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Comments and suggestions from
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are most welcome. Please write to
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United Nations

Dear Reader,

To respond to evolving markets, new technological challenges and environmental needs, the forest sector and the timber industry are increasingly looking towards innovation.

At its annual session in October, the Timber Committee will discuss how the industry is also now focusing on innovative wood products, developing new technologies and more ecological construction. This year, the session is being organized jointly with the Society of Wood Science and Technology.

How can we change the way international community perceives wood? We need to transmit clearly the message that wood is not only a sustainable material but can also become a sophisticated manufactured product to respond to market needs for alternative and high-performing materials.

We see innovation elsewhere in the forest sector too. For instance, the forest community is working on a new classification system for European forest types. Innovation in this area, like in many others, takes several efforts. It is a complex exercise, which needs to be assessed carefully, piloted and adjusted to make sure that all countries are on the same path.

Innovation is a key word for the forest fires community too. To respond to the evolving challenges of a changing climate, an increasing urban sprawl into forested areas, and decreasing availability of funds, the forest fires community is looking at innovative practices. Since fires concern several other sectors too, a more comprehensive and coordinated approach should be adopted for both prevention and intervention. Community planning and environmental management will need to be increasingly interwoven with fire management and emergency responses. Innovation will thus not interest only the sphere of technical and technological responses to fires, but also the way forest management is conceived. I wish to thank Mr. Johann Georg Goldammer, chair of our Team of Specialists on Forest Fires, for his article in this newsletter on Global Wildland Fire issues.

Finally, innovation is also key in the way we communicate about forests. The Forest Communicators Network is an innovative group, using modern public relations and communication strategies and messages to update not only the forest sector, but also the public perception of it. More on the last meeting of the FCN is available in this newsletter and online.

Paola Deda



**THE FOREST SECTOR AND
THE TIMBER INDUSTRY ARE DEVELOPING
TO RESPOND TO EVOLVING MARKETS,
TECHNOLOGICAL CHALLENGES
AND ENVIRONMENTAL NEEDS**

FOREST COMMUNICATORS NETWORK



Forests now cover more than 44 per cent of Europe's land area. And in the last 15 years, in the pan-European region forests grew by 17 million hectares. This is equivalent to the area of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia combined.

“People are reluctant to use more wood because they think this contributes to deforestation and environmental degradation. But Europe's forests are healthy and the public needs to be encouraged to use more wood and wood products”, says Mr. Ingwald Gschwandt, Chairman of the UNECE/FAO Forest Communicators Network. “In forests that are sustainably managed, every year more trees grow than are harvested”.

The UNECE/FAO Forest Communicators Network is mobilizing its participants to become proactive and dispel widespread public misconceptions about forests in Europe. It consists of a group of experts from member States in the UNECE region. It met recently in Gothenburg, Sweden, to develop a pan-European strategy for forest communication, and share plans and experiences concerning national public-awareness campaigns.



TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON FOREST FIRE GLOBAL WILDLAND FIRE ISSUES



Back in the early 1990s the UNECE-FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Fire entrusted the focal point of Germany, Johann Georg Goldammer, to take over the leadership of the group. His Fire Ecology Research Group, based in Freiburg (Germany), started to

produce UNECE/FAO International Forest Fire News (IFFN) and promoted the science and technology transfer to UNECE member states. In the following years the international interest in forming a global network focusing on fire management was steadily growing. In 1998 the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) was established in Freiburg. With the networking experience of fire specialists within the UNECE region a number of Regional Wildland Fire Networks were founded successively, which are now organized in the Global Wildland Fire Network. This network and its Wildland Fire Advisory Group are operating under the auspices of the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR). Successively this informal network became a major forum of government agencies, academia and other representatives of civil society, and even regional entities, such as the ASEAN Agreement of Transboundary Haze Pollution, with activities and visions targeting at enhancing international cooperation in wildland fire management. The representatives of the network provided the regional fire management analyses for the development of the synthesis report *Fire Management Global Assessment 2006* published by FAO in 2007 and formed a team which developed the *UN Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines*. With the restructuring of the organization of the UNISDR the Global Wildland Fire Network is now a Thematic Platform within the UNISDR Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction – a major effort that was born through the UNECE forest fire teamwork!

