

EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION
REPORT OF THE NINTH SESSION



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EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

9th Session

(Rome, Italy, 7 - 14 May 1957)

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION
9th Session

F I N A L R E P O R T

Introduction

1. The European Forestry Commission of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations held its Ninth Session at FAO Headquarters in Rome from 7 to 14 May 1957. The session was followed by a field tour to study the silviculture system and management of Alpine forests, which was kindly organized by the Italian State Forest Service.

2. Thirty-seven representatives of seventeen Member Governments participated as follows: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and Yugoslavia. Observers were also present from the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the European Confederation of Agriculture and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations. Mr. M. Leloup, Director of the Forestry Division, represented the Director-General of FAO.

Messages regretting their inability to send representatives were received from Iceland and Luxembourg, and from the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux, the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization, the Organization for European Economic Cooperation, the International Labour Organization, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Appendix I of the report gives a full list of the participants.

3. The discussions were directed by the Commission's Chairman, Sir Henry Beresford-Pearse (United Kingdom), except for one day when the meeting was presided over by the First Vice-Chairman, Mr. J. Keller (Switzerland), owing to the temporary indisposition of the Chairman.

4. The Commission wished to put on record its deep regret for the loss, since its last session, of Messrs. H. Colleaux (Belgium) and S. Duschek (Austria), who had in the past given much of their experience, wisdom and knowledge to promote the work of the Commission. In token of their sorrow, all the participants stood for a minute in silence.

5. In the course of its deliberations the Commission was addressed by the Director-General who pointed out that because of the high development of forestry in Europe the work of the Commission was of consequence to peoples all over the world. He also expressed satisfaction that one of the first schemes to which he had lent support since taking over the Director-Generalship was the Mediterranean Development Project originally advocated

by the Joint EFC/NEFC Sub-Commission on Mediterranean Forestry Problems. A survey of the general economic possibilities of the Eastern Mediterranean countries would first be made and the results submitted to the next session of the FAO Conference to see whether and how this integrated development scheme could be implemented, with forestry as its rightful basis.

The Director-General concluded by affirming his belief in the importance of forestry to the world, especially to those countries which in the past have neglected forests and carried out their destruction relentlessly, in many cases changing entirely the physical characteristics of the countries.

6. The Commission was also addressed by the observer of the Council of Europe, who stressed that collaboration between the two Organizations was already very effective at the Secretariat level. He informed the delegates that a report on the forestry situation in Europe prepared by the Agriculture Commission had recently been unanimously approved by the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe and was being studied by the Ministers of the Council's Member Governments.

7. The Chairman and the Director of the Forestry Division welcomed in particular the delegate of Morocco, this country being represented for the first time at a session of the Commission.

8. The working papers prepared or reproduced by the Secretariat for this session are listed in Appendix 2.

Adoption of the Agenda

9. The provisional agenda drawn up by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chairman was approved without changes.

Appointment of Rapporteur

10. Mr. N.A. Osara of Finland was appointed Rapporteur for the session.

Review of Activities of Subsidiary Bodies

11. The Commission took note of the report of the Fifth Session of the Joint EFC/NEFC Sub-Commission on Mediterranean Forestry Problems (Silva Mediterranea) and heard an oral statement by its Chairman, Mr. A. Pavari of Italy. Delegates expressed satisfaction with the work accomplished and wished to put on record their thanks to the Direction Générale des Eaux et Forêts of France for the hospitality afforded to the Sub-Commission, the arrangements made in connection with the session and the field tour, and for the publication of the proceedings which would take place in the near future.

12. A report on the work of the EFC Working Party on Torrent Control and Protection from Avalanches was presented by its Secretary, Mr. T. François (FAO), who referred in particular to the Working Party's Third Session held in Yugoslavia at the kind invitation of that Government, and to the action being taken jointly by the FAO Agriculture and Forestry Divisions in the realm of soil conservation, torrent control and watershed management.

After taking note of the report mentioned above and expressing satisfaction with the work accomplished to date by the Working Party, the Commission proceeded with a thorough discussion of the effects of forest cover on soil conservation, stream flow and floods. It was recognized that the problem differs from place to place in accordance with local climatic and terrain conditions, and that thorough studies have already been carried out in certain countries but there was clear need for more work and more research to bring about additional concrete evidence as to the beneficial influence of forest cover. Delegates stressed that not only quantity but also quality of the water should be taken into account when judging the relative efficiency of different vegetative covers in a given watershed, as well as their effect in preventing soil erosion. In addition, the important social problems related to afforestation activities ought not to be overlooked.

The Commission recommended that the Director-General should invite Member Governments to provide forest research stations with the necessary facilities to pursue investigations into this problem, which is of paramount importance to the entire economy of the countries concerned. It was reckoned that the expenses to carry out such research would be heavy, but it was also felt that considerable expenditure in this field was justified because of the great importance of discovering the best methods of conserving soil and water, two of the world's most important natural resources, which were so often allowed to go to waste.

In order to evaluate present knowledge and identify existing gaps on which future research should be focussed, the Commission recommended that the Secretariat should collect all available documentation and information on this topic in preparation for a general conference, on soil and water conservation and use, which the Director-General should convene at an appropriate time, inviting foresters, agriculturists as well as range management technicians to attend. The main theme to be debated by the Conference should relate to the physical, economic and social aspects of sound land use.

