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REPORT OF THE

Held in Rome,
24-28 September 1979

NINETEENTH SESSION
OF THE EUROPEAN
FORESTRY COMMISSION



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

FO: EFC/79/REP

R E P O R T
of the
NINETEENTH SESSION
of the
EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

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Rome 1979

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CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Addressed to Member Governments

1. Endorsing the recommendation of the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Economics and Statistics that the report prepared by Mr. Cyril Hart, Consultant, be revised and completed as soon as possible and published, the Commission suggested that countries be invited to forward any further supplementary information, corrections or comments to Mr. T.J. Peck, Joint ECE/FAO Agriculture and Timber Division, Palais des Nations, CH 1211 Geneva 10, by the end of 1979. (para. 59)

2. The Commission recommended that countries extend their research efforts in the field of wildlife and game management. (para. 70)

3. The Commission agreed to design its projects, wherever possible, in such a way as to allow its Member Countries to take a more direct role, for instance by hosting meetings, which included accepting the financial obligations involved, and by nominating experts to join study groups or teams of specialists. [It noted with satisfaction that its subsidiary bodies had already taken steps in that direction.] (para. 97)

B. Addressed to FAO

1. The Commission agreed to the formula set out as Alternative "A" in Secretariat Note FO:EFPC/79/2 for the future organization of the AFC/EFPC/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions "Silva Mediterranea" and that this decision be drawn to the attention of the African and Near East Forestry Commissions. Resulting proposals should be submitted to the Commission's Twentieth Session. (para. 14) The Commission proposed the convening of a session of "Silva Mediterranea" during the 1982-83 biennium. (para. 100)

2. The Commission also agreed to Alternative "A" for the future organization of the Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds. (para. 14) The Commission endorsed the proposal for holding the Thirteenth Session of the Working Party in 1982. (para. 99)

3. The Commission recommended that the Regional Conference for Europe continue to include an item on forestry on its agenda from time to time. (para. 16)

4. The Commission recommended that the Committee on Forestry convene a small group of experts, with representatives from recipient and donor countries, to examine the opportunities and problems of undertaking technical cooperation at the international level and to come forward with proposals for improvements. (para. 78)

5. The Commission indicated the importance which forest administrations and others attach to studies of long-term trends and prospects, and the urgency of making the world appraisal undertaken by a Working Party of forestry and forest industry experts of the FAO Pulp and Paper Advisory Committee available to countries so that the work is fully utilized in national planning for the sector. (para. 83)

INTRODUCTION

1. The European Forestry Commission of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations held its Nineteenth Session at FAO Headquarters, Rome, from 24 to 28 September 1979. The session was attended by delegates from the following Member Nations: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and Yugoslavia. Representatives of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the European Economic Community, as well as observers from three international non-governmental organizations, attended the session. A full list of participants is given in Appendix B.
2. The Chairman, Mr. A. Halasz (Hungary), being unable to attend, the session was conducted by the first-listed Vice-Chairman, Mr. A.W. Duggan (Ireland).
3. The Commission honoured the memory of four former members of FAO who had been foremost in the work of the Forestry Department (or the Forestry and Forest Industries Division which preceded it): Mr. Egon Giesinger; Mr. Luis Gimenez-Quintana; Mr. Leslie Vennell; and Mr. Peter Vakonics.
4. The Commission was addressed by Dr. M.A. Flores Rodas, Assistant Director-General, Head of the Forestry Department, who welcomed delegates to the session on behalf of the Director-General. He pointed out that, even with the additional domestic supplies which European forestry will contribute over the long-term, the region's imports from other areas will have to increase to meet forecast consumption. With tropical timber imports complementing, rather than competing with, domestic timbers, Europe has a strong interest in assuring the continuity of the flow of tropical timber and the encouragement of the fuller utilization of a wide range of species and qualities, including their use for the production of pulp.
5. Dr. Flores Rodas also alluded to a number of other major issues including the rate of forest depletion in the tropics, the demands for recreational services and other non-wood forest benefits in many areas, the growing concern over energy as a world problem, and the socio-economic struggle of the developing countries for the better well-being of their populations, towards which FAO policy was becoming increasingly oriented.
6. Given the necessity for FAO to devote an increasing proportion of its resources to assist the developing countries, Dr. Flores Rodas noted with satisfaction the greater dependence of countries in the developed regions on their own resources for carrying out inter-country forestry programmes within the framework of the European and North American Forestry Commissions.
7. Dr. Flores Rodas' address is reproduced in Appendix D.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Item 1 of the Agenda)

8. The Provisional Agenda (Appendix A) was adopted. A list of documents submitted for consideration by the Commission is given in Appendix C.