The global network is convening every four years in an International Wildland Fire Conference. After the 4th conference (Sevilla, Spain, 2007), the next global meeting will be at the 5th International Wildland Fire Conference *Wildfire 2011* (<http://www.wildfire2011.org/>), hosted by South Africa (Sun City / Pilanesberg National Park, May 2011). This conference will synthesize the global situation of the ecology and impacts of vegetation fires globally and formulate proposals for solutions in a world, which seems to become increasingly vulnerable to fires. The consequences of rapid demographic changes and the already visible precursors of climate change are aggravating factors that determine the extent and consequences of wildfires and the application of fire in land-use change.

In preparation of *WildFire 2011* the Wildland Fire Advisory Group met at GFMC over the last weekend (26-29 June 2010). The representatives of 14 regions of the global network presented their analyses of progress and setbacks in enhancing fire management capability. The presentation of the draft *White Paper on Vegetation Fires and Global Change* (an effort by the world's most renown fire and atmospheric scientists, ecologists and representatives of the humanities) and coordinated by GFMC revealed that the anticipated cumulative effects on environmental changes are exerting an increasing fire pressure on the forest and other vegetation resources. The presentation of the upcoming *Global Early Warning System of Wildland Fires*, the perspectives of the satellite remote sensing community aiming at developing consolidated global fire datasets and supporting fire management decision making and operations, revealed a high technological and scientific potential – but still a lack of resources for implementation.

Cosponsors and partners of the meeting included the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section and the Council of Europe through the Secretariat of the *Euro-Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement* (EUR-OPA). Mr. Eladio Fernandez-Galiano expressed the continuing interest of the Council of Europe in supporting scientific, technical and

policy solutions to address the increasing fire problems. The Chief of the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, Paola Deda, welcomed the support of the members of the Global Wildland Fire Network in supporting the UN system to address the burning issues. With the newly established *Fire Aviation Working Group*, the *Fire Management Actions Alliance* of FAO and the *International Liaison Committee* (ILC) of *WildFire 2011* the outcomes of the joint meetings revealed a great step forward in the coordination of international efforts in addressing global fire issues. The convener of the meeting, Johann G. Goldammer, thanked a number of fire experts of the UNECE region, including the Director of Fire and Aviation Management of the U.S. Forest Service, Mr. Tom Harbour, the Director of the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Center (CIFFC), Mr. Dennis Brown, and the Head of the Forest Fire Service of Spain, Mr. Rafael Gomez del Alamo, for contributing to the success of the meetings. *****

EMBRACING CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY HAS MARKET ADVANTAGES IN THE FOREST SECTOR BELGRADE, SERBIA ON 12 & 13 APRIL 2010

Dr. Branko Glavonjic, Chairman of the UNECE Timber Committee, hosted a workshop on "CSR in the forest sector in South-East Europe", in Belgrade, Serbia on 12 & 13 April 2010. More than 60 participants from the forestry and wood processing sectors in South-East Europe were introduced to the concept and practice of corporate social responsibility. Speakers from Italy and Switzerland, as well as from within the region, highlighted the benefits that businesses, trade associations and Governments can achieve from adopting CSR into their philosophy and operations. The workshop was organized jointly by the UNECE/FAO Timber Section and the Faculty of Forestry of the State University of Belgrade, in cooperation with the UNIDO-supported regional project on CSR competence.

While the level of consciousness of CSR within businesses and civil society in South-East Europe is currently rather low, it is growing steadily. The Dow Jones Sustainability Group Index shows that, in general, companies that embraced CSR tended to fare better during the current economic crisis than those that have yet to incorporate CSR into their business philosophy.

CSR adds value not only for stakeholders outside the corporation or association, but also within, since employee satisfaction is critical for business success. Making CSR integral to a company's business enhances motivation, productivity, labour retention and safety. To do so, Serbia and other South-Eastern European countries are implementing a new ISO 26000 CSR standard.

During lively discussion, those taking part in the workshop concluded that, if CSR is to be adopted more widely, governments need to take a supporting role. For CSR to succeed it needs a clear commitment from senior management and effective communication with employees and other stakeholders.

Companies can improve their corporate image and reputation, develop customer loyalty and minimize risks. Governments should encourage wider adoption of CSR in the forest sector by developing public procurement policies favouring natural materials, such as wood and paper products from sustainable sources, over non-renewable materials.