Pending results of further research, which of necessity would be of a very long-term nature, it was the Commission's view that afforestation of catchment areas remained the most efficient means of checking surface run-off, preventing soil erosion and regulating stream flow, especially in Mediterranean countries.

13. The Commission took note of the report of the First Session of the Joint FAO/ECE Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers, held in December 1955 at the kind invitation of the Government of France, and heard an oral statement by the Committee's Chairman, Mr. H.G. Winkelmann (Switzerland), on the work performed since that date.

Satisfaction was expressed by the Commission with the great amount of work accomplished to date, which was due in great part to the Committee's methods of work based on a number of specialized study groups, to the unflagging cooperation of Member Governments which very generously made available their research facilities and specialists in order to foster the Committee's work, and to the close collaboration with other specialized

agencies such as ILO. Tribute was paid in this connection to the ILO Scholarship Scheme, which is already in full swing, and the Commission recommended that the Director-General should invite ILO to continue to sponsor this most useful scheme and possibly to enlarge it as soon as funds become available.

A number of delegates spoke, pointing out that the outcome of the Committee's work had been of great use in overcoming some of the problems facing their own governments, especially with regard to shortage of manpower for forest work.

The effect of the cost of labour on the price of finished and semi-finished forest products had been given particular attention by the Economic Commission for Europe at its last session recently concluded at Geneva, when it also stressed the urgent need for improving the working and living conditions of forest workers and for increasing the safety of forest work. The Commission concurred with the views expressed by ECE and underlined the fact that the mechanization of forest operations through the increased use of power saws and aerial cableways might bring about greater productivity and consequently cheaper production costs in mountainous as well as other regions. Essential to the development of mechanization is improved training of workers and the action taken by the Committee in this field was highly commended.

The Committee was invited to pursue its work energetically with regard to the bundling of small-dimension timber, owing to the great importance for many Member Governments of finding more rational methods of handling this type of timber in order to reduce haulage and transportation expenses. In many cases these constitute the limiting factor in the wider use of small-dimension wood.

14. The Commission took note of the reports of the First and Second Sessions of the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest and Forest Products Statistics and heard an oral statement by its Chairman, Mr. J. Keller (Switzerland), who drew attention to the many problems assigned to the Working Party by its parent bodies that had not yet been tackled.

The Commission expressed satisfaction with the work accomplished to date and endorsed the relevant views of the ECE Timber Committee, recorded at its Fourteenth Session, that, while the Working Party was not to be given a permanent status, it should continue in existence until it had completed consideration of the problems allotted to it.

Review of National Progress Reports on Forestry

15. Although in general rather short, the national progress reports submitted by Member Governments to this session of the Commission revealed some interesting features. Efforts of Member Governments in the field of forestry were indicated as being directed more and more towards (i) afforestation, at least in the countries of central and southern Europe, considerable areas being planted to poplars; (ii) the promotion, in nearly all countries, of the private "small woodland" and, more generally, towards the integration of private forestry into the national forest economy, and (iii) increased productivity by increased efficiency in logging operations and by the setting up of new factories to absorb those forest products that have until now been more or less discarded by industry.

16. Legislation and Administration. The Commission heard statements by several delegates on the action taken or being taken by their respective governments to adapt forest legislation to current needs and conditions, through a revision of existing laws or enactment of special legislation for specific purposes, such as the special law for Calabria (Italy) relating to extraordinary watershed management works to be carried out over a period of 12 years, and which includes financial provisions for research, technical assistance and training of workers. The Commission also took note that a number of Member Governments have taken steps to strengthen or reorganize their Forest Services. It commended this alertness to adjust legislation and the means for its implementation, that is forest administrations, to changing conditions as evidence of the increasing interest of governments in the role that forestry can play in the development of national economies.

Control of the origin and quality of forest seed and planting stock was reported to the Commission as being pursued or initiated in several countries in various ways. The Commission took note with satisfaction that this very important question is now being given due consideration not only by science, as was the case in the past, but also by practice, and that relevant legislative measures are being taken in a number of countries. Consequently, it recommended that the Director-General should draw the attention of Member Governments to the great importance of an efficient control of the origin and quality of forest seed and planting stock to avoid serious mistakes in establishing new forests and, in particular, should urge those governments which at present have no such control to take appropriate measures as soon as possible to remedy the situation.

17. The Commission discussed at length problems facing small woodlands in Europe on the basis of a Secretariat note summarizing the information submitted to the Commission for its last three sessions or otherwise available to the Secretariat. A useful exchange of ideas took place between the various delegations, which confirmed once again how vital these problems are to European forestry.

European governments, it was acknowledged, recognize the great advantages for farmers to have woodlots of a certain size closely linked to the farm economy. In most cases the governmental policy is to integrate small woodlands, including farm woodlots, into the general forest economy of the country. If such an integration is to yield fruitful results, agriculture and forest development will have to go hand in hand and not be planned separately, as is often the case at present. Private forests, and especially farm forests, suffer considerably from the present state of affairs, as extraordinary expenses or heavy investments in agriculture are all too often made at the expense of farm woodlots through overcutting. Therefore, the Commission recommended that the need for the coordination of agriculture with forestry should be brought to the attention of Member Governments by the Director-General as developments in either of these fields have immediate repercussions on the other, and advocated closer cooperation on this question between the European Confederation of Agriculture and the Commission itself. It also requested that the Director-General should ensure that this problem is tackled by the FAO Agriculture and Forestry Divisions in close collaboration.

