

REPORT

**Rome,
Italy,
21-24 October
2008**

**Joint Session of the
European Forestry
Commission,
Thirty-fourth Session,
and the ECE Timber
Committee,
Sixty-sixth Session**



United Nations Economic and Social Council

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the
United Nations**

PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION

First session	Geneva, Switzerland	6-10 July 1948
Second session	Geneva, Switzerland	5-9 September 1949
Third session	Geneva, Switzerland	28 August – 1 September 1950
Fourth session	Rome, Italy	1-6 October 1951
Fifth session	Geneva, Switzerland	14-25 October 1952
Sixth session	Rome, Italy	8-16 October 1953
Seventh session	Geneva, Switzerland	8-13 November 1954
Eighth session	Rome, Italy	0-15 October 1955
Ninth session	Rome, Italy	7-14 May 1957
Tenth session	Rome and Florence, Italy	7-13 July 1959
Eleventh session	Rome and Catanzaro, Italy	22-30 May 1961
Twelfth session	Geneva & Zurich, Switzerland	30 September-7 October 1963
Thirteenth session	Rome, Italy	15-19 May 1967
Fourteenth session	Geneva, Switzerland	9-11 October 1968
Fifteenth session	Rome, Italy	7-11 September 1970
Sixteenth session	Rome, Italy	3-6 May 1972
Seventeenth session	Geneva, Switzerland	20-24 October 1975
Eighteenth session	Rome, Italy	13-17 September 1977
Nineteenth session	Rome, Italy	24-28 September 1979
Twentieth session	Innsbruck, Austria	22-26 March 1982
Twenty-first session	Rome, Italy	5-9 December 1983
Twenty-second session	Budapest, Hungary	28 October-1 November 1985
Twenty-third session	Geneva, Switzerland	12-16 October 1987
Twenty-fourth session	Rome, Italy	5-8 June 1989
Twenty-fifth session	Oslo, Norway	3-7 June 1991
Twenty-sixth session	Rome, Italy	11-15 October 1993
Twenty-seventh session	Antalya, Turkey	25-28 January 1995
Twenty-eighth session	Geneva, Switzerland	23-27 September 1996
Twenty-ninth session	Lahti, Finland	19-23 October 1998
Thirtieth session	Rome, Italy	9-13 October 2000
Thirty-first session	Barcelona, Spain	4-8 November 2002
Thirty-second session	Geneva, Switzerland	5-9 October 2004
Thirty-third session	Zvolen, Slovak Republic	23-26 May 2006

REPORT

of the

JOINT SESSION

of the

**FAO EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION
Thirty-fourth Session**

and the

**TIMBER COMMITTEE OF THE
UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
Sixty-sixth Session**

Rome, Italy
21-24 October 2008

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Rome, December 2008**

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INTRODUCTION

1. The FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) and the UNECE Timber Committee (TC) met in joint session at FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, from 21 to 24 October 2008. The session was attended by representatives from 44 member countries of the European Forestry Commission and UNECE Timber Committee.
2. Representatives of the European Community attended the joint session.
3. Six United Nations Agencies and Programmes, and two intergovernmental organizations were represented.
4. Fourteen international non-governmental organizations were represented.
5. The joint session noted that a large number of representatives of the private sector, civil society and academia had participated as part of their respective country delegation, and had made valuable contributions to the joint session's deliberations.
6. Representatives of the four sponsoring organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE), and the European Commission, addressed participants in the first-ever European Forest Week. The opening session was moderated by Mr Jan Heino, Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department, FAO.
7. Mr Jim Butler, Deputy Director-General, FAO, welcomed the participants and declared the European Forest Week open. After noting that Europe had made significant progress towards achieving sustainable forest management (SFM), he suggested that SFM was key to the response of the forest sector to climate change.
8. His Excellency Lars Peder Brekk, Minister for Agriculture and Food, Norway, delivered the keynote address for the opening ceremony. Norway currently co-chairs the MCPFE. Minister Brekk stressed the need for foresters to look outside the forest sector to inform people in other sectors about the importance of forests in the economies of Europe as well as in conserving Europe's environment and mitigating global climate change.
9. Mr Paolo Garonna, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, stressed the importance of forests to the livelihoods of Europeans, and to economic development as well as to mitigating climate change. He emphasized that partnerships were critical if the world was to be successful in implementing SFM. He highlighted the 60th anniversary of the partnership of UNECE and FAO in the field of timber and forestry.
10. Mr Benito Marin-Herrero, Attaché, EC Delegation in Rome, spoke about the importance of forestry in Europe and presented recent legislative proposals.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Item 1)

11. The Provisional Agenda, as set out in document ECE/TIM/2008/1/Rev.1/FO:EFC/08/1, *Appendix I*, was adopted.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHAIRING THE JOINT SESSION (Item 2)

12. The joint session agreed that the Chairmen of the European Forestry Commission, Mr Alain Chaudron (France) and the Timber Committee, Mr Johann Dengg (Germany), be Co-Chairs of the joint session.

