

REPORT

Zvolen,
Slovakia,
23-26 May
2006

**EUROPEAN
FORESTRY
COMMISSION**

Thirty-third Session



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	10-15 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 and 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

REPORT

of the

THIRTY-THIRD SESSION

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**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Rome, 2006**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS	Page iii - iv
	Paragraphs
INTRODUCTION	1-4
ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA	5
SPECIAL SESSION: IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN EUROPE	6
2.1 15 years of economies in transition: lessons learned and challenges ahead for the forest sector (policy forum)	7-11
2.2 Progress towards sustainable forest management in Europe: trends, strategies, and better coordination of reporting	12-14
2.3 Forest law compliance: from commitments to practice	15-16
2.4 Forest-related voluntary codes of practice	17-21
VULNERABILITY OF FORESTS: ARE WE PREPARED TO HANDLE NATURAL CATASTROPHES?	22-25
CROSS-SECTORAL APPROACH TO FOREST SECTOR ISSUES	26
4.1 Wood energy: situation and issues for forest policy	27-30
4.2 Consequences for Europe's forests of the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol	31-34
4.3 Cooperation and networking on forest fires, with a focus on the Balkan and Mediterranean areas	35-37
REGIONAL COOPERATION ON FORESTS	
5.1 FAO activities in Europe	38-40
5.2 International events and initiatives, including future collaboration between the European Forestry Commission (EFC) the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Timber Committee (UNECE/TC)	41-44
5.3 Integrated programme of work for 2006-2008	45-47
REGIONAL ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY	48
ELECTION OF OFFICERS	49
ANY OTHER BUSINESS	50
DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION	51-52
ADOPTION OF THE REPORT	53

APPENDICES

A. Agenda Page 11
B. List of participants Page 13
C. List of documents Page 25

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission recommended that the **Committee on Forestry (COFO)**:

- (a) address the opportunities and challenges for wood energy;
- (b) consider the voluntary draft codes on planted forest and on fire management and decide on appropriate action; and address the utility of using these voluntary forest-related codes of practice as inputs to other global processes dealing with forest issues;
- (c) discuss the forest/climate change nexus;
- (d) consider how FAO and the regional forestry commissions could further contribute to other global processes;
- (e) enhance FAO's role in monitoring progress towards sustainable forest management, in particular increasing the analytical content of the regional and global information; and
- (f) effectively strengthen the secretariat of the AFWC/EFC/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean forestry questions - *Silva Mediterranea*.

The Commission urged its **member countries** to:

- increase efforts to improve forest law compliance and governance and to improve cooperation with new partners, for instance, customs, finance and law enforcement agencies;
- prepare disaster reduction strategies for the forest sector and ensure that they be integrated into wider regional or national disaster reduction strategies;
- include climate change aspects and adaptation strategies in national forest plans;
- ensure that forest-related climate change issues were knowledgeably addressed during the negotiation of the second commitment period and, in particular, the issue of harvested wood products in future carbon accounting systems; and that forest experts participate in the discussions; and
- send comments on the draft discussion report on progress towards sustainable forest management in Europe to the secretariat before 30 July 2006.

The Commission requested **FAO** to:

- reflect the complexity of European conditions and differences between subregions in the text of the discussion report on progress towards sustainable forest management in Europe;
- strengthen coordinated information gathering and reporting on sustainable forest management (SFM);
- assist countries in capacity building on information gathering;
- improve international information on illegal logging and related trade and provide analysis of different types of illegal activities in forests;
- take into account existing commitments when drafting the codes and invite member countries and other stakeholder to comment on the drafts;
- consider convening a workshop on response to catastrophic events;
- improve risk analysis in the future outlook studies;
- jointly with other partners collect information on wood energy, and monitor and analyze trends;
- monitor developments on climate change; and collaborate with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat (UNFCCC) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on technical issues;
- promote the enrichment of information on forest fires; and

- investigate options for organizing back-to-back meetings between the European Forestry Commission (EFC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Timber Committee (UNECE/TC) and the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE), when appropriate and beneficial to all three bodies; and for organizing a European forest week in 2008, which could also provide a regional input to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF).

and it recommended **that** **FAO**:

- improve monitoring of forest damage in future forest resource assessments;
- facilitate cooperation among Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) members and the development of joint programmes; and
- further strengthen its collaboration with UNECE and MCPFE.