In spite of the widely different problems relating to small woodlands that confront Member Governments, the Commission agreed that the following measures, if taken, might bring about considerable improvement in the situation in the majority of the European countries:

(i) Creation of forest groups, syndicates, cooperatives or societies (in accordance with local legislation) to avoid further fragmentation of forest holdings and encourage the consolidation of existing fragmented holdings into economic units to be subjected to intensive management.

(ii) Creation of similar cooperatives for the afforestation of marginal land, and the inter-planting of quick-growing species in derelict woodlands.

(iii) Establishment of plantations with quick-growing species outside the forest proper.

(iv) Conversion of coppices into high forests to enable the production of much more valuable wood categories other than fuelwood.

(v) Closer cooperation between agriculture and forest services advising farmers.

(vi) Better technical training of forest owners with special reference to silviculture, felling, grading and transport operations.

(vii) More financial aid to be given to private forest owners by the State in the form of subventions, loans or special funds (in this connection, the Commission wished to draw attention in particular to the loan system of the Fonds Forestier National of France to help owners pay inheritance taxes without having to cut or sell part of the inherited forest, to the anticipation system for newly-established plantations adopted in Morocco, and to the Norwegian and Swedish system of investment funds).

(viii) Development of low-premium insurance policies against fires, pests, diseases and other forest calamities.

(ix) Creation of forest owners' associations whenever possible of the types existing in Northern Europe, which have so far proved to be very effective in solving many of the problems confronting small private forest owners in practically all members countries.

At the end of its thorough discussion, the Commission recommended that the Director-General should invite Member Governments:

- (i) to intensify the exchange of information between the services concerned in order to promote the implementation of the measures listed above, especially, if possible, through the organization of short field tours to study on the spot the problems of small woodlands, in which foresters as well as agriculturists should participate;

- (ii) to report regularly to the Commission in the national progress reports on forestry the progress achieved with regard to the development of small woodlands (a special section should be embodied by the Secretariat in the relevant questionnaire, drawing attention to those points of particular interest to the Commission).

The Director-General was also invited to consider publishing a short study in Unasylva on the present situation of small woodlands in Europe and the policies applied to them. This study should be based on the documentation used by the Secretariat to prepare the note mentioned at the beginning of this chapter, the information given on the subject during the discussion at this session, and on any other information that the Secretariat may be able to collect.

It was finally suggested that the Director-General should ask the European Confederation of Agriculture for the results of their investigation on forest taxation systems, which should be of interest to the delegates if circulated.

18. Improvement in the quality and increase in the quantity of wood produced.

The reports of the Fifth and Sixth Session of the EFC Working Party on Afforestation and Reforestation were presented by the Chairmen, Mr. W.N. Plym Forshell (Sweden) and commented upon by the Rapporteur, Mr. J. de Vaissière (France). The Commission took this opportunity of addressing its good wishes for a speedy recovery to the Working Party's Vice-Chairman, Mr. L. Funicello (Italy), and of thanking the Directeur Général des Eaux et Forêts of France for the arrangements made in connection with the Working Party's Fifth Session and the subsequent field tour. It took note with gratification that the proceedings of the session and the documentation assembled on that occasion and for the field tour, will shortly be published in printed form by the French Government and sent to member countries. The Commission felt that this was a very useful undertaking that will greatly help the Working Party in its future work.

From the report of the last session of the Working Party, the Commission wished to stress that afforestation operations, after having reached a certain limit, encountered some difficulties of an accidental nature (bad climatic conditions, lack of seed and planting stock, unfavourable local political circumstances) or of a more permanent character (lack of land, unfavourable agrarian structure, lack of capital, equipment, skilled personnel and manpower).

In view of the increasing demands for forest produce, particularly as regards pulpwood, the Commission fully endorsed the recommendation of the Working Party that the Director-General should invite Member Governments to take all necessary steps to overcome the difficulties mentioned above in order to avoid a slowing down of forest extension and restoration works. In this context of rising demand for forest produce, the Commission asked the Working Party to place on the agenda for its next session an item relating to the cultivation of quick-growing wood trees in plantations outside the forest, other than poplars and eucalypts which are being studied by other bodies.

With regard to the lack of land for forest extension, the Commission took note with interest of a report by the Natural Resources Committee of the United Kingdom on "Forestry, Agriculture and Marginal Land".

The Commission expressed satisfaction with the work accomplished to date by the Working Party and decided that future statistical information on new plantations outside the forest should be submitted in the unit of measurement most suitable to each individual country. Data on afforestation expenses should indicate whether they relate to concrete cases, represent a national average, or are the result of works accomplished by research stations. The opinion was also voiced that the number of seedlings planted per unit of area should also be given, and that the cost of upkeep should cover at least the first three years. In order to have long series of comparable returns, the Working Party was requested to make all possible efforts not to change its statistics in the future.