PLENARY DISCUSSION – FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (Item 3)

13. The plenary session discussed how climate change mitigation and adaptation measures could be integrated into forest sector policies, how forest management strategies could contribute to reducing forests' vulnerabilities to climate change, and how coordination and communication between climate change negotiations and forest sector policies could be improved.

14. The Chair's summary of the plenary discussion is appended to the report as Annex I i.

PLENARY DISCUSSION – FORESTS AND ENERGY (Item 4)

15. The plenary session discussed the growing need for renewable energy, notably from wood, and the consequences for forest policy. It considered the role of wood energy in climate change mitigation, the implications for forest-based industries in Europe and stressed the importance of sustainable forest management in supplying wood for energy as well as for wood products and providing other forest goods and services, such as safeguarding biodiversity.

16. The Chair's summary of the plenary discussion is appended to the report as Annex I ii.

PLENARY DISCUSSION – FORESTS AND WATER (Item 5)

17. The plenary session considered linkages between the forest and water sectors, discussed collaboration and presented international legal and policy frameworks. The session discussed areas for interaction between the forest and the water sectors, including payments for ecosystem services, and strategies which link forest and water risk management to deal with floods, droughts, soil erosion, landslides in the context of climate change, predication of drier summers and water shortages.

18. The Chair's summary of the plenary discussion is appended to the report as Annex I iii.

PLENARY DISCUSSION – WORKING TOGETHER FOR FORESTS (Item 6)

19. The plenary session considered forest-related developments in Europe and elements of the continuing good cooperation among various European organizations.

20. The session discussed how Europeans address forests in a changing environment, based on the outcome of the Pan-European workshop on "Forests in the changing environment", Koli, Finland, 3-5 September 2008.

21. The Chair's summary of the plenary discussion is appended to the report as Annex I iv.

MARKET DISCUSSIONS (Item 7)

22. The joint session discussed forest products market developments in 2008 and the prospects for 2009, addressing the themes “sustainable markets and climate change” and “sustainable markets and energy” in accordance with the European Forest Week’s daily topic. The joint Timber Committee/European Forestry Commission Market Discussions were on the theme “Green buildings’ impacts on the forest sector”. A green building workshop took place on 20 October 2008 at the beginning of the European Forest Week. Based on the UNECE/FAO *Forest Products Annual Market Review, 2007-2008*, national market reports, forecasts and expert speakers, the joint session discussed how green building, climate change and energy policies are affecting the forest sector in the UNECE region, together with other forest products’ markets and policy developments and forecasts. The joint session adopted a market statement, which can be accessed at the following url link http://www.uncece.org/press/pr2008/08tim_n01e.htm.

STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE UNECE/FAO INTEGRATED PROGRAMME OF WORK ON TIMBER AND FORESTRY 2008-2013 (Item 8)

23. The joint session welcomed the Strategic Review and Planning process, which took place in 2007-08 with a significant emphasis on feedback from governments and stakeholders and evaluations, in particular regarding the utility of programme outputs. The session noted that the Strategic Plan for the period 2008-13, encompassing the work programmes 2008-09, 2010-11 and 2012-13, takes into account, to the extent possible, country priorities and needs.

24. The joint session adopted the Strategic Plan 2008-13 of the UNECE/FAO integrated programme of work on timber and forestry, as set out in document ECE/TIM/2008/7-FO:EFC/08/7 and including objectives, strategy, activities and programme developments. It approved the mandates of both parent bodies and of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics as well as of the seven teams of specialists. It asked the teams to report to their respective overseeing body (Bureaux or Working Party) annually, using the standard format contained in the document. It requested that the secretariat prepare a list of outputs for 2008/9 and submit it to the bureaux session on 14 November 2008.

25. The joint session agreed that climate change was of great importance to the forest sector and that the UNECE/FAO Integrated Programme of Work on Timber and Forestry could play a catalytic role in addressing climate change related matters, notably through its work programme under programme elements in work areas 1, 2, 3 and 5, and by the Teams of Specialists, notably on Forest Products’ Markets and Marketing, Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management, Forest Sector Outlook and Forest Policy in Eastern Europe. It was agreed to mainstream climate issues within existing activities, along the lines set out in document ECE/TIM/2008/7/Add.1. The joint session requested that the secretariat conduct a gap analysis on forests and climate change, identifying existing activities, needs and gaps and report to the joint Bureaux at its 2009 session, which should decide on the course of action.