POSITION REPORTS (Item 2 of the Agenda)

- (a) Follow-up to recommendations arising from the Eighteenth Session of the European Forestry Commission

9. With regard to recommendations arising from its Eighteenth Session, the Commission was informed that provision had been made in the agenda for the Nineteenth Session for: (i) a review of prospects for inter-regional trade in forest products and their influence on national forest policies in Europe; (ii) an in-session seminar on the scope for improving the relationship between game management and forest management, in which an international

organization concerned with hunting questions had been invited to take part; (iii) further consideration of the possibilities of reactivating "Silva Mediterranea". The proposal that FAO's publication on "Forest Policy, Law and Administration" be up-dated had not been pursued for lack of resources. Nor had it been possible, for the same reason, to convene a meeting to determine the scope of possible research activities on tropical forest soils.

(b) Matters arising from the Fourth Session of the Committee on Forestry

10. Under this item, main emphasis was given to two questions: the implications of re-activating and broadening membership of the APC/EPC/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions "Silva Mediterranea", and of "internationalizing" the EPC Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds, both recommended by the Regional Commissions concerned and endorsed by the Fourth Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO). In introducing Secretariat Note FO:EPC/79/2, the Officer-in-Charge, Office of the Legal Counsel, highlighted the legal implications involved and possible alternatives for implementing the recommendations of the Regional Forestry Commissions and of COFO's endorsement of them. He also drew attention to the Draft Resolution on procedures for the establishment and abolition of Statutory Bodies, which the FAO Council had decided to submit for consideration by the Twentieth Session of the FAO Conference, setting forth additional procedures governing the creation or abolition of subsidiary bodies, principally in order to avoid the proliferation of such bodies.

11. One delegation drew attention to the recommendation concerning "Silva Mediterranea" of the ad hoc meeting in Lisbon (Portugal) on South European countries' prospects and policies in the forest and forest industries sector, convened by the ECE Timber Committee in cooperation with the European Forestry Commission. To meet the strong need for an international body dealing with the special problems of Mediterranean forestry, the meeting had recommended that ways be found to reactivate "Silva Mediterranea", or, failing that, to provide alternative arrangements for the countries concerned to discuss mutual problems and to carry out joint activities. Amongst areas of common interest the following had been cited: forest fire prevention and control; forest management under Mediterranean conditions, including conversion of coppice to high forest, wherever desirable, and other silvicultural problems; production, exploitation, marketing and processing of products specific to Mediterranean forestry (e.g. cork, resin, charcoal, chemical products); cooperation as regards technical and economic problems in the sawwood, wood-based panel and pulp industries. A working group such as "Silva Mediterranea", made up of countries directly concerned with these questions, would appear to be the most suitable forum. Of the possible alternative solutions which could be envisaged within the existing principles and provisions governing the establishment and abolition of FAO Statutory Bodies, as described in document FO:EPC/79/2, Alternative "A"^{1/} appeared the best one for both "Silva Mediterranea" and the Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds; failing which, Alternative "B" ^{1/} might have to be considered as a second choice.

12. Other delegations supported these proposals, stressing the importance of "Silva Mediterranea" to all Mediterranean countries (not only those in the European region) and recalling the contributions made by this body to Mediterranean forestry in the many years of its existence.

13. The Director of the Forest Resources Division drew the attention of the Commission to the legal and financial problems involved in implementing these recommendations. In view of the Draft Resolution referred to in Paragraph 10 above, any change in the legal status of the two bodies would have to overcome considerable difficulties. Therefore, Alternative "A" might be a solution acceptable to all countries as it provided a continuation of both bodies' existing status, with the opportunity being offered to those countries wishing to do so which were not members of the parent bodies or the regions concerned to participate in an observer

^{1/} Reproduced in Appendix E.

capacity. As regards financial resources, the draft Programme of Work and Budget for the coming biennium did not foresee any specific allocation to either body, although FAO would be prepared, subject to the availability of funds, to give technical support to ad hoc activities, that might be arranged among interested countries.