The Commission was informed of the progress made with a study on afforestation and reforestation policies, whose outline it had approved during a preceding session. In this study an attempt will be made to analyze systematically land utilization problems throughout the world. The great importance of the subject to be covered in the study was stressed by the Commission.

The offer of the Government of the United Kingdom to be host in the spring of 1958 to the Seventh Session of the Working Party and to organize a field tour to study the place of forestry in sound land use, was accepted by the Commission with great appreciation. The Director-General was invited to fix the dates after consultation with the Working Party's Chairman and the host government, when a formal invitation had been received.

19. The Commission reviewed the situation with regard to pests and diseases as they effected the European forests since the last session and drew the following conclusions.

The damage caused by deer has been serious in several central and northern European countries, where studies were undertaken to find a remedy. Meanwhile, the only possibilities seemed to consist of fencing and the creation of grazing grounds for game right in the forests. Cooperation between forest and hunting associations' authorities was considered instrumental to keep numbers of game at reasonable levels.

Myxomatosis has in the past few years reduced considerably the rabbit population in many countries, but its virulence seems now sharply declining. The spread of this disease has been very beneficial from the forestry point of view in all countries where the rabbit was a serious pest, reducing the need for fencing of newly-established plantations and thus decreasing considerably planting costs, and enabling the forest to re-establish itself naturally in many areas. No definitive conclusions as to the future development of the disease can be drawn as yet, and the Commission recommended that the Director-General should request to communicate any more results of their experience on myxomatosis to the Direction Générale des Eaux et Forêts in Paris, where there is a special organization studying the development of the disease. The attention of the Commission was drawn to a publication of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources on the consequence of the myxomatosis.

Amongst the insects, Tortrix viridana has been causing serious damage in practically all member countries. In general, it is the southern part of Europe which suffered more from insect attacks, the most important of which were caused, in addition to the pest mentioned above, by Lymantria dispar, Malacosoma neustria and Thaumetopoea pythiocampa. Chemical control methods of forest insect pests are exceedingly expensive and the effects of the insecticides used on other animal species is not yet known for sure. The Commission heard with great interest a statement by the French delegate on experiments started in that country to produce a virus to control Thaumetopoea pythiocampa and recommended that the Director-General should invite Member Governments to include in their future progress reports to the Commission a special paragraph on the results obtained from research work carried out on biological control methods of forest insect pests, especially by virus.

In the period under review, three fungi continued to be of great concern to foresters in Europe, namely Dothichiza populea, Endothia parasitica and Phytophthora infestans. Since these parasites were already the subject of study respectively by the International Poplar Commission and the International Chestnut Commission, no detailed discussion took place but the Commission noted with concern the discovery of the chestnut blight in France.

It was decided that the situation of forest pests and diseases should continue to be reviewed at future sessions. The Commission recommended that the Director-General should invite Member Governments to submit special detailed reports only on new or previously known pests and diseases of some particular interest when results of special studies and research are available. These reports should be focussed on the type and effect of damage and especially on control and prevention methods.

20. The Commission reviewed the situation of forest fires in Europe in the period under review and in the last five years and expressed satisfaction with the good coverage of the statistics submitted to date by Member Governments. It expressed the hope that the few figures still missing would be sent to the Secretariat in the very near future, so as to enable an analysis to be prepared for the next session based on a complete coverage of statistical data.

The question of forest fires statistics was still under consideration by the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest and Forest Products Statistics and the Commission therefore limited its discussion to the following points.

The most obvious conclusion that could be drawn from the available 5-year series was that there is no distinctive annual up or down trend discernible, mainly because of the great variation in weather conditions in Europe.

As far as the causes are concerned, carelessness and unknown causes constituted about one-third each. The Commission consequently recommended that the Director-General should urge Member Governments to pursue their efforts in teaching the public to be careful with open fires in forest areas, and to try to decrease further the number of fires whose causes remain unknown, this knowledge providing the basis for efficient forest fire fighting.

In the course of the discussions on the above topic, the Commission took note of the existence of forest fire insurance schemes in several member countries (Denmark, Finland, Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom). Some of these insurances cover not only fire risk but also damage by storms, pests, diseases and other forest calamities. The Commission considered this to be of great value to help private forest owners and foster private forestry throughout the region, and recommended that the Director-General should urge the Governments of those member countries where no such insurance policies exist, to study possible means of improving the situation in the near future.

21. Utilization of Forest Products. The Commission expressed its satisfaction with the better coverage of the data on removal statistics and short-term forecasts submitted this year by Member Governments. It also heard statements by a few delegates who pointed out the great difficulties of making sound forecasts in those countries where a considerable proportion of the roundwood production comes from private forests, especially small woodlands, as in these cases the annual cut depends mainly on the future market situation, which is extremely difficult to assess in advance.

The Commission re-affirmed its opinion that removal statistics and short-term forecasts are of great value to foresters and to the timber industry and would contribute to greater stability in the roundwood and forest products market. It recommended, therefore, that the Director-General should continue to ask Member Governments to supply relevant figures also for future sessions of the Commission, making all possible efforts to give reasonably accurate estimates for the immediate future. If this were not possible, the average of the fellings for the last few years should be given together with an indication as to whether that level would presumably be reached or exceeded in the immediate future, and, if so, to what extent.