26. The Committee requested the secretariat to prepare, for the period 2008-13, and in accordance with past practice, the provisional agenda, and background documents for its annual session, including on:

- i. matters arising from the Commission session (in 2009, 2011, and 2013);
- ii. UNECE/FAO in a changing environment;
- iii. review of activities and implementation of the programme of work;
- iv. programme planning and performance evaluation;
- v. market developments and prospects; and
- vi. UNECE/FAO policy forums.

27. The secretariat shall also prepare a final report of each session. The report will be agreed by the delegates at each session.
28. For each session of the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, the secretariat should prepare an agenda, draft work programme and report as well as papers on activities in the three work areas guided by the Working Party, a note on international statistical cooperation and on emerging issues relevant to the Working Party.
29. The Commission requested the secretariat to prepare, for its 2010 and 2012 sessions, the latter being a joint session with the Timber Committee, a provisional agenda and background documents, including on policy developments in the region, as well as a final report of the session. The report shall be agreed upon by delegates at the session.
30. The joint session recommended that UNECE and FAO, in the fields of:
- (a) forests and climate change:
 - i. work further, in collaboration with MCPFE and other partners, to provide consistent data, information and policy messages;
 - ii. establish a mechanism to provide information and facilitate exchange of experiences related to forests and climate change in the region; and
 - iii. develop a strategy to raise awareness of the contribution of forests and forest products to climate change mitigation.
 - (b) forests and energy:
 - iv. together with their partners, continue to provide policy relevant information (e.g. that arising from the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry) and analysis related to forest and energy, and a forum for exchange of views;
 - v. working with partners and national experts, continue to analyze the outlook for forests and energy, as part of the sector outlook study, including improved estimates of potential wood supply in Europe;
 - vi. continue to build partnerships with energy sector bodies, notably the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy;
 - vii. contribute to the ongoing work on sustainability criteria for forest biomass, led by MCPFE, and ensure that criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management are taken into consideration; and
 - viii. continue to work on green building and related issues together with other UNECE committees, including the Committee on Housing and Land Management, the Committee on Sustainable Energy, as well as other relevant bodies.
 - (c) forests and water:
 - ix. the Timber Committee, the European Forestry Commission, the UNECE Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management, MCPFE and FAO should continue to work together on forests and water-related issues;
 - x. assess the existing experiences on collaboration between the forest and water sectors and assess the need for joint development of guidelines; and
 - xi. jointly consider developing projects on payment for ecosystem services.
 - (d) working together for forests:
 - xii. continue the good cooperation among European organizations to promote sustainable forest management in the region, including investigating innovative and effective approaches, in order to take full advantage of synergies and to promote exchange across different sectors.

FAO EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION ISSUES (Item 9)**(a) FAO activities of interest to the region, including the FAO strategy for forestry**

31. The Commission welcomed the progress made in the preparation of the new FAO strategy for forests and forestry. It took note of the fact that feedback had been received and incorporated from all regions, including Europe. It also noted that the Steering Committee of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) had requested the FAO secretariat to forward the strategy to the 19th Session of COFO in 2009 and had recommended that the new strategy be endorsed by the Committee. The Commission recommended that the finalization of the strategy should take into account the outcome of the Special Session of the FAO Conference (November 2008) and, when addressing climate change, emphasize the adaptation of forests.

32. The Commission welcomed the widened scope of the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2010 and recommended the wide use of FRA as a basis of information on sustainable forest management in international processes. It welcomed the initiation of the new State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources and recommended that the work be linked to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) on science and technology and its expert panel on adaptation. Furthermore, the Commission was informed that the next State of the World's Forests will be released in March 2009 at the 19th Session of COFO, with the theme "Society, forests and forestry: adapting for the future". The Commission also recommended that FAO facilitate dialogue on climate change adaptation in the forest sector.

33. The Commission was informed of the outcome of the 26th Session of its Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds held in Oulu, Finland, from 19 to 22 August 2008. It discussed "forests, water and climate change in high altitude and high latitude watersheds" and gathered contributions from a variety of stakeholders related to forest, water and risk management.

34. The Commission was also informed of the recent developments of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC)/European Forestry Commission (EFC)/Near East Forestry Commission (NEFC) Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - *Silva Mediterranea*.