More information about the workshop, including its conclusions and recommendations, as well as the presentations can be found via www.unece.org/timber

REGIONAL WORKSHOP POLICY OPTIONS FOR WOOD ENERGY IN CIS COUNTRIES MINSK, BELARUS, 1-4 June 2010

This year, for the first time, national experts from both the forestry and energy sectors in the Commonwealth of Independent States and Turkey came together to examine policy options for accelerating the production and use of cost-effective wood energy in the region. This Regional Workshop organized in Minsk by the Belarus Ministry of Forestry, together with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) sub-regional office for Central and Eastern Europe, the United Nations Development Programme office in Belarus, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Geneva-based United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)/FAO Forestry & Timber Section.

It is clear that the use of wood energy is mostly related to a country's forest coverage and fossil fuel resources. Some countries in the region are already using wood energy extensively, especially in Eastern Europe. In many other countries in the region, however, wood energy plays a less significant role in the energy portfolio. Lack of infrastructure often limits access to remote areas, thereby hampering the mobilization of wood. Participants nevertheless highlighted the potential contribution of wood from sanitary fellings to localized wood energy production in rural areas.

To raise the profile of wood energy throughout that region, the experts recommended that public and private bodies concerned with energy and with forest management should work on achieving improved policy coherence and cooperate more closely. They also recommended that countries should use internationally recognized standards for wood fuels and energy-generation equipment. Participants agreed on the fundamental importance of obtaining robust data on wood-energy sources.

To assess the weight of wood energy in national energy supplies the Section has been conducting the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry since 2005. The next Enquiry will be launched in autumn 2010.

For more information please visit www.fao.org/regional/SEUR/events/minsk/minsk_en.htm

WORKSHOP ON EUROPEAN FOREST TYPES BORDEAUX, 19-21 MAY 2010

The relevance, contents and application of the new classification on European Forest Types were topics discussed by experts from 25 countries at the workshop held on 19-21 May 2010, in Bordeaux, France. The workshop was conducted to support the pilot application of a new forest type classification, an activity of Forest Europe' Work Programme led by UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, European Environment Agency and IUFRO.

The workshop focused on technical aspects of national reporting with the use of the new classification. Meeting discussions and field exercises revealed the complexity and multiple ways in which the classification could be applied affecting results comparability. Conclusions and recommendations from the workshop will guide future work; however, some problems will not be resolved in the short-term outlook but will require long-term prospects.

Report form the meeting and relevant material can be found at <http://timber.unece.org/index.php?id=280>

EUROPEAN FOREST TYPES

The new European forest types are organised according to a hierarchical classification system structured into 14 first level classes (categories) and 75 second level classes (types). In the previous papers the first eight categories (1. *Boreal forests*, 2. *Hemiboreal forest and nemoral coniferous and mixed broadleaved-coniferous forest*, 3. *Alpine coniferous forest*, 4. *Acidophilous oak and oak-birch forest*, 5. *Mesophytic deciduous forest*, 6. *Beech forest*, 7. *Mountainous beech forest* and 8. *Thermophilous deciduous forest*) were presented. In this paper the next three categories are introduced, more information can be found in the EEA Technical report No 9/2006.



9. Broadleaved evergreen forest

This category includes forests characteristic of the Mediterranean and warm-temperate humid zones of the Macaronesia biogeographical region. This type of climate favours broadleaved sclerophyllous, lauriphyllous evergreen trees or palms. Five forest types were separated under this category: *Mediterranean evergreen oak forest*, *Olive-carob forest*, *Palm groves*, *Macaronesian laurisilva*, *Other sclerophyllous forest*.



10. Coniferous forest of the Mediterranean, Anatolian and Macaronesian regions

The category covers a wide range of xerophytic forests dominated by coniferous species (pines, firs, junipers, cypress, cedar) found in the Mediterranean, Anatolian and Macaronesian biogeographical regions, distributed from coastal regions to high mountain ranges. The following types were identified under this category: *Thermophilous pine forest*, *Mediterranean and Anatolian Black pine forest*, *Canarian pine forest*, *Mediterranean and Anatolian Scots pine forest*, *Alti-Mediterranean pine forest*, *Mediterranean and Anatolian fir forest*, *Juniper forest*, *Cypress sempervirens forest*, *Cedar forest*, *Tetraclinis articulata stands*, *Mediterranean yew stands*.

11. Mire and swamp forests

Mire and swamp forests include both coniferous or broadleaved forested wetlands, located mainly in the boreal zone, with scattered occurrences on peaty soils throughout Europe. Forested wetlands consist of a complex of wet and moist forest types, and they are characterised by a high water table of variable duration. Heterogeneity of this category results from the micro-topographic variability of wetlands and associated variations in edaphic conditions and water regimes. The following types were distinguished under this category: *Conifer dominated or mixed mire forest*, *Alder swamp forest*, *Birch swamp forest*, *Pedunculate oak swamp forest* and *Aspen swamp forest*.



