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#### European Forestry Commission

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Item 5(c) of the provisional agenda

**Joint Committee/Commission matters**

## Draft Integrated Programme of Work 2014-17 for the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the European Forestry Commission

**Note by the secretariat**

### *Summary*

This document contains the draft Integrated Programme of Work 2014-2017 of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC), as reviewed by the special session of the COFFI with the EFC held in June 2013 in Geneva. This is submitted for adoption by the joint session of the Committee and the Commission, "Metsä2013".

## I. Draft Integrated Programme of Work

### A. Scope

1. The Integrated Programme of Work covers all 56 member States of the ECE region, in line with the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry membership. The FAO European Forestry Commission covers 40 member States, which are all ECE members<sup>1</sup>. The Programme encompasses sustainable forest management as well as the sound and legal use of forest products, for raw material and energy, and forest services, based on appropriate policies and institutions.<sup>2</sup>

2. The Programme continues to cover many traditional topics related to forest products and services (as contained in the previous Programme of Work ECE/TIM/2008/7 – FO:EFC/08/7). It also introduces new elements to address emerging issues related to sustainable forest management. These new elements include:

- Linkages between sustainable forest management and a green economy, including: the contribution of forest products and services to a green economy; decent green jobs and employment in the forest sector.
- Innovation in the forest sector, including new forest products and the use of wood in construction.
- Enhanced emphasis on wood energy and payment for ecosystem services.
- Interactions between forest policies and other sectors, such as the effect of wood energy policies on land use and the effect of urbanization on forest extent and character.
- Adaptation to climate change.
- Forest health and disturbance-related issues.
- Mainstreaming of biodiversity and environmental issues into the different areas of work.

3. The Programme makes reference to the Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy (ECE/TIM/2013/9-FO:EFC/2013/9). This document is also being developed and will be submitted to Metsä2013. Actions contained in that Plan and attributed to ECE/FAO will be indicated with an asterisk and reflected in the annual list of activities as part of the Integrated Programme of Work. The annual list of activities for 2014 can be found in document ECE/TIM/2013/15-FO:EFC/2013/15.

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<sup>1</sup> Albania, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan and the European Union.

<sup>2</sup> The scope is unchanged from the period 2008-2013. For ease of reference, please see the Annex of the document ECE/TIM/2013/11-FO:EFC/2013/11.

## B. Overall goal

4. The overall goal of the Integrated Programme of Work 2014-17 for the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the European Forestry Commission, their related bodies and the Teams of Specialists is to, “*Support member countries and other stakeholders in their efforts to sustainably manage and use ECE-region forests so that they provide products and ecosystem services to benefit society*”.

## C. Objective of the Integrated Programme of Work

5. The Integrated Programme of Work aims to assist member countries to achieve the overall goal by: providing the best available information; facilitating policy dialogues and communication; and building capacity.

## D. Structure and work areas

6. The Integrated Programme of Work is structured around four main functions, or work areas (WA), as follows:

WA 1: Data, monitoring and assessment

WA 2: Policy dialogue and advice

WA 3: Communication and outreach

WA 4: Capacity-building

7. Specific activities and outputs proposed for the four work areas are outlined below.

### WA 1: Data, monitoring and assessment

8. The ECE/FAO data collection and reporting system consists of the following:

- Collection, validation and dissemination of statistics on forest resources, products, functions and services, sustainable forest management, forest policies, institutions and instruments, and the contribution of the forest sector to a green economy.
- Analysis and assessment of the state of forests, sustainability of forest management and forest products markets; and monitoring the role of the forest sector in a green economy.
- Cooperation and support to international processes in sustainable forest management, including the development and use of regional Criteria and Indicators and the preparation of the report on the State of Europe’s Forests.

9. ECE/FAO monitors and analyses developments in different forest-related areas and also has extensive cooperation with other organizations in this area. This includes the gathering of comprehensive statistics and data (quantitative and qualitative), and developing methodologies for data collection, analysis and assessments on:

- Forest product markets and services in the region.
- All aspects of forests and forest resources, their functions and services, and sustainable forest management.
- Long-term supply of and demand for wood and other forest goods and services.
- Use of wood energy and its implications for sustainable forest management.

10. Outputs from this work area would include: the Forest Products Annual Market Reviews; the State of Europe's Forests in cooperation with Forest Europe; the regional input to the FAO Global Forest Resource Assessment; Joint Wood Energy Enquiries; associated databases; studies on forest ownership, occupation and employment, the contribution of the forest sector to a green economy; and ad hoc sectorial studies on topics such as the profitability and competitiveness of the forest sector and other emerging issues.

11. Data will be collected in partnership with countries, international organizations and the scientific community, based on agreed standards and rules. Activities under WA1 are also expected to improve the quality of information, ensuring international compatibility, storage, dissemination and analysis of the information, and helping countries to strengthen their capacity in this area (see WA 4 on capacity-building).

12. This programme area will also address monitoring and assessment components of priority activities identified in the Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy and attributed to ECE/FAO for the period 2014 - 2017. For specific activities in 2014, see document ECE/TIM/2013/15-FO:EFC/2013/15.

## **WA 2: Policy dialogue and advice**

13. This includes ECE/FAO's contributions to the global (mainly United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO)), regional (ECE/FAO, Forest Europe, European Forestry Institute, European Commission) and national forest dialogues and cross-sectoral cooperation.

14. This component will also involve the organization of policy dialogues and specific studies in the ECE region, and at the national level on request from member countries. Subjects to be covered will, depending on availability of funds, include:

- Forest policies, institutions and instruments.
- Regional and national coordination of forest and forest-related policies.
- Governance and policy making.
- Green economy and green jobs.
- Interaction with stakeholders and the private sector.
- Financing for, and investment in, the profitability and competitiveness of the forest sector.
- Structural developments in the forest sector and their policy impact and implications.
- Wood energy and its implications for renewable energy policies and land use.
- Role of biodiversity and wildlife in sustainable forest management.
- Adaptation of forests and the forest sector to climate change.

15. This programme area will also address policy-related components of priority activities identified in the Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy and attributed to ECE/FAO for the period 2014 - 2017. For specific activities in 2014 see document ECE/TIM/2013/15-FO:EFC/2013/15.

16. Outputs will include guidelines and recommendations in accordance with the Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy, national forest policy dialogues and other policy dialogues and workshops for the ECE region. An important component will also be the next round of Forest Sector Outlook Studies and the policy-related parts of relevant

ECE/FAO studies such as reports on the status and trends in forests and sustainable forest management, and relevant reviews.

### **WA 3: Communication and outreach**

17. This is an essential part of the Integrated Programme of Work. Improving the ability of the forest and forest products sector to communicate effectively, within and outside the sector, is essential to promote sustainable forest management. Enhancing the efforts of the Committee and the Commission to reach out to relevant constituencies, and to increase the dissemination of the information and tools produced, at the national, regional and global levels will make an important contribution to this end. This will be achieved through:

- Providing a platform for international interaction and cooperation in forest related communication.
- Events and campaigns in support of sustainable forest management and forest products and services (e.g. the International Day of Forests, the European Forest Week, the Forest Information Week).
- Dissemination of information produced under the Integrated Programme of Work via policy briefs, press briefs and ad hoc studies, whenever results are available and new information released.
- Improved website maintenance and design including the use of social media/networks and videos.
- Contribution to the organization of relevant events in member countries and dissemination of their announcements (e.g. National Forest Policy Dialogues, capacity building workshops, special public relations events) in cooperation with all stakeholders.
- Outreach activities beyond the forest sector for disseminating information that highlights the relevance of forests and forest products and services to other sectors (e.g. energy events, biodiversity and environment meetings, sustainable construction and building).

18. This programme area will also address communications and outreach components of priority activities identified in the Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy and attributed to ECE/FAO for the period 2014 - 2017. For specific activities in 2014 see document ECE/TIM/2013/15-FO:EFC/2013/15.

### **WA 4: Capacity-building**

19. While all countries benefit from international cooperation through the Integrated Programme of Work, special attention will be paid to countries in Eastern Europe, Southeast Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. This work will focus on capacity-building to encourage sustainable forest management, data collection, monitoring and analysis as well as promoting the engagement of national experts from the region in international activities, covering the following:

- Forest policies development, governance and institutions.
- National systems for forest monitoring and statistical reporting.
- Forest products markets and forest resources.
- Forest related communication.
- Wood energy, including the collection of wood energy data.
- The contribution of the forest sector to a green economy.

20. This work area relies mainly on extrabudgetary support. This area will also address capacity building components of priority activities identified in the Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy and attributed to ECE/FAO for the period 2014 - 2017. For specific activities in 2014 see document ECE/TIM/2013/15-FO:EFC/2013/15.

21. This work area will also benefit from the implementation of the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project on “Sustainable Forest Management for Greener Economies in the Caucasus and Central Asia (2013-15)”. Additional sources of funding for capacity building will be sought with the European Union, and development banks and national development agencies.

## **E. Principles guiding implementation**

22. Implementation should be guided by the following principles:

- **Partnership:** There will be a strong focus on working in partnerships with international and regional actors, as the most effective way of minimizing overlap and optimizing benefits. The Committee and the Commission will seek and welcome cooperation for any of the relevant outputs under the four work areas.
- **Outreach to other constituencies:** The Committee and the Commission will look beyond the traditional forest constituency to make sure the relevance of the forest sector and its contribution to other sectors is well recognized and understood and will coordinate relevant actions with, for example, the environment, biodiversity, energy, water, construction and building sectors.
- **Expert advice:** The work of the Teams of Specialists will be fully aligned with the Integrated Programme of Work and its objectives, and will support the related areas of work.
- **Involvement of the private sector.** The Integrated Programme of Work recognizes the private sector as a key actor for developing sustainable forest management, sustainable forest products and services and the transition towards a green economy. The participation of the private sector in the work of the Committee and the Commission will be actively sought.

## **F. Support to the Integrated Programme of Work and related resources**

23. As per current practice, specific activities in support of the implementation of the Integrated Programme of Work will be agreed on annually. The list will be based on proposals by member States, the Bureaux and the secretariat and reflect the activities set out in the current multi-year Programme of Work. For 2014 activities, please see document ECE/TIM/2013/15-FO:EFC/2013/15.. Implementation will depend on funding levels. For some activities, extrabudgetary funding will be needed (e.g. capacity-building) and the list of activities will show clearly the areas of work or activities where this is the case.

24. A broader participation and more strategic engagement by member States and stakeholders should be sought. In particular, resources should be identified to finance the participation of delegates from countries with economies in transitions.

## G. Governance

25. Formal governance is undertaken by the two parent bodies, the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission, which have the ultimate responsibility for the implementation of the Integrated Programme of Work. The Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry meets annually, while the European Forestry Commission meets every second year. The two bodies hold a joint meeting every second year. During joint meetings, matters of relevance to COFFI or EFC only are dealt separately and under specific agenda items during these meetings. The Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management meets annually.

26. The EFC Working Party on Management of Mountain Watersheds and the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry (*Silva Mediterranea*), a technical statutory body of FAO, coordinate their activities with this Programme of Work. They report on their work to, and seek guidance from, the EFC at the joint sessions of COFFI/EFC.

27. The Joint Bureaux of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the European Forestry Commission<sup>3</sup> are entrusted with overseeing the implementation of the Integrated Programme of Work and with providing guidance as needed. They have the authority to take decisions on operational matters between sessions of the parent bodies. The Joint Bureaux should meet at least twice annually.

## H. Expert support

28. Teams of Specialists (ToS), composed of experts in particular fields, contribute advice or undertake activities that support the implementation of the Integrated Programme of Work. Teams may also provide guidance to the secretariat on their work areas, and help with outreach activities to country-level experts, as well as have team-specific outputs in support of the Integrated Programme of Work. Teams of Specialists are mandated by the Committee and Commission, which approve their terms of reference. They report annually to the Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management.

29. During the review process, the special session suggested to:

- Discontinue the ToS on forest fires, as the issue of fires is no longer addressed by the ECE/FAO Integrated Programme of Work and is better addressed at the global level and through other channels.
- Extend the geographical scope of the ToS on Forest Policy in the Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia Region to the whole ECE region.
- Establish a ToS on wood energy to support the development of data and relevant policy advice on wood energy in the region.
- Establish a ToS on forest products statistics, to undertake the statistical work currently done by the Joint Working Party, in order for the Working Party to focus on its coordinating function for ToS work, with more detailed statistical work to be addressed by experts in this ToS.

30. The special session also recommended that Guidelines for the Teams of Specialists be adopted in order to clarify the Teams' mandates and procedures, and the role and responsibilities of Team Leaders, and Deputy Leaders, Team Members and secretariat. These can be found in document ECE/TIM/2013/14-FO:EFC/2013/14.

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<sup>3</sup> See document ECE/TIM/2008/7 – FO:EFC/08/7.

## II. Recommendations in support of the implementation of the Integrated Programme of Work

31. The following recommendations are submitted to the next joint session of the Committee and the Commission, "Metsä2013", for consideration and adoption.

### *Institutional structure*

32. Foster stronger cooperation between the European Forestry Commission and the North American Forestry Commission (NAFC).

33. Bring the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the European Forestry Commission as close together as possible and organize joint meetings every second year (the meeting should have the same name for each session – "forest" in the language of the country hosting the meeting and then the year of the meeting).

34. Continue and maintain the tradition of joint meetings, the Integrated Programme of Work, the joint secretariat, Joint Bureaux, joint publications and a joint profile.

35. Encourage countries to strengthen coordination between the Committee and Commission delegates at the national level by e.g. appointing the same Head of Delegation for both.

36. Engage Committee and Commission members in linking the ECE/FAO work to work at the national level in order to ensure feedback on the Integrated Programme of Work.

37. Strengthen the collaboration with the Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds and *Silva Mediterranea*.

38. Establish the following Teams of Specialists for the period 2014-2017:

<b>Name of the Team</b>	<b>Contribution to the Programme of Work</b>
ToS on Sustainable Forest Products	WA1: to focus on forest products and markets, market statements and support to the Committee
ToS on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)	WA1: to focus on SFM monitoring for different ECE/FAO studies and reviews, SFM assessment and work on criteria and indicators
ToS on Forest Policy	WA2 and WA4: to focus on the development of forest policies in the region and provide capacity building
ToS on the Forest Sector Outlook	WA1 and WA2: to support the development of Outlook Studies
ToS on Forest Communication - Forest Communicators Network	WA3: to provide advice to ECE/FAO in support of relevant events, campaigns and public relations efforts, support the dissemination of results of other ToS
ToS on Green Jobs - Joint ILO/ECE/FAO Expert Network	WA4: the previous joint ToS to be refocused on green jobs and capacity-building activities in support of SFM
ToS on Wood Energy	WA1 and WA2: to support the development of data and relevant policy advice on wood energy in the region.



ToS on Forest Products Statistics	WA 1 and WA4: to support the work on statistics in the Working Party, in order for the Working Party to focus on its coordinating function for Teams of Specialists and work area review.
ToS on Forest Fires	WA2: to support international cooperation in fire management. The Team will complete its mandate by July 2014

39. Adopt the Terms of Reference of, and the Guidelines for, the Teams of Specialists as proposed by the Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management and reviewed and endorsed by the special session of COFFI with EFC in June 2013 as contained in document ECE/TIM/2013/11-FO:EFC/2013/11. The Guidelines are in line with, and complementary to, the guidelines for the establishment and functioning of Teams of Specialists within ECE (ECE/EX/2/Rev.1).

#### ***Data management***

40. Data on forest and forest management are collected through regular and ad hoc processes. They are often collected, stored and disseminated separately, through different means and formats. Taking into account relatively long data collection cycles, this situation hampers seriously continuity, inter-connectivity, planning for data collection and its management. This also limits the availability and usability of information collected.

41. It is recommended that the organization and structure of data on forests, their management, their functions and services be analyzed. While avoiding any duplication with existing similar repositories, the results of this analysis would provide the basis for the establishment of an electronic repository, enhancing the efficiency of data collection, management and dissemination.

#### ***Private sector***

42. The involvement of the private sector, given its relevance to the work undertaken by the Committee and the Commission, should be increased, including through the establishment of a regional Advisory Group (it could be a subgroup of the FAO Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industry), which could provide advice to the Bureaux and other meetings.

#### ***Funding***

43. The final list of activities prepared every year should contain a related budget (costing of activities) to help member States recognize funding needs and understand the feasibility of activities. The first of such lists should be prepared for the year 2014 and submitted to Metsä2013 for consideration (and should include both human and financial resource needs).

#### ***Outreach***

44. More attention should be paid to communication activities to increase the impact and visibility of work. This might include organizing a high level segment in key meetings (like Metsä2013), which would bring together ministers and chief executive officers of private companies, and heads of other organizations.

45. The Integrated Programme of Work should also allow addressing new and emerging issues of high political value and interest to forestry and forest industry.

*Partnerships*

46. Partnerships should be established with other sectors, including through the cooperation with other ECE Committees. This should serve to demonstrate the value of forests and forest products for other sectors (energy, environment, housing, employment, climate change, etc.).

47. Good examples of cross-sectoral cooperation should be highlighted and showcased whenever possible.

*Name of the Section*

48. Following the change of name to Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry, the ECE Executive Secretary and the FAO Assistant Director General of the Forestry Department could consider adjusting the name of the joint secretariat accordingly.

*Outlook*

49. The next round of outlook studies in North America, Europe and the Russian Federation should be based on common methodologies and approaches, and developed in cooperation with relevant partners.

### **III. Adoption of the Integrated Programme of Work**

**50. The Committee and the Commission are expected to review the ECE/FAO Integrated Programme of Work and its recommendations for the period 2014-2017 and adopt it.**

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