The Commission also:

- endorsed the FAO/UNECE strategy for action in transition countries as well as the decision of the FAO/UNECE working party to set up a time limited task force to improve the information on wood energy;
- recommended that the Commission and the UNECE/TC consider providing a regional input to UNFF and contributing to the global objectives on forests through their Integrated Programme of Work;
- requested that the Joint Bureaux coordinate their subsidiary bodies and explore the opportunity for increased cooperation with the General Coordinating Committee of MCPFE; and
- decided that its next session would be held jointly with the UNECE Timber Committee.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Thirty-third Session of the European Forestry Commission (EFC) was held in Zvolen, from 23 to 26 May 2006, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Slovak Republic. The session was attended by representatives from 22 members, one FAO member non-member of the Commission and two representatives from the United Nations system. Observers from six international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations attended the session. A full list of participants (59 in total) is provided in *Appendix B*.

2. The session was opened by Mr. Ján Ilavský, Chairman of the Commission, who welcomed the participants. The opening statement was delivered by Mr. Valer Cmorik, Director-General of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture, Slovak Republic. Professor Julius Novotny, Director-General, National Forest Centre and Professor Marian Babiak, Vice-Rector, Technical University, Zvolen, also addressed the meeting. Mr. Wulf Killmann, Director, Forest Products and Economics Division, Forestry Department, welcomed participants on behalf of Mr. Jacques Diouf, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

3. Mr. Killmann thanked the host government for the excellent arrangements for the Thirty-third Session of the Commission and underscored the importance accorded by FAO to the inputs of the Regional Forestry Commissions, including the European Forestry Commission (EFC), in formulating the Organization's programme of work, and in articulating regional concerns, as well as promoting sustainable forest management at the regional level.

4. In his statement, delivered on behalf of His Excellency Zsolt Simon, Minister for Agriculture, Slovak Republic, Mr. Cmorik welcomed the fact that the 33rd Session of the European Forestry Commission was being held for the first time in the sub-region of Central and Eastern Europe. He underscored that it was very topical to discuss forest vulnerability, which was of particular importance to his country in view of the devastating effects of the windthrow in November 2004 in the Tatra Mountains. He underlined the role of the Commission in formulating recommendations and identifying regional problems for global attention, in particular at the Committee on Forestry (COFO) in March 2007.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Item 1)

5. The Provisional Agenda, as set out in document FO:EFC/2006/1 Rev.1, was adopted (*Appendix A*). The list of documents presented to the session is provided in *Appendix C*.

SPECIAL SESSION: IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN EUROPE (Item 2)

6. The Commission discussed implementation of sustainable forest management in Europe, identifying major issues and possible policy directions, and ways to transmit ideas from the regional to the global levels.

2.1 15 years of economies in transition: lessons learned and challenges ahead for the forestry sector (policy forum)

7. The Commission reviewed the experience of the 15 years of transition, and shared national experiences, recognizing the diversity of national situations. Some countries had based export-led growth on a strengthened forest sector.

8. The main opportunities and challenges identified at the national level were the need to:
- strengthen forest sector institutions, notably reinforcing the efficiency, flexibility and social responsiveness of state forest organisations, and reform the legal and policy framework;
 - improve support and guidance for private forest owners, while respecting their individual property rights;
 - take a proactive approach on collaboration with other sectors in policy and planning, notably energy, environment and rural development through, for example, national forest programmes;
 - specify long-term strategic goals;
 - lead a productive dialogue between the forest sector and society at large, so as to improve society's understanding of the role of forests in sustainable development;
 - clearly define the role of the state; and
 - develop human resources, including in research, education and extension.