Materials and pictures from EEA Technical report No 9/2006: European forest types, were used, electronic version of the report is available at http://reports.eea.europa.eu/technical_report_2006_9/en

THE EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION (EFC) HELD ITS THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION LISBON, FROM 27 TO 30 APRIL 2010.

The session was attended by 48 representatives from 19 member countries, one member organization and one observer country. Fifteen representatives of eleven observer organizations also attended.

The conference discussed how the forest sector is crucial for countries' economic and environmental wellbeing. The meeting recognized that the attention on forests is at an all-time high, in particular thanks to the focus of the climate change negotiations on this sector.

Forests are among the world's major carbon sinks. Over a quarter of the carbon stored in the world's forests is found in the pan-European region. European foresters looked into ways and means to bridge the gap between the mitigation potential of European forests and their current low share in carbon markets.

In recent years wood has also become a major source of renewable energy in the region. Over the last 20 years European forests supplied 11 billion cubic meters of wood for environmentally friendly products and energy generation.

In spite of this, the wood stock in the European region grew by 7% over the same period. This represents a tremendous potential in economic and environmental terms that deserves attention in the development of energy policies.

Forests are also the guardians of our freshwater resources, and provide a wide range of other ecosystem services. For instance, they reduce sedimentation in watercourses and filter pollutants. They also play a key role in reducing risks from natural disasters. These functions are often taken for granted and the role of forest owners and managers in providing these environmental services is generally overlooked.

The potential of European forests for climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable energy production and the provision of ecosystem services was at the centre of the discussions. Given the challenges encountered by the forest community in reaching out to other sectors, the EFC decided to engage and intensify the dialogue with the water, energy and climate change communities in those discussions.

For more information please visit <http://timber.unece.org/index.php?id=efc-lisbon>

INNOVATIVE WOOD PRODUCTS ARE THE FUTURE

UNECE TIMBER COMMITTEE
MARKET DISCUSSIONS AND POLICY FORUM

COUNTRIES' MARKET STATEMENTS
FORECASTS FOR 2010 AND 2011
LATEST DATA AND ANALYSES
INTERNATIONAL MARKETS AND POLICIES

11-14 OCTOBER 2010
UNITED NATIONS GENEVA



For the first time, the annual event is being held jointly with the Society of Wood Science and Technology (SWST). The Society's mission is to develop the educational, scientific and ethical standards that define the profession, and to advocate the socially responsible production and use of wood and other lignocellulosic products.

The Timber Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) meets again this year at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, to review the latest international developments affecting the forest sector. The event brings together delegates from Governments, industry, research, non-governmental organizations and the media.

Market Discussions: The 2010 Market Discussions focus on **innovative wood products** and will cover solid and engineered wood products and ecological construction. As well as the traditional market sectors i.e. sawnwood, roundwood, panels, pulp and paper, they will also cover new sectors such as wood energy, carbon markets and certified forest products markets.

The discussions will build on countries' market statements and forecasts for 2010 and 2011, expert presentations and the UNECE/FAO and Agriculture Organization *Forest Products Annual Market Review, 2009-2010*, which provides the latest data and analyses of international markets and policies.

Policy Forum: In addition to the market discussions, a Policy Forum organized jointly by UNECE, FAO and SWST will focus on **“Building codes and standards: Influence on material use and construction practices”**.

The discussion will address the following topics:

- The role of wood products in mitigating climate change
- Codes and standards: State of the art and prospects
- The role of life cycle analysis in developing building codes and standards
- Users' demands: their impact on the forest sector

The annual Discussions and Forum offer the forest-sector community the opportunity to consider important issues from different perspectives through an exchange of views based on the most current information and forecasts available.

