as MCPFE, to provide a regional input to UNFF. The joint session will be invited to consider this matter.

Item 12. Other business

Item 13. Adoption of the joint session report and closure of the joint session.

III. TENTATIVE TIMETABLE

Time	Agenda items
Tuesday, 21 October 2008	
09:30-12:30	Opening of the joint session (in conjunction with the opening of the Rome segment of the European Forest Week)
	1. Adoption of the agenda 2. Arrangements for chairing the meeting 3. Forests and climate change (plenary of the European Forest Week)
14:30-17:30	7. TC/EFC market discussions: (i) Sustainable markets and climate change Policy dialogues/information events
Wednesday, 22 October 2008	
09:30-12:30	4. Forests and energy (plenary of the European Forest Week)
14:30-17:30	7. TC/EFC market discussions (continued): (ii) Sustainable markets and energy: forecasts by sector Policy dialogues/information events
Thursday, 23 October 2008	
09:30-12:30	5. Forests and water (plenary of the European Forest Week)
14:30-17:30	8. Strategic Plan of the joint UNECE/FAO programme or work on timber and forestry 2008-2013 9. and 10. Sessions of the FAO European Forestry Commission and the UNECE Timber Committee
18:00	Drafting Committee Market Statement
Friday, 24 October 2008	
08:30-11:30	6. Working together for forests (plenary of the European Forest Week)
13:00-15:00	Conclusion of the joint session: 11. European input to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF). 12. Other business 13. Adoption of report of the joint session report and closure of the joint session.