9. The Commission took note of the international activities for assistance to countries in transition. It stressed the value of working at the subregional level and of sharing experience between countries at different stages of the transition process. It also noted the many bilateral cooperation projects.

10. The Commission endorsed the FAO/United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) strategy for action in transition countries. It thanked the team of specialists, and that team's successor established in 2004, for their valuable contribution to promoting the transition process in the forest sector, and endorsed the objectives defined by the team. It urged the FAO/UNECE team to continue to work closely with other bilateral and multilateral agencies as well as with the research and private sectors.

11. The Commission took note of the draft report of the meeting on the Carpathian Convention: Protocol on Article 7, "Sustainable agriculture and forestry", which had taken place from 8 to 9 May 2006 in Budapest, Hungary.

2.2 Progress towards sustainable forest management in Europe: trends, strategies, and better coordination of reporting

12. The Commission was informed of the results of the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2005 (FRA 2005). It welcomed the expansion of FRA 2005 to include new data on six of the seven thematic elements as a framework for monitoring, assessing and reporting on progress towards sustainable forest management.

13. The Commission reviewed a discussion report on progress towards sustainable forest management in Europe, and welcomed the move towards evaluation and analysis of the data collected. The Commission requested the secretariat to revise the text to reflect the complexity of European conditions and differences between subregions. The final overview of regional trends should be a balanced description of all aspects of sustainable forest management in the region. The Commission invited member countries to send comments on the draft, to the secretariat before 30 July 2006. It noted that the revised report would be used as a basis for analysis by region in *State of the World's Forests 2007*, to be presented to the 18th Session of COFO in 2007.

14. The Commission appreciated FAO's efforts to improve collaboration with partners and requested it to further strengthen coordinated information gathering and reporting on sustainable forest management in Europe through collaboration with other key partners, in particular with UNECE and the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE).

2.3 Forest Law Compliance: from commitments to practice

15. The Commission was informed about the Workshop on combating illegal harvesting of forest products and related trade in Europe held in Madrid in November 2005. The Commission urged member countries and FAO, in collaboration with other international and regional organizations, to increase efforts to improve forest law compliance and governance and to improve cooperation with new partners, for instance, customs, finance and law enforcement agencies.

16. It requested FAO to continue to assist countries to build their capacity to collect better forest sector information, including on illegal activities. It also requested secretariat to explore the possibility of improving international information on illegal logging and related trade, along the lines proposed by the Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, and in close collaboration with relevant organisations, such as the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the European Commission (EC). It further requested FAO to continue to provide analyses of different types of illegal activities and how they could be combated, with emphasis on practical measures and sharing of experience.

2.4 Forest-related voluntary codes of practice

17. A number of members shared their experience on national mandatory or voluntary forest related codes, standards and guidelines. The Commission considered the development of these types of global and regional instruments a priority area of the FAO work programme: they provide guidance to forest policy-makers and practitioners, mobilize knowledge and build commitment among key stakeholders. They thus make important contributions to the promotion and implementation of sustainable forest management and act as links between policy and field levels.

18. The Commission was informed of progress in developing voluntary instruments, in particular the Planted Forests Code and the Fire Management Code. It recognized that planted forests are a part of the continuum of forest types and that in Europe it is often difficult to establish a precise boundary line between them. Some members suggested consideration of alternative titles to describe the voluntary nature of the instruments.

19. The Commission commended FAO on facilitating consultative processes, which include member states and multiple stakeholders, and advised that FAO should adopt such an approach when developing voluntary instruments. Accordingly, the Commission:

- (a) requested that, in the development of the voluntary instruments, FAO take into account existing commitments and work undertaken on sustainable forest management, notably by MCPFE in Europe as well as the differences between ownership, regions and types of planted forests;
- (b) stressed that many other points of the draft Planted Forest Code and items linked with it also needed further clarification and discussion as to its use, scope and purpose, and that monitoring of the implementation of the voluntary instruments should not increase the reporting burden on countries; and
- (c) requested FAO to invite member countries and other stakeholders to comment on the drafts.