35. The Commission was also informed of the XIII World Forestry Congress that will be held in Argentina from 18 to 25 October 2009 with the theme "Forests in development – a vital balance".

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

36. The Commission identified the following issues for the attention of the Committee on Forestry:

- i. in addition to the critical role that forests play in climate change mitigation, the Commission noted the importance of improving the understanding of the impact of climate change on forests. This was an important issue not only in Europe but also in all other regions of the world;
- ii. the increasing emphasis on renewable energy, including bioenergy, will have many consequences for the world's forests, including increased demand for wood. This issue is directly linked to the climate issues discussed above;
- iii. linkages between forests and water were discussed in depth by COFO in 2003; it is considered timely to raise this as a priority issue again, in view of the impacts that climate change will have on future water supplies as well as the increasing severity and frequency of droughts and floods that the world is experiencing as a result of climate change;

- iv. the forest sector cannot stand in isolation. This point should form a central part of COFO; and
- v. as urban populations continue to expand in all regions, interactions between people and forests increase. One consequence is that forest fires are causing increasingly serious problems in peri-urban areas. This is a growing issue in Southern Europe, and in many other regions of the world.

(c) Election of officers

37. The Commission elected Ms Conceição Ferreira (Portugal) as Chair and Messrs. Peter Blombäck (Sweden), Alain Chaudron (France) and Andrey Filipchuk (Russia) as Vice-Chairs, to hold office from the end of the Thirty-fourth Session until the end of the Thirty-fifth Session. It warmly thanked Mr. Chaudron (France) for his contribution to the Commission's work during his chairmanship and Mr. Jan Ilavsky (Slovakia) for his services as Chair and Vice-Chair.

(d) Date and place of next session

38. The Commission invited delegations to consider offering to host the Thirty-fifth Session to take place in 2010, and asked the Bureau to make a recommendation accordingly.

UNECE TIMBER COMMITTEE ISSUES (Item 10)

(a) Formalities and elections

39. The Committee elected Mr Branko Glavonjic (Serbia) as Chair and Mr Johann Dengg (Germany) and Ms Linda Langner (USA) as Vice-Chairs to hold office until the end of the Sixty-seventh Session. The Committee warmly thanked Mr. Dengg, the outgoing Chair, and Mr. Heikki Pajuoja (Finland), outgoing Vice-Chair.

(b) Date and place of next session

40. The Committee decided that the next session of the Timber Committee be held during the week 12-16 October 2009 in Geneva.

**EUROPEAN INPUT TO THE UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS (UNFF)
(Item 11)**

41. The joint session agreed that progress had been made in Europe in addressing many of the critical global issues that are on the agenda of UNFF 8. The work of the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission constitutes a contribution from Europe to achieving the global objectives of UNFF. The joint session acknowledged and welcomed the broad, fruitful and mutually beneficial cooperation in advancing sustainable forest management in Europe, including with the MCPFE, the Environment for Europe/Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (Efe/PEBLDS) and other key players.

42. The joint session requested that the UNECE/FAO Secretariat prepare an input to UNFF 8, from the European region, in continued cooperation with MCPFE, which was mandated by the Fifth Ministerial Conference to prepare an input, as well as with Efe/PEBLDS and EFI. It recommended that the input include the key achievements in the region and references to the on-going and future work of the entities involved, as related to addressing forests in a changing environment, as well as describe the ways these entities work together, highlighting the excellent existing cooperation among them.

43. The joint session noted the Koli Pan European workshop on “Forests in the changing environment” organized by the MCPFE and recognized the value of its output, highlighting European priorities for UNFF 8.

OTHER BUSINESS (Item 12)

44. The joint session welcomed the organization of the first-ever European Forest Week and congratulated UNECE, FAO, the MCPFE and the European Community on the success of the event. The joint session thanked the European Forest Week Organizing Committee for its work and also warmly thanked the speakers who had greatly contributed to the discussions throughout the week, both during the plenary sessions (list of speakers included in Annex III) and the organizers and speakers at policy dialogues and partner events (list of policy dialogues and partner events included in Annex II). It noted that the European Forest Week represented a major communication opportunity which served the purpose of reaching out to other sectors as well as advancing dialogue and increasing understanding of important sector issues. The joint session welcomed the format of the week and recommended that a decision on a future European Forest Week be taken after evaluation of the first European Forest Week. The Committee and the Commission also recommended that regional events be considered within the context of the International Year of Forests in 2011.