The Commission pointed out once again that an enquiry of this kind will have increasing value as more and more governments, irrespective of FAO membership, comply with such a request.

22. In the discussion on the progress achieved by Member Governments in the field of utilization of forest products, one striking feature was, in general, the great concern for increased productivity as shown by intensified building of forest roads, increased mechanization of felling operations, better logging and haulage equipment, work studies, and increased use of debarking machines.

From the industrial angle, mention should be made of increased pulp production capacity in the countries of northern Europe and of the adoption of processes permitting a fuller utilization of small-dimension hardwoods for pulp production, and the research carried out on this subject in several countries. Most striking was the expansion of the fibreboard industry.

Practically all countries reported a more or less marked reduction in the consumption of fuelwood, due not only to the increased use of alternative fuels but, in some cases, to considerable improvements made to wood-burning stoves and other devices.

23. The Commission heard with interest a statement by the Secretariat on recent technical advances in the field of wood saccharification and on the convergence of processing costs with a level approaching economic feasibility.

The economic utilization of mixed, unbarked, small-dimension hardwoods, with special reference to transport and debarking problems, continues to be of the greatest concern to several Member Governments. The Commission therefore wished to put on record its appreciation of the work being accomplished by the Forestry Division in the field of chemical utilization of wood, and asked to be informed of further relevant progress at future sessions. Meanwhile, it drew the attention of the Joint FAO/ECE Committee on Forest Working Techniques to the very important problem of the transport and debarking of small-dimension hardwoods.

The Commission also decided that the heading III(c) of the outline for national progress reports on forestry should be amended to read "Small-dimension wood".

24. Timber Trade. The Commission took note with satisfaction that the prices for timber had remained fairly steady during the period under review. It considered that stability of prices for finished products - within the general economic structure - will in the long run serve best the interests of forest owners, as wood users would have less incentive to employ competitive materials. Nevertheless, it was recognized that forest owners should obtain an equitable return from their land.

The above aims could be achieved by two means: first, a better marketing organization, especially through negotiations between wood producers' and users' associations ultimately leading to long-term contracts, if possible; and secondly, a more efficient forest exploitation through the reduction of costs of logging and extraction operations.

25. Labor Questions. The Commission took note with concern that the exodus of forest workers to some other type of lighter and more remunerative work is still a preoccupation of several Member Governments, although efforts had been made to improve their working and living conditions.

It was urged that the Director-General should invite Member Governments to pursue such efforts still further for the sake not only of the forest workers but also of the forest and timber industries themselves, whose future is jeopardized by lack of skilled labor. In particular, their attention should be drawn to the need for better education of workers through apprenticeship schemes and more adequate accident, old-age, and sickness insurance or pension schemes. Wages, in addition, should be brought into line with those of industrial workers insofar as possible.

26. The Director-General was also invited to request Member Governments which have not yet done so, to reply to the FAO questionnaire on forestry personnel, from which it was hoped useful information could be obtained for policy guidance.

27. Education. To regard to higher education, the Commission felt that the present situation may be considered as satisfactory in most member countries and that there was no need for any specific recommendation.

However, it was stressed that increasing attention should be given to the technical training of forest workers and private forest owners and to the younger generations. The establishment in some countries of school forests adopted by pupils, who look after them and learn the elements of silviculture while at the same time regard for the forest is instilled into them, was considered as an example to be followed by other Member Governments.

28. Reports from Member Governments indicated that the production of films on forestry and forest products has considerably increased in the last few years covering a very wide range in subject matter, from the protective and aesthetic values of forest cover to grazing, the use of fertilizers, animal haulage, mechanization of logging, care of tools, accident prevention, timber preservation, and social problems. The Commission felt that there was an obvious need for a regional catalogue of forestry films which should be of ready reference and conform to some internationally recognized classification. It was recommended, therefore, that the Director-General should request the Joint FAO/IUFRO Committee on Bibliography to examine and advise on the possibility of adapting the Oxford Decimal System of Classification for Forestry to a forestry film catalogue and possibly what form would be most preferable. The Joint Committee should also be asked to express an opinion as to whether forestry films could in the future be documented in the same way as forestry literature, which would make the future separate cataloguing of forestry films unnecessary.

The Commission wished to stress again the usefulness for each Member Government to appoint a specialist in forestry films and recommended that the Director-General should ask those which have not yet done so, to comply with this request at the earliest possible date.

In view of the applicability of North American forestry films to general conditions in Europe, it was recommended that the Director-General should attempt to obtain up-to-date information from Canada and the United States on their film production.

The Commission felt that a one-language version of the catalogue, if a trilingual subject-index were supplied, would adequately meet the needs of Member Governments.

29. As for the simplification of despatch and exchange of films, the Commission again drew attention to the UNESCO-sponsored "Agreement on the Importation of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials" to which several Member Governments are already contracting states or have signed it, and recommended that the Director-General should invite the other Member Governments also to become parties to this agreement as soon as possible.