20. The Commission recommended that FAO present both voluntary instruments to COFO at its 18th Session in 2007 for its consideration.

21. The Commission also recommended that COFO address the utility of using these voluntary instruments as inputs to other global processes dealing with forest issues.

VULNERABILITY OF FORESTS: ARE WE PREPARED TO HANDLE NATURAL CATASTROPHES? (Item 3)

22. The Commission considered how sector policy-makers could reduce forests' vulnerability to extreme climatic events, insects, fire, climate change, and other threats, based on case studies from Slovakia, France and Poland. It noted that several countries had compiled or were compiling information on their experience of how to respond to disasters, as a basis for future emergency action.

23. The Commission was informed of the FAO Expert Consultation on Wildland Fires held in Madrid, Spain, from 10 to 12 May 2006 and the fourth International Wildland Fire Conference to be held in Seville, Spain, in May 2007.

24. The Commission urged member countries to prepare disaster reduction strategies for the forest sector, covering prevention, mitigation, and response measures, and to ensure that these strategies were integrated into wider regional or national disaster reduction strategies. It also recommended that FAO further improve monitoring of forest damage in future forest resources assessments, and consider assessing the vulnerability of forests.

25. The Commission requested the secretariat to consider convening a workshop where countries could share their experiences in preparing for, mitigating and responding to catastrophic events, and develop networks. It further requested FAO to improve the risk analysis in future forest sector outlook studies.

CROSS-SECTORAL APPROACH TO FOREST SECTOR ISSUES (Item 4)

26. The Commission welcomed the cross-sectoral approach increasingly adopted in national and international activities, and endorsed the conclusions of the workshop in Riga, Latvia in October 2005, on forests, common benefits, shared responsibilities, multiple policies; in particular that

- FAO, UNECE, and MCPFE should strengthen cross-sectoral dimensions in all aspects of their programmes; and
- national forest sector institutions should:
 - recognize other sectors as invaluable partners in the successful implementation of forest sector policies;
 - strengthen communication with other sectors; and
 - strengthen the capacity of forest sector institutions to address cross-sectoral issues, for instance by employing specialists from other sectors.

4.1 Wood energy: situation and issues for forest policy

27. The Commission discussed the consequences of strong energy demand and higher prices for wood fuels, placing particular emphasis on the following issues:

- the stronger prices and higher volumes of wood fuels were strengthening the economic viability of forestry in many areas;
- current monitoring of developments in this field was unsatisfactory due to incomplete and inconsistent information;
- forest sector institutions should take the lead in demonstrating the desirability of wood energy, for instance by using wood fuels in their buildings;
- several countries reported that biomass energy targets had been developed in consultation with forest sector policy-makers and that consequently forest plans and targets were being modified;

- forest policy needs to ensure that the growing information needs of the public including on wood as an energy source, on sustainability of sources and on environmentally friendly heating systems, be met in a consistent and proactive way;
- fast-growing wood fuel consumption should be maintained within sustainability limits;
- in southern Europe, demand for wood energy could promote clearance of undergrowth and other forest fuel, thus reducing the risk of forest fires; and
- competition for wood between the forest products and energy sectors should be further discussed.

28. The Commission requested FAO, jointly with UNECE and other partners, to continue to collect data and information on wood energy and to monitor and analyze trends. It suggested that FAO should explore the possibility of undertaking a study on the outlook for wood energy within the context of the outlook for the sector as a whole. Such a study could focus on bioenergy targets and the likely demand from the wood-processing industries and, if considered necessary, on the potential to increase European wood supply.

29. The Commission endorsed the decision of the FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics to set up a time limited task force to improve the information on wood energy, in cooperation with the International Energy Agency (IEA), the European Commission and other partners, avoiding duplication of reporting.

