

Proposal for the future work of the Joint Committee to be discussed at the 25th session in the Netherlands on September 9 - 12, 2004

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Name

(Joint) FAO/ECE/ILO Advisory Forestry Committee

Mandate of FAO/ECE/ILO Advisory Forestry Committee

To ensure that all forestry activities, in particular those relating to social and cultural aspects, are developed in the context of sustainable forest management. This will be achieved by the regular exchange of information and advice on best forest practice and technology transfer allied with the use of innovative information technology. International seminars and workshops will be convened which are primarily intended for forest specialists and practitioners. Teams of specialists will be established to study and report on specific topics of interest and to initiate and promote collaborative studies. Special emphasis will be given to assisting countries in transition. The Advisory Forestry Committee will ensure that there is enhanced cooperation, communication and reporting with the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission to effectively and efficiently implement an agreed and proactive integrated work programme.

Structure

The Advisory Forestry Committee will be representative of the member countries of the ECE. As appropriate, it will liaise with other countries and organisations.

Members of the Advisory Forestry Committee should be experts who represent member countries. The Committee will be directed by a Steering Committee which includes a chairman, two vice-chairmen, individual representatives from the ECE, FAO, ILO and - as ad-hoc members - leaders of teams of specialists and organisers of seminars and workshops. The Chairman of the Advisory Forestry Committee will become a member of the Extended Bureau and will represent the Advisory Forestry Committee at Joint Sessions of the Timber Committee (TC) and the European Forestry Commission (EFC).

The Advisory Forestry Committee will meet once a year. The chairpersons of the TC and the EFC and the head of the liaison unit of MCPFE will be invited to participate. Between meetings, the Steering Committee will communicate electronically or arrange additional meetings. Election of the chairman and the vice-chairmen will take place every two years.

Secretariat services will be provided by the Chairman or the Vice-Chairmen.

Working methods

The Advisory Forestry Committee will develop a prioritised, succinct and targeted work schedule which should complement the integrated work programme of the TC and the EFC. This schedule should also become part of the MCPFE work programme.

Communication with the TC and the EFC will be improved and formalised through the participation of FAO, ECE and ILO in the Steering Committee. Regular contacts will be

established with the chairpersons of the TC and the EFC. The chairman of the Advisory Forestry Committee will take part in the joint sessions of the TC and the EFC and the Extended Bureaux.

Workshops and seminars will be organised by experts from member countries who will take care of financing these events. Reports and publications will be widely disseminated to ensure that results are properly implemented.

The Advisory Forestry Committee will establish its own website. A quarterly newsletter will be issued directed at FAO, ECE, ILO, TC, EFC, member countries and interested experts. It will be used to publish declarations, conclusions and recommendations, and to keep interested participants up-to date with current developments.

The Advisory Forestry Committee will closely cooperate with IUFRO, MCPFE, EFI, UNFF and other agencies (such as research stations, universities, forest industry and NGOs) to optimise synergies and to avoid duplication. EU will also become an important partner.

The Advisory Forestry Committee will seek the support of the TC and the EFC relating to its conclusions and recommendations. The TC and the EFC will then promote the agreed activities resulting from such recommendations (see for example EDUFOREST).

Appendix

1. Ongoing activities of the Joint Committee to be taken up and continued by the Advisory Forestry Committee (responsible expert):
 - Seminar on Disaster Preparedness in Germany
 - Workshop on Torrent Control in the Czech Republic
 - Seminar on Forest Roads in Hungary (...)
 - TOS on Contractors in Forestry (Kastenholz)
 - TOS on Gender in Forestry (Livstadt)
 - First International Conference of Forestry Training Institutions in France (Salvignol)
 - Workshop on social and cultural aspects of forestry in Sweden (...)
 - Meeting on Workforce in Forestry in Rhone-Aples, France (...)
 - Seminar on safety in forestry in Switzerland (Büchel)
 - FORWORKNET (...)
 - EDUFOREST (Salvignol)

2. Main topics:
 - Workforce in forestry
 - Forest enterprises
 - Social dimension of forestry
 - Cultural aspects of forestry
 - Occupational safety and health
 - Training and further education

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