14. The Commission agreed to Alternative "A"; that this decision, as it affects "Silva Mediterranea", be drawn to the attention of the African and Near East Forestry Commissions; and that the Executive Committee of the European Forestry Commission be invited to draft programmes of work of the two bodies in such a way as to avoid the commitment of FAO financial resources in the 1980-81 biennium. In the case of "Silva Mediterranea", this work should be undertaken in consultation with the African Forestry Commission and the Near East Forestry Commission. Resulting proposals should be submitted to the Commission's Twentieth Session.

(c) Matters arising from the Eleventh Session of the Regional Conference for Europe

15. The Commission was informed about the discussions at the Eleventh Session of the Regional Conference for Europe, held in Lisbon, October 1978, on the long-term policy implications of the conclusions of the study "European Timber Trends and Prospects, 1950 to 2000" (FO:EFC/79/3). In response to the Commission's recommendation at its Eighteenth Session, most countries had included forestry specialists in their delegations to the Conference and a very thorough discussion had taken place.

16. The Commission expressed its full support for the findings of the Conference with regard to long-term policy implications for forestry as set out in the Conference Report (ERC/78/Rep., paras. 86-99). It considered that the inclusion of an item on forestry on the Conference's agenda had been a valuable means of bringing forest policy matters to the attention of a wider audience, including national policy-makers. It recommended, therefore, that the Regional Conference for Europe should continue to include an item on forestry on its agenda from time to time.

(d) Relevant activities and programmes of the Forestry Department and Regional Office for Europe

17. The Commission took note of the Secretariat's report (FO:EFC/79/4) on the Forestry Department's long-term goals based on the advice of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and other advisory bodies, and on the decisions of the FAO Council and Conference; its medium-term programme, as submitted to the forthcoming FAO Conference; and the main components proposed in its Programme of Work for the coming biennium 1980-81. In particular, the Commission was informed on the main activities undertaken by the Forestry Department and the Timber Section of the FAO/ECE Agriculture and Timber Division in Geneva and on the various forestry field activities affecting European countries, either as donors or recipients of aid.

18. One delegation pointed out apparent divergencies between the short-term and long-term objectives in the Forestry Department's programme, as presented in the Secretariat Note.

19. In discussing the strategy of the Department, its goals and objectives, the Assistant Director-General referred to the need to reconcile long-term objectives with short-term priorities which respond to changing targets and priorities of the Member Nations, singularly or collectively, as a result of contingencies which reflect their immediate concerns. For this reason COFO had endorsed the Forestry Department's areas of action without assigning priorities and had authorized the Secretariat to establish such priorities. Recent developments in countries' socio-economic setting against which FAO's programmes in forestry should be assessed, as well as recent declarations and resolutions of a number of UN and other international bodies, indicate that some re-ordering of priorities in FAO's forestry programme was urgently required in the shorter term. Specifically, there is need for greater emphasis on activities promoting the production of fuel and charcoal; the contribution of forestry to rural development and employment; and the closer integration of forestry with food production. The Assistant Director-General indicated that in the proposals being submitted to the forthcoming session of COFO, the presentation of the Forestry Department's goals will appear in a more consistent manner reflecting the normal, i.e. long-term, outlook of forestry matters.

ACTIVITIES OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES (Item 3 of the Agenda)

(a) Joint FAO/ECR/ILO Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers

20. The Secretary introduced the report of the Twelfth Session of the Joint FAO/ECR/ILO Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers, held in Sofia (Bulgaria) from 12 to 14 June 1978 (TIM/EFC/WP.1/8). The session was preceded by a study tour (5-7 June 1978) and a seminar on techniques and mechanization of reforestation in mountainous regions (8-10 June 1978). The Commission was also informed of the seminar held in Sekocin (Poland) from 18 to 22 September 1978 on accidents in forest operations and the one held in Nancy (France) from 27 to 31 August 1979 on mechanization and techniques of thinning operations. It expressed warm appreciation to the Governments of Bulgaria, Poland and France for their valuable contribution to the work of the Joint Committee through providing host facilities for these meetings.

21. The Commission endorsed the report of the Joint Committee, including the proposal for the revision of its programme of work based on its modified structure which had been approved by the Commission's Eighteenth Session. The Joint Committee's programme now constitutes nineteen projects sub-divided into three subject areas. Projects are being carried out by means either of seminars hosted by Member Countries or by teams of specialists nominated by their respective countries, in order to reduce demands on the limited resources of its Secretariat.

22. The Commission noted that it was too soon to judge the efficacy of the new structure and methods of work of the Joint Committee. It requested the latter, at its Thirteenth Session scheduled