30. Considering the rapidly changing situation in the energy sector, COFO should address the opportunities and challenges for wood energy.

4.2 Consequences for Europe's forests of the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol

31. The Commission was briefed on recent developments as regards the Kyoto Protocol, and discussed the possible consequences of these developments for forest policy. These developments offered major challenges and opportunities to the sector: it was considered vital to address them proactively and within a cross-sectoral perspective. The issues identified by delegations included:

- some countries had opted to account for forest management under article 3.4 of the Kyoto Protocol, in the expectation of increased revenue from these activities, or as a "safety net" to achieve national commitments, while others had opted not to do so;
- some countries which had opted to include forest management under article 3.4 had decided to manage the credits centrally, while others were seeking ways to assign them to forest owners;
- a major forestry contribution to climate change mitigation in Europe would be made through sustainable forest management, including by producing and using wood;
- new scenarios predict significant temperature and precipitation changes for Europe. These will present new opportunities for forests in some areas of Europe, while they compound the vulnerability of forests in others;
- profound long-term changes were to be expected from the fact that an ecological service, carbon sequestration, has been assigned a monetary value. The full implications of this were not yet apparent, especially as the likely price range and market size for carbon were still uncertain; and
- FAO/UNECE has much relevant experience for instance in analyzing material flows, e.g. in the European Forest Sector Outlook Studies (EFSOS), which should be made available for the climate change discussions.

32. The Commission urged member states to include climate change aspects and adaptation strategies in national forest plans; forest sector policy-makers should work closely with those responsible for climate change policy to ensure that forest issues receive sufficient attention in national climate change policies.
33. The Commission urged member countries to ensure that forest-related climate change issues were knowledgeably addressed during the negotiation of the second commitment period, in particular the issue of harvested wood products in future carbon accounting systems; and that forest experts participate in the discussions.
34. It requested FAO to continue to monitor developments, and to continue to collaborate with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), by providing technical inputs, contributing to the development of good practice guidance, and other tools, and by resuming the process on harmonizing forest-related definitions.

4.3 Cooperation and networking on forest fires, with a focus on the Balkan and Mediterranean areas

35. The Commission reviewed subregional networking activities on forest fires, notably in the Baltic region, South-east Europe and the Mediterranean, and took note of the proposed Technical Cooperation Project to support the Regional Wildland Fire Network in South-east Europe.
36. The Commission noted the development of a regional strategy for cooperation in forest fire management in South-east Europe, and requested FAO to support the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) Regional Wildland Fire Networks (South-east Europe, Baltic, Mediterranean) through, for instance, the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP).
37. The Commission requested FAO to promote, with member states and other partners, the enrichment of information on forest fires, taking into account the needs of other processes.

REGIONAL COOPERATION ON FORESTS (Item 5)

5.1 FAO activities in Europe

38. The Commission was informed of FAO's activities in Europe, including the integrated FAO/UNECE programme of work, which included the joint FAO/UNECE/International Labour Organization (ILO) experts network on sustainable forest management, the regular budget programmes implemented by the Forestry Department or the FAO Subregional Office for Central and Eastern Europe (SEUR), as well as work done under the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), and under the Government Cooperative Programme (GCP).
39. The Commission was further informed of the recent workshop of the Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds, and of the activities of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC)/EFC/Near East Forestry Commission (NEFC) Committee on Mediterranean forestry questions - *Silva Mediterranea*. It took note of the call to FAO to strengthen the secretariat of this body, as recommended by the 19th Session of the Committee.
40. The Commission welcomed the efforts made to improve coordination between these activities, notably as regards activities for countries in transition implemented from FAO Headquarters, SEUR and the joint UNECE/FAO Timber Section.

5.2 International events and initiatives, including future collaboration between the European Forestry Commission (EFC), the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe/Timber Committee (UNECE/TC)

41. The Commission was informed of recent developments, notably COFO, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and MCPFE. It commended FAO for its chairmanship of CPF and recommended that FAO further facilitate cooperation among the CPF members and the development of joint programmes. It stressed the role of FAO in contributing to the achievement of the four global objectives on forests. It also recommended that when the Commission and the UNECE Timber Committee review their next programme period, they consider providing a regional input to UNFF, and contributing to the achievement of the global objectives through their Integrated Programme of Work.