30. Research and Statistics. From the reports of Member Governments the Commission was able to conclude that forest research in general is now directed towards increasing productivity, with which trend the Commission found itself in full agreement, and that greater attention is being given to a wider dissemination of results. It took note with appreciation of a statement by the delegate of Spain that the facilities of the Forest Research Institute at Madrid, which is paying increasing attention to forest and grazing problems in the semi-arid regions, are available on request to other Member Governments confronted by similar technical difficulties.

The Commission also expressed satisfaction with the increasing use of statistical methods which is being made in forestry research in a number of member countries.

31. Results of New National Forest Inventories. The Commission was pleased to note that the results of national forest inventories conducted recently in a few member countries gave clear indications of the valuable and constructive work of foresters over the years, as shown by a marked increase in the growing stock.

The attention of the Commission was drawn to a new "continuous" inventory system, whose advantages should be thoroughly investigated by Member Governments wishing to undertake a forest inventory.

The Productive Potential of Europe's Forests (medium-term felling forecasts)

32. The Commission fully agreed that the availability also medium-term felling forecasts would be in the interests of all those concerned with forest and timber industries. In view of the inter-dependency of national timber economies in Europe, such estimates should be compiled on a regional basis and the Commission expressed its satisfaction with the remarkable coverage of the data assembled on the topic by the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest and Forest Products Statistics (Document FAO/EFC-57/26).

33. In spite of an envisaged decrease in felling during the next decade in those countries where heavy overcuttings were made during the war and in the post-war period to meet reconstruction requirements, this reduction will in the same period be more than offset by increased fellings in other countries, made possible by the past work of foresters to improve their stands. In 1965 total fellings are likely to reach a new peak, while the volume of industrial wood may exceed the 1950 output by more than 25 per cent. This increase is to be ascribed also to a greater proportion of industrial wood out of the total which today's forestry makes it possible to obtain.

34. The Commission wished to congratulate the FAO Forestry Division and the ECE Timber Division on the closeness of the forecasts for 1960 made in the study on European Timber Trends and Prospects with those at present available for the same year. It wished to put on record that such closeness was the best justification for the FAO Forestry Division to undertaking assess world wood supplies and requirements for 1975.

35. The Commission recommended that the Director-General should invite Member Governments to notify the Secretariat of any significant amendments to the figures reported which might arise from the emergence of new factors. In submitting medium-term felling forecasts, Member Governments should furnish full details of the methods employed in arriving at the estimates and of the assumptions made.

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36. It was also agreed that such forecasts should be assembled and circulated at 5-year intervals. Since, however, the Secretariat note on this topic had been made available this year too late for the delegates to give it due consideration, the Commission decided to re-open discussion of this important matter at its next session. On the same occasion the problem of future supplies of pulpwood based on the medium-term felling forecasts will also be examined.

The Secretariat was asked to complete the coverage of the note mentioned above, to keep the estimates up-to-date and to circulate all relevant information to delegates several months before the next session of the Commission, when a fuller and more knowledgeable discussion will be possible.

Current activities and future orientation of FAO's work in the region

37. The Commission commended the Forestry Division on the useful summary of the divisional activities carried out since the last Commission's session as shown in Document FAO/EFC-57/30, and expressed the wish that similar reports be prepared also for its future sessions. It hoped that the Director-General would take into account views expressed in the report of this present session, in framing his program of work for the future.

38. Satisfaction was expressed by the Commission with the study tours organized in the summer of 1956 as part of the UN technical assistance program. The Director-General was asked to investigate the possibilities of conducting other study tours in the region in the future, especially on silviculture, possibly but not necessarily under ETAP.

In this connection, the Commission felt that there was a need for periodical reporting and exchange of information between Member Governments on the status and trends in the broad field of silviculture and forest management, with particular emphasis on new techniques and developments. It was, therefore, recommended that the Director-General, after consultation with the Member Governments concerned, should find appropriate means of accomplishing this periodical reporting and interchange of information.

39. The Commission wished to stress the interest of foresters throughout the region in the results of the International Consultation on Insulation Board, Hardboard and Particle Board, convened jointly by FAO and ECE in early 1957, and suggested that the problems of integrated operations including the manufacture of board products, might be taken into consideration as a suitable topic for discussion during the Fifth World Forestry Congress.

40. The Director-General was invited to circulate the reports of FAO Technical Panels and their subsidiary bodies, whose work the Commission considered to be extremely valuable, for the information of all Member Governments.

41. The value of the discussions that took place during the World Eucalyptus Conference was underlined by the Commission. With regard to the Conference's recommendation that Working Parties on Eucalypts be set up by the interested Regional Forestry Commissions, it was acknowledged that the Working Party on Eucalypts of the Joint EFC/NEFC Sub-Commission on Mediterranean Forestry Problems already meets the needs of the European region in this field.

42. The International Poplar Commission's work was highly commended and the Commission invited to pursue its important and varied activities. Full support should be given to the Commission by FAO.

43. The Commission discussed the opportunities that will be provided by the Fifth World Forestry Congress for arousing or renewing public awareness of the importance of the role of forests to the economic, social and physical welfare of the communities within the region. The Commission drew the attention of Member Governments to its view that preparations for this occasion should include the production of forest publicity media - such as postage stamps, posters and films - and the organization of national contests. Winning designs in national competitions in European countries might be judged by the Commission at its next session. Winning designs for the region might then be submitted to an international contest to be held in the course of the Congress; winning postage stamp designs could be used for a commemorative national issue on the occasion of the opening of the Congress; and films judged as outstanding by the Commission could be shown during a Film Festival at the Congress.

44. The Commission commended the Forestry Division on the varied and useful publications issued in the period under review, and in particular congratulated the Director of the Forestry Division on the issue of the periodical *Unasylva* (Vol. 11, No. 2) featuring a summation of ten years of FAO's work in forestry.

The Commission called on research institutions dealing with equipment for forestry and wood-working industries to send the results of their testing work to the Forestry Division, so that wide publicity might be given to the results achieved, through the medium perhaps of the FAO Equipment Notes, which are widely distributed to interested Member Governments, agencies and individuals.

45. The Commission recognized that an important means of helping in the development of forestry in the region was the provision by governments of loans and grants to private owners. Consequently the Commission decided that an apposite item be placed on the agenda for its next session and recommended that the Director-General should consider having a comparative study made of the different system adopted by several Member Governments.

Rules of Procedure

46. The Commission took note that no substantial modifications of its Rules of Procedure could be contemplated until the overall question of the status of FAO bodies had been definitively settled by the FAO Council and Conference. It felt, however, that whatever decisions might be taken by the FAO governing bodies in this connection, the periodicity of meetings should be left to each individual commission or body to decide in accordance with its own particular needs. Consequently, the Commission decided to meet from now on only every second year, in the spring of the years in which sessions of the FAO Conference are convened.

47. In addition, the Commission recommended that in its new Rules of Procedure there should be provisions for the Director-General to summon, after consultation with the Chairman, special sessions of the Commission to deal with particularly important or urgent matters if the occasion should arise.

Election of officers

48. The Commission unanimously elected Mr. Alberto M. Camaiti, Director-General of Mountain Economy and Forest of Italy, as its new Chairman for the coming two years.

Mr. Alf. E. Langsæter (Norway) and Mr. K. Oedekoven (Germany) were unanimously elected First and Second Vice-Chairman, respectively, for the same term of office.

49. On behalf of all delegations, Mr. Camaiti congratulated the retiring Chairman on the excellent and most tactful way in which he had presided over the last two sessions of the Commission.

Date and Place of next Session

50. The Commission decided that the exact dates and place of its next session should be fixed by the Director-General after consultation with the Chairman, in the light of the decisions mentioned under paragraph 46 above.

Field Tour

51. From 15 to 18 May delegates were afforded the opportunity of visiting Alpine forests and studying their silvicultural systems and management.

The Commission wished to put on record its deep gratitude to the Government of Italy for the arrangements made and the hospitality extended to delegates.

Consideration and Adoption of Report

52. A draft report was considered and after certain amendments had been introduced unanimously adopted by the Commission on 14 May 1957.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Chairman: Sir Henry Boresford-Peirse (UK)
1st Vice-Chairman: J. Keller (Switzerland)
2nd Vice-Chairman: W.N. Plym Forshell (Sweden)
Secretary: O. Fugalli (FAO)

M. Loloup, Director of the Forestry Division, represented the Director-General of FAO.

Austria:

Dr. R. Ender, Leiter der Sektion V
Bundesministerium für Land-und Forstwirtschaft
Wien I

Forstdirektor Dr. Otto Eckmüller
Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry
Graz, Styria

Belgium:

M.A. Casin, Directeur
Administration des Eaux et Forêts
Bruxelles

Denmark:

Mr. H. Frølund, Senior Forest Officer
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Finland:

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Director-General of the Central Board of Forestry
Helsinki

France:

M. François Merveilleux du Vignaux
Directeur général des Eaux et Forêts
Paris

M. J. de Vaissière
Conservateur des Eaux et Forêts
Paris

Germany:

Mr. K. Oedekeoven, Oberregierungsrat
Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry
Bonn

Greece:

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Ministry of Agriculture
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Mr. P. Margaropoulos
Forestry Engineer
Ministry of Agriculture
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Forestry Division
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Mr. M.S. O'Fiacháin, Senior Inspector
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Professor Alessandro de Philippis, Direttore
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Ing. Emilio Paltrinieri, Ispettore Capo
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Dr. Astolfo Puggelli, Ispettore Principale
Corpo Forestale dello Stato
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Dr. Valerio Benvenuti, Ispettore Principale
Corpo Forestale dello Stato
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Ministero Trasporti
Roma

Dr. Alfonso Froncillo
Consigliere di 1^a Classò
Ministero Agricoltura
Roma
(Administrative Secretary for the Field Tour)

Morocco:

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Chef de l'Administration des Eaux et Forêts
Rabat

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Utrecht

Mr. S.J. Halbertsma, Secretary
Forestry Board
The Hague

Mr. H.J. de Boer
The Netherlands Agricultural Union
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Norway:

Dr. Alf E. Langsaeter, Director
Forestry Directorate
Oslo

Spain:

Don Pedro Figueroa
Subdirector de Montes y Política Forestal
Madrid

Don Ricardo de Rada
Jefe de Relaciones, Dirección de Montes
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Mr. Albo Urbanovski
Federal Board for Economic Planning
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ECE/FAO Timber Division,
Geneva
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Mr. P. Sartorius
Chief Forestry Working Group,
Palais des Nations
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Switzerland

Council of Europe:

Mr. A. Vandoyer, Secretary
Consultative Assembly's Committee on Agriculture
Strasbourg

European Confederation
of Agriculture:

M. H.G. Winkelmann
Soleure
Switzerland

International Union
of Forest Research
Organizations

Professor A. Pavari
Florence
Italy

LIST OF DOCUMENTS
(by item of the Provisional Agenda)

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FAO/EFC - 57/30 : Current FAO activities of regional interest - Report by Forestry Division

ITEM 4(a)

FAO/EFC - 57/2 : National progress reports on forestry - ISRAEL

FAO/EFC - 57/3 : Rapports nationaux sur le développement de la foresterie - FRANCE

FAO/EFC - 57/4 : National progress reports on forestry - GERMANY (french only)

FAO/EFC - 57/5 : National progress reports on forestry - IRELAND

FAO/EFC - 57/6 : National progress reports on forestry - NORWAY

FAO/EFC - 57/7 : National progress reports on forestry - AUSTRIA

FAO/EFC - 57/8 : Informes nacionales sobre desarrollo forestal - ESPAÑA
(Spanish only)

FAO/EFC - 57/9 : Rapports nationaux sur le développement de la foresterie - TUNISIE
(French only)

FAO/EFC - 57/10: National progress reports on forestry - NETHERLANDS

FAO/EFC - 57/11: National progress reports on forestry - DENMARK

FAO/EFC - 57/12: National progress reports on forestry - FINLAND

FAO/EFC - 57/13: National progress reports on forestry - CYPRUS

FAO/EFC - 57/14: National progress reports on forestry - SWEDEN

FAO/EFC - 57/15: Rapports nationaux sur le développement de la foresterie - BELGIQUE
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FAO/EFC - 57/16: Rapports nationaux sur le développement de la foresterie - SUISSE
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- FAO/EFC - 57/17 : Rapports nationaux sur le développement de la foresterie - MAROC
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- FAO/EFC - 57/18 : National progress reports on forestry - TURKEY
- FAO/EFC - 57/19 : Rapports nationaux sur le développement de la foresterie -
LUXEMBOURG (French only)
- FAO/EFC - 57/20 : Rapports nationaux sur le développement de la foresterie
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- FAO/EFC - 57/21 : Rapports nationaux sur le développement de la foresterie
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- FAO/EFC - 57/22 : National progress reports on forestry - GREAT BRITAIN
- FAO/EFC - 57/23 : Rapports nationaux sur le développement de la foresterie
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- FAO/EFC - 57/41 : National progress reports on forestry - NORTHERN IRELAND
- FAO/EFC - 57/24 : Review of national progress reports on forestry - Note by
the Secretariat
- FAO/EFC - 57/34 : Review of national progress reports on forestry : Pests and
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- FAO/EFC - 57/35 : Review of national progress reports on forestry : Forest Fires -
Note by the Secretariat
- FAO/EFC - 57/36 : Review of national progress reports on forestry : Removal
Statistics and Short-term Forecasts - Note by the Secretariat
- FAO/EFC - 57/37 : Review of national progress reports on forestry : Films on
Forestry and Forest Products - Note by the Secretariat

ITEM 4 (b)

- FAO/EFC/AF/12 : Final report of the 5th Session of the EFC Working Party on
Afforestation and Reforestation
- FAO/EFC/AF/18 : Final report of the 6th Session of the EFC Working Party on
Afforestation and Reforestation

ITEM 4 (c)

- FAO/EFC - 57/25 : Small Woodlands - Note by the Secretariat

ITEM 5

- FAO/EFC - 57/26 : The productive potential of Europe's forests (medium-term
felling forecasts) - Note by the Secretariat

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ITEM 6 (a)

FAO/SCM/61 : : Final report of the 5th Session of the Joint EFC/NEFC
Sub-Commission on Mediterranean Forestry Problems :
Silva Mediterranea

ITEM 6 (b)

FAO/EFC - 57/33 : : Torrent Control and Protection from Avalanches - Note by
the Secretariat

FAO/EFC/TORR/12 : : Final Report of the 3rd Session of the EFC Working Party on
Torrent Control and Protection from Avalanches

ITEM 6 (c)

FAO/EFC - 57/28 : : Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers -
Note by the Secretariat

FAO/EFC/LOG/57 : : Final Report of the First Session of the Joint FAO/ECE
TIM/LOG/35 Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of
and Corr. 1 Forest Workers

ITEM 6 (d)

FAO/EFC - 57/29 : : Forest and Forest Products Statistics - Note by the Secretariat

FAO/ECE/STATS/13 : : Final Report of the 1st Session of the Joint FAO/ECE Working
Party on Forest and Forest Products Statistics

FAO/ECE/STATS/24 : : Final Report of the 2nd Session of the Joint FAO/ECE Working
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FAO/EFC - 57/38 Rev. 1 : : Field Tour - Definitive Timetable

FAO/EFC - 57/39 : : Field Tour - Technical Notes

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