45. The UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Products Markets and Marketing decided, at its inaugural meeting during the EFW, to conduct a follow-up workshop on green building and related issues, perhaps in conjunction with the Timber Committee session in 2009. It agreed, in line with its new mandate from the Timber Committee and European Forestry Commission, to continue conducting marketing capacity building in southeast Europe. It will organize a workshop on modern wood energy markets, systems and policies in Serbia from 2 to 3 December 2008.

46. The joint session welcomed with appreciation the organization of 155 events in 30 countries to promote the objectives of the European Forest Week.

47. The joint session expressed its appreciation to Mr Kit Prins and Mr Wulf Killmann for their dedicated and excellent services in support of the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission.

ADOPTION OF THE JOINT SESSION REPORT AND CLOSURE OF THE JOINT SESSION (Item 13)

48. The European Forestry Commission and the Timber Committee adopted the present report of the joint session, on the basis of a draft presented by the secretariat.

Annex I

CHAIRS' SUMMARIES OF PLENARY SESSIONS

(i) Forests and climate change

The plenary session was opened by the Chair of the EFC, Mr Alain Chaudron, followed by interventions by Professor Dr. Andreas Fischlin, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences, *Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule*, Zurich, Switzerland, and Mr Tim Rollinson, Director General, Forestry Commission, UK, on technical and political issues related to forests and climate change, globally as well as in Europe. Mr Rollinson moderated the subsequent panel discussion together with Professor Fischlin, Ms Teresa Presas, Managing Director, Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI), Mr Christer Segersteen, President, Confederation of European Forest Owners (CEPF) and Ms Carole Saint-Laurent, Senior Policy Advisor, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The panellists and participants reflected on the following questions:

- How should climate change mitigation and adaptation measures/programmes be integrated into forest sector policy, including national forest programmes, and vice-versa?
- How could forest management strategies be modified to reduce forests' vulnerability to climate change?
- How can better coordination and communication between climate change negotiations and forest sector policy issues be achieved at the national, regional and global levels?
- What do countries expect from FAO, UNECE and MCPFE in the context of forests and climate change?

Key points made included the following:

- the forestry sector promotes sustainable forest management as a comprehensive and balanced approach, which not only addresses climate change mitigation and adaptation, but also provides a range of other social, environmental and economic benefits in dynamic, multifunctional landscapes;
- the forest sector complements mitigation approaches by other sectors and reaches out to them to develop comprehensive, integrated, and multi-sectoral mitigation and adaptation strategies and measures;
- adaptation strategies for Europe's forests need to be developed and implemented, taking into account, *inter alia* their genetic diversity;
- greater public understanding of forests' contributions to climate change responses needs to be promoted using simple, clear messages backed up by verifiable facts; and
- carbon accounting systems should draw on existing assessment and monitoring mechanisms and be kept as simple as possible.

(ii) Forests and energy

The plenary session was opened by the Chair of the UNECE Timber Committee, Mr. Johann Dengg, followed by a keynote presentation by Professor Ralph Sims, Renewable Energy Unit, International Energy Agency. Ms. Hilkka Summa, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission, moderated the panel discussion which included Tim Christophersen, Convention on Biodiversity Secretariat; Mikael Eliasson, European Confederation of Woodworking Industries - CEI-Bois; Heinz Kopetz, European Biomass Association – AEBIOM; and Pierre-Olivier Drege, *Office National des Forêts*, France and European State Forest Association.

The panellists and participants reflected on the following questions:

- Will wood energy harm the forest-based industries in Europe?
- What role should wood energy play in climate change mitigation?
- Forest biodiversity and wood energy production – how to manage tradeoffs?
- How can policy-makers help the forest sector to find a new equilibrium?
- What is the role for international organizations?

Key points made included the following:

- wood energy is part of the solution to the energy and climate change challenge, but cannot be seen in isolation. Energy savings and energy efficiency must also be taken into consideration;
- responses to the challenges must be based on sustainable forest management, which can find a balance between the different demands on forests, including biodiversity, livelihoods as well as being sources of raw material and energy. Existing criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management should be taken into account when constructing systems to ensure the sustainability of biofuels and biomass;
- there is potential to mobilize more wood in Europe, although the maximum sustainable level of wood supply is not yet clear - it would depend on technical and economic factors as well as on political will;
- to meet future demand it may be necessary to produce woody biomass on agricultural land, taking into account food security aspects;
- effective mobilization of forest residues and fire management can help to reduce the risk of severe forest fires; and
- UNECE, FAO and other international organizations should continue to provide relevant information and analysis as well as a forum for exchange of views on policies.

(iii) Forests and water

The session was opened by the Chair, Ms Sibylle Vermont, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, followed by the keynote speaker Mr Christian K uchli, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, on technical and political issues related to forests and water, globally and in Europe. Ms Vermont moderated the subsequent panel discussion with Mr Gerald Steinndlegger, World Wide Fund for Nature; Ms Hillevi Eriksson, Swedish Forest Agency; Professor Edward Pierzgalski, Forest Research Institute, Poland; Mr Eric Toppan, Private Forestry Federation, France; and Mr Pier Carlo Zingari, European Landowners Organization.

The panellists and participants reflected on the following questions:

- What are the benefits of cooperation?
- Are national strategies integrative enough?
- What are the major obstacles and how to overcome them?
- How to foster collaboration?
- What are the areas for collaboration?
- How can the Warsaw Resolution #2 be promoted?
- What are the positive experiences on cross-sectoral cooperation, payments for ecosystem services (PES) and others?

Key points made included the following:

- the plenary session was the first policy-level meeting between water and forest sectors - such cooperation can bring many benefits to both sectors and needs to be further strengthened;
- as a basis for such cooperation, improved knowledge on forest hydrology and forest and water inter-linkages are needed as well as enhanced information exchange, communication and cross-fertilization;
- national and trans-boundary institutions (such as water councils or national forest programmes) should bring together all actors;
- forest and water should be seen in the broad landscape context and an integrated approach should be applied at the local, national and transboundary levels;
- payments for ecosystem services are a key tool which need more consideration; practical implementation in projects and learning from experience. Bundling of services (e.g. carbon sequestration, biodiversity, recreation) needs to be enhanced;
- many countries have developed policy and management tools for the integrated management of forests and water. It is important to exchange existing experience and to evaluate the need for additional guidance at the regional and national levels; and
- global drivers of change such as climate change, energy crises and changes in production and consumption patterns call for coherent and integrated responses from the water and forest sectors that need to be developed jointly.

(iv) Working together for forests

The plenary session was opened by the Chair, Mr Knut Øistad, Deputy Director General, Department of Forest and Natural Resource Policy, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Norway, representing the MCPFE Coordinating Committee, followed by: Professor Piotr Jakubowicz Paschalis, Forestry Faculty, Warsaw University of Life Sciences, on behalf of the Minister of Environment of Poland “forests and sustainable forest management-related developments in Europe and worldwide and linkages between forests and climate change”; Mr Arne Ivar Sletnes, Head of the MCPFE Liaison Unit Oslo, Norway; and Mr Kit Prins, Chief, UNECE/FAO Timber Section, UNECE, “sustainable forest management in Europe” and “work on timber and forestry” respectively. Mr Peter Csoka, acting Director of the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests, highlighted major developments since UNFF7, including region- and country-led initiatives and broadening regional activities, and Mr Heikki Granholm, Head of Unit, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland, presented the outcome of the “Pan-European workshop on “Forests in the changing environment”, which was held in Koli, Finland, in September 2008.

Key points made during the session include:

- there is good cooperation among European organizations to promote sustainable forest management in the region, based on a transparent and participatory process, and this should continue;
- innovative and effective approaches to further strengthen existing cooperation in the region in order to benefit from synergies and to provide inputs to other sectors and vice versa, should be explored;
- forest issues are high on the agendas of other fora, which are showing increased interest in forests and forestry, particularly with regard to developing policies on climate change, governance, energy or biomass issues;
- strengthening the visibility of the forest sector in other fora through better communication should be supported in order to mainstream sustainable forest management concepts and tools within other sectors and policies;
- at the national level close cooperation among focal points is particularly important;
- at the same time the forest sector should also work internally on synergies in order to be able to respond quickly to other sectors’ demands - a good example of such cross-sectoral activity is ongoing work on sustainability criteria within MCPFE, but more proactive approaches are needed;
- the forest sector should address new challenges such as climate change and energy;
- Europe should share with other regions its lessons learnt on achievements and approaches on sustainable forest management as well as its tools and concepts;
- the Koli workshop provided an excellent basis for discussion and elaboration of a contribution from the Pan-European region to the UNFF 8; its report will also be forwarded to the ELM and UNFF secretariats;
- the first-ever European Forest Week (EFW) is a good example of cooperation among international organizations. The results and the outcomes of the EFW will be evaluated and a decision on a similar event in the future will be taken at a later stage.

Annex II

**LIST OF POLICY DIALOGUES AND PARTNER EVENTS DURING THE
EUROPEAN FOREST WEEK**

DATE	EVENT	ORGANIZER
Monday 20 October	Green Building Workshop	UNECE / FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Product Markets and Marketing
	Advisory Committee on Paper and Wood Products	FAO Forestry Department
	Forest Communicators Network	UNECE/FAO
	Team of Specialists on Forest Products Markets and Marketing	UNECE/FAO
Tuesday 21 October	Workshop on the future of the industry	International Council of Forest and Paper Associations
	Improving forest law enforcement and governance in the European Neighborhood Policy	World Bank/EC/IUCN/WWF
	New forest policy of the Russian Federation: challenges to the future	Russian Confederation of Associations and Unions of Forest, Pup and paper, Woodworking and Furniture Industry/Federal Forestry Agency of the Russian Federation
	The role of wood products in climate change mitigation	<i>Johann Heinrich von Thuenen-Institut (vTI)</i> / Switzerland / UNECE / FAO
	Increasing knowledge about adaptation of forests and forest management to climate change (outcome of the Umea conference)	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Sweden/International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) / FAO
	The Third National Forestry Congress: an Italian vision on Mediterranean forest challenges	<i>Corpo Forestale dello Stato and Accademia Italiana di Scienze Forestali</i> (Italy)
	Forest owners event on climate change issues	Confederation of European Private Forest Owners (CEPF), COPA-COGECA and European State Forest Association (EUSTAFOR)
Adaptation of forest trees to climate change	Biodiversity International	
Wednesday 22 October	Open Ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Sustainability Criteria for Forest Biomass Production, including Bioenergy	MCPFE
	Potential sustainable wood supply in Europe	CEPF, UNECE/FAO
	Gender and forestry	UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Gender and Forestry
	Fire management in Europe	<i>Silva Mediterranea</i> , Joint Research Centre Ispra (EC), <i>Corpo Forestale dello Stato Italia</i> , FAO
	XIII World Forestry Congress Meeting of the Advisory Committee	FAO

Wednesday 22 October (cont'd)	Wood energy in the region: latest information and trends	UNECE
	Information event on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) activities	European Forest Institute (EFI)
	Forests - promoting or harming human health	IUFRO / Finnish Forest Research Institute (Metla)
	<i>Silva Mediterranea</i>	EFC / AFWC / NEFC - FAO
	Task force on wood availability and demand	UNECE / FAO
Thursday 23 October	NFP experiences in Europe and Central Asia	FAO and Partners
	Climate change and forest biodiversity	<i>Corpo forestale dello Stato</i> (Italy)

Annex III

LIST OF SPEAKERS DURING THE EUROPEAN FOREST WEEK
(listed in alphabetical order)

PLENARY DISCUSSIONS

- Lars Peder Brekk**, Minister for Agriculture and Food, Norway, Co-chair of The Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE)
- Jim Butler**, Deputy Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Rome
- Tim Christophersen**, UN Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) Secretariat, Canada
- Peter Csoka**, United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), USA
- Pierre-Olivier Drege**, *Office National des Forêts*, France and European State Forest Association
- Mikael Eliasson**, European Confederation of Woodworking Industries – (CEI-bois), Belgium
- Hillevi Eriksson**, Forest Agency, Sweden
- Andreas Fischlin**, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Switzerland
- Paolo Garonna**, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- Heikki Granholm**, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland
- Jan Heino**, Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- Piotr Paschalis Jakubowicz**, Ministry of Environment, Poland
- Heinz Kopetz**, European Biomass Association – (AEBIOM), Belgium
- Christian Kächli**, Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland
- Benito Marin-Herrero**, Economic Commission Delegation in Rome
- Knut Øistad**, Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE), Norway
- Edward Pierzgalski**, Forest Research Institute, Poland
- Teresa Presas**, Confederation of European Paper Industries, (CEPI), Belgium
- Kit Prins**, Secretary, FAO European Forestry Commission/ECE Timber Committee, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Geneva
- Tim Rollinson**, Forestry Commission, UK
- Carole Saint-Laurent**, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Canada
- Christer Segersteen**, Confederation of European Forest Owners (CEPF), Sweden
- Ralph Sims**, International Energy Agency, France
- Arne Ivar Sletnes**, The Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE), Norway
- Gerald Steindlegger**, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Austria
- Hilkka Summa**, European Commission, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, Belgium
- Eric Toppan**, Private Forestry Federation, France
- Sibylle Vermont**, Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland
- Pier Carlo Zingari**, European Landowners Organization, Belgium

JOINT UNECE TIMBER COMMITTEE AND FAO EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION MARKET DISCUSSIONS, 21-22 OCTOBER 2008

- Florian Borlea**, Timisoara Branch Directorate, National Forest Administration, Romania
- Urs Buehlmann**, Virginia Tech, Brooks Forest Products Center, VA, USA
- Alain Chaudron**, Chairman, FAO European Forestry Commission
- Johann Dengg**, Chairman, UNECE Timber Committee
- Ivan Eastin**, Center for International Trade in Forest Products (CINTRAFOR), USA
- Carl-Eric Guertin**, Quebec Wood Export Bureau (Q-WEB), Canada

Bengt Hillring, University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden
Peter Ince, United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, USA
Thorsten Leicht, Pöyry Forest Industry Consulting, Germany
Ruth Nussbaum, ProForest, UK
Olle Olsson, University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden
Ed Pepke, UNECE/FAO Timber Section, Geneva
Helmuth Resch, *Universität für Bodenkultur*, Austria
Russ Taylor, International Wood Markets Group Inc., Canada
Constantin Tobescu, Fordaq Timber Network, Romania

UNECE WORKING GROUP ON INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Ella Behlyarova, Housing and Land Management Division, UNECE
Francesca Bernardini, Secretary to the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, Environment, Housing and Land Management Division, UNECE
Joost Buntsma, Directorate-General for Water Affairs, The Netherlands
Rainer Enderlein, Housing and Land Management Division, UNECE
Kjersti B. Fjellstad, Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE), Norway
Tamara Guvir, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Republic of Moldova
Sabina Klicheva, International HCH and Pesticides Association (IHPA), Azerbaijan
Sonja Koepfel, Housing and Land Management Division, UNECE
Volodya Narimanyan, Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia
Pasquale Steduto, Natural Resources Management and Environment Department, FAO
Thomas Stratenwerth, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany
Rafiq Verdiyev, International HCH and Pesticides Association (IHPA), Azerbaijan

UNECE/FAO EVENTS

Policy Dialogue on the role of wood products in climate change mitigation

Sebastian Hetsch, Trade and Timber Division, UNECE
Kim Pingoud, VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland
Kit Prins, Secretary, EFC/TC, UNECE/FAO Timber Section
Sebastian Rüter, Johann Heinrich von Thünen-Institut, Germany

Policy Dialogue on potential sustainable wood supply in Europe

Roland Beck, European Commission, Brussels
Matthias Dees, Biomass Energy for Europe, Germany
Sebastian Hetsch, UNECE/FAO Timber Section, Geneva
Morten Thorøe, Confederation of European Forest Owners (CEPF), Belgium

Policy Dialogue on wood energy in the region: latest information and trends

Alain Arnaud, CGC Dalkia, Switzerland
Oliver Helbing, Realinvests AG, Germany
Knut Omholt, Södra Cell Värö Mill, Sweden
Kit Prins, Secretary, EFC/TC, UNECE/FAO Timber Section, Geneva
Florian Steierer, UNECE/FAO Timber Section, Geneva

AGENDA OF THE JOINT SESSION**Opening of the joint session**

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

Plenary discussions of the European Forest Week

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

Market discussions

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

Strategic Plan

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

FAO European Forestry Commission

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

UNECE Timber Committee

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

Conclusion of the joint session

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

*Appendix II***LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

Agenda Item

1	Annotated Agenda	ECE/TIM/2008/Rev.1 FO: EFC/08/1
Plenary discussions of the European Forest Week		
3	Forests and climate change	ECE/TIM/2008/2 FO: EFC/08/2
4	Forests and energy	ECE/TIM/2008/3 FO: EFC/08/3 ECE/TIM/2008/3/Corr.1 FO:EFC/03/3/Corr.1
5	Forests and water	ECE/TIM/2008/4 FO: EFC/08/4
6	Working together for forests	ECE/TIM/2008/5 FO: EFC/08/5 ECE/TIM/2008/5/Corr.1 FO:EFC/08/5/Corr.1
7	Market discussions	ECE/TIM/2008/6 FO:EFC/08/6
8	Strategic plan of the UNECE/FAO integrated programme of work on timber and forestry 2008-2013	ECE/TIM/2008/7 FO:EFC/08/7 ECE/TIM/2008/7/Add. 1 FO:EFC/08/7/Add. 1
9	FAO activities of interest to the region, including the FAO strategy for forestry	ECE/TIM/2008/8 FO:EFC/08/8
10	List of documents	ECE/TIM/2008/9 FO:EFC/08/Inf. 1
11	List of participants	ECE/TIM/2008/10 FO:EFC/08/Inf. 2
12.	Statement of competence and voting rights submitted by the European Community (EC) and its member countries	ECE/TIM/2008/11 FO:EFC/08/Inf. 3

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