42. The Commission appreciated the valuable cooperation between the Commission, MCPFE, the UNECE Timber Committee and recommended that FAO further strengthen its collaboration with UNECE and MCPFE.

43. The Commission requested that the Joint Bureaux of the Commission and UNECE/TC proactively guide and coordinate the teams of specialists and other subsidiary bodies, and explore the opportunity for increased cooperation with the General Coordinating Committee of MCPFE.

44. Whilst respecting the need to maintain the distinction between the different roles of MCPFE, EFC and UNECE/TC, the Commission welcomed the planned further coordination of meeting schedules and agendas among the three bodies and requested FAO, in collaboration with UNECE and the Liaison Unit of MCPFE, to investigate options for:

- (a) back-to-back meetings between EFC, UNECE/TC and MCPFE, when appropriate and beneficial to all three bodies; and
- (b) a European forest week in 2008, which could also provide a regional input to UNFF.

5.3 Integrated Programme of Work for 2006-2008

45. The Commission reviewed the FAO/UNECE integrated programme for 2006-2008 on the basis of the draft proposed in document FO:EFC/2006/5.3.

46. The Commission recalled that the programme would normally not need major changes between strategic reviews, so the present programme would be valid in its broad lines to 2008, when the third strategic review should be undertaken. The Commission welcomed the decision of UNECE to assign a new staff member to the integrated programme.

47. The Commission:

- took note of the activities under the programme of work and forthcoming outputs;
- took note of the activities of the seven teams of specialists. It welcomed the contributions made by a wide variety of experts to the integrated programme, and expressed concern that the parent bodies may not be able to respond to and use this information as fully as would be desirable;
- thanked those individuals and agencies who had contributed to implementing the programme. Several teams and the FAOUN/ECE/ILO Experts Network on SFM were developing innovative work methods, reducing costs, raising external funding and increasing flexibility;

- thanked UNECE for increasing the resources it makes available to the integrated programme. It agreed that the new staff member transferred by UNECE during its reform process to service the integrated programme should focus on monitoring and analysis of policies and institutions in the sector, in close collaboration with officers working on this subject at FAO Headquarters in Rome and at the FAO Sub-regional Office for Europe in Budapest; and
- agreed to hold a third strategic review in 2008, which would set priorities and agree on a programme. It noted that the mandates of the teams of specialists would terminate between 2006 and 2008.

REGIONAL ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY (COFO) (Item 6)

48. The Commission identified the following issues for the attention of COFO:

(a) Wood energy

Considering the rapidly changing situation in the energy sector, COFO should address the opportunities and challenges for wood energy.

(b) Voluntary codes of practice

COFO is requested to consider the voluntary draft codes on planted forest and on fire management and to decide on appropriate action. The Commission also recommended that COFO address the utility of using these voluntary forest-related codes of practice as inputs to other global processes dealing with forest issues.

(c) Climate change

Considering new climate change scenarios and the resulting increased vulnerability of forests, as well as forest-related provisions in the climate change regime, the Commission suggested that COFO discuss the forest/climate change nexus.

(d) Regional cooperation and input to global processes

COFO is requested to consider how FAO and the regional forestry commissions could further contribute to other global processes.

(e) Global information on sustainable forest management

COFO is requested to enhance FAO's role in monitoring progress towards sustainable forest management, in particular increasing the analytical content of the regional and global information.