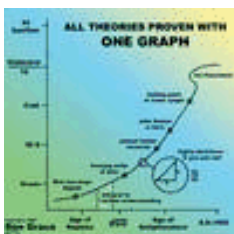
For more information and to register please see the UNECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission meetings webpage at:

<http://timber.unece.org/index.php?id=302>

For the Industry Tour on 15 October, see at:

<http://swst.org/meetings/AM10/index.html>

FOREST PRODUCTS STATISTICAL DATA AVAILABLE



- Production and trade for over 60 products for UNECE-region countries since 1964 (<http://timber.unece.org/index.php?id=207> [last 5 years] or <http://timber.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/statsdata/timber.zip>)
- Short-term forecasts for current and next year, made annually at the Timber Committee session (<http://timber.unece.org/index.php?id=42>)
- Price statistics for 49 series, last updated May 2010 (<http://timber.unece.org/index.php?id=137>)

We welcome comments and suggestions on improving availability and usefulness of the above items

POSSIBLE COOPERATION WITH UNEP ON GREEN BUILDING

Following several discussions, notably at the October 2009 Timber Committee and follow-up developments, the forestry and timber section prepared, in cooperation with the UNECE Environment, Housing and Land Management Division and the UNECE Sustainable Energy division, the concept of a forum on measuring buildings' carbon footprint. The objective of this forum, which could take place in 2011, is to compare, on a scientific basis, different systems and approaches for carbon accounting in buildings. Ultimately, the forum would evaluate whether guidelines could be developed on how to measure embodied carbon during the first stage of a building life cycle i.e. raw construction materials process and building construction.

It is envisaged to link this initiative with the sustainable buildings and climate initiative (SBCI) launched by UNEP in order to promote internationally recognized metrics and protocols for measuring and reporting on how buildings can impact during their entire life cycle on key environmental parameters like energy, water or biodiversity.

The forestry and timber section therefore attended on 18-20 May 2010, with the Quebec wood exports bureau, the annual general meeting of the UNEP/SBCI initiative, followed by a symposium on sustainable buildings. This meeting gave a very good overview of the different processes aimed at the promotion of sustainable building but also of the different perspectives from different stakeholders. A very good cooperation was settled at this occasion with UNEP secretariat. A decision should be taken soon on the date and exact content for the forum, taking into account guidelines by the Timber committee and suggestions of interested potential donors.

UNECE/FAO TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON FOREST POLICY IN EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

ISTANBUL, 20 – 22 SEPTEMBER 2010

The UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Policy in Eastern Europe and Central Asia gathers national experts from the UNECE region, and interested representatives from international organizations, with the objective of exchanging information and experiences on forest policy formulation and implementation, through open and transparent discussion and the integration of country members into international forest policy networks.

The second Team meeting is co-organized with the FAO sub regional office in Ankara and with the FAO regional office in Budapest and will take place in Istanbul, on 20-22 September 2010. It will offer the opportunity to member countries to share and discuss their national experiences on forest policy challenges and success stories, based on reports previously submitted, following the outline prepared by the Team and the Secretariat. These will include topics such as combating desertification, sustainable management of watersheds, climate change adaptation and mitigation, public-private partnerships, illegal activities in the forest sector, participatory forestry, rapid urbanizations effects on forestry, non-wood forest products and services, etc... Team members will also discuss an English-Russian glossary, based on the compilation of existing forest policy related terms and definitions.

Organisations and countries from outside the region willing to participate in this event are invited to contact:
Marion Briens at marion.briens@unece.org
Franziska Hirsch franziska.hirsch@unece.org

UNECE/FAO TIMBER STAFF



Outi Marin, Environmental Manager at Metsäliitto Group in Finland took on the temporary task as Project Leader of the Forest Products Annual Marketing Review. Outi worked on the review earlier as a student marketing assistant and has been providing background information on policy, trade and CSR related issues during the years.

The Timber Section is fortunate to have two capable marketing assistants, **Kalle Taari and Jussi Posio**, from the University of Helsinki to assist us in the production of the *Forest Products Annual Market Review, 2009-2010*. They study forest products marketing, and now get on-the-job experience working with us. Both are masters students, and the Section

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- 17-20 August, Japan, Joint UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products Markets and IUFRO Forest Products Markets and Marketing and Business Management Group
- September, Geneva, UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Sector Outlook
- 20-22 September, Istanbul, UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists
- 4-8 October, Rome, Committee on Forestry (COFO)
- 11-14 October, Geneva, Joint Session of the UNECE Timber Committee (TC) and Society of Wood Science Technology (SWST)
- 13 October, Geneva, UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products Markets
- 15 October, Geneva, Industry Tour (optional) organised by the SWST, see at <http://swst.org/meetings/AM10/index.html>
- 15 October, Geneva, Timber Committee and European Forestry Commission Bureaux meeting

More information and updates at: www.unece.org/timber