(f) Forestry cooperation in the Mediterranean region

COFO is asked to effectively strengthen the secretariat of the AFWC/EFC/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean forestry questions - *Silva Mediterranea*.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Item 9)

49. The Commission elected Mr. Alain Chaudron, France, as Chairman, and Ms. Conceição Ferreira, Portugal, and Messrs Ján Ilavský, Slovakia, and Peter Blombäck, Sweden, as Vice-Chairpersons to hold office from the end of the Thirty-third Session until the end of the Thirty-fourth Session. It warmly thanked Mr. Ján Ilavský for his contribution to the Commission's work during his chairmanship, and Mr. Arvids Ozols, Latvia, for his services as Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

OTHER BUSINESS (Item 10)

50. The Session welcomed with satisfaction the Russian Federation becoming a Member of FAO. It expressed its hope for fruitful cooperation between the Russian Federation and FAO in the areas of sustainable forest management, reforestation, wildfire suppression and on other important issues. It also welcomed The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on becoming a member of the Commission.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION (Item 11)

51. The Commission decided that its 34th Session would be held jointly with the UNECE Timber Committee in 2008, and proposed that it be held in Rome, pending further discussions on closer collaboration with MCPFE.

52. The Russian Federation expressed its interest in hosting the 35th Session of the Commission.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT (Item 12)

53. The Commission adopted the report of its Thirty-third Session.

*APPENDIX A***AGENDA**

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Special session: Implementation of sustainable forest management in Europe (for discussion)
 - 2.1 15 years of economies in transition: lessons learned and challenges ahead for the forestry sector (policy forum)
 - 2.2 Progress towards sustainable forest management in Europe: trends, strategies, and better coordination of reporting
 - 2.3 Forest law compliance: from commitments to practice
 - 2.4 Forest-related voluntary codes of practice
3. Vulnerability of forests: are we prepared to handle natural catastrophes? (for discussion)
4. Cross-sectoral approach to forest sector issues (for discussion)
 - 4.1 Wood energy: situation and issues for forest policy
 - 4.2 Consequences for Europe's forests of the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol
 - 4.3 Cooperation and networking on forest fires, with a focus on the Balkan and Mediterranean areas
5. Regional cooperation on forests
 - 5.1 FAO activities in Europe
 - 5.2 International events and initiatives, including future collaboration between the European Forestry Commission (EFC), the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Timber Committee (UNECE/TC) (for discussion)
 - 5.3 Integrated programme of work for 2006-2008 (for approval)
6. Regional issues identified by the Commission for the attention of the Committee on Forestry (for decision)
7. Election of officers (for decision)
8. Other business
9. Date and place of next session (for decision)
10. Adoption of report

APPENDIX B**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION****AUSTRIA**

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*APPENDIX C***LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

Agenda Item	Code	Title
1	FO:EFC/2006/1 Rev.1	Provisional Agenda
2	FO:EFC/2006/2.1	15 Years of Economies in Transition: Lessons learned and challenges ahead for the forestry sector
	FO:EFC/2006/2.2	Progress towards Sustainable Forest Management in the Region
	FO:EFC/2006/2.3	Forests Law Compliance: from commitments to practice
	FO:EFC/2006/2.4 Rev.1	Forest-related Voluntary Codes of Practice
3	FO:EFC/2006/3	Vulnerability of Forests: Are we prepared to handle natural catastrophes?
4	FO:EFC/2006/4 Rev.1	Cross-Sectoral Approach to Forest Sector Issues: Wood energy, implications of Kyoto Protocol; and cooperation on forest fires
	FO:EFC/2006/5.2	International events and initiatives, including future collaboration between the European Forestry Commission (EFC), the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Timber Committee (UNECE/TC)
5	FO:EFC/2006/5.3	Integrated Programme of Work for 2006-08

Information documents:

FO:EFC/2006/Inf. 1	Information Note
FO:EFC/2006/Inf. 2	Provisional Timetable
FO:EFC/2006/Inf. 3	List of Documents
FO:EFC/2006/Inf. 4	Statement of Competence and Voting Rights Submitted by the European Community (EC) and its Member Countries
FO:EFC/2006/Inf. 5	FAO Activities in the Region – 2004-2006

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Israel	United Kingdom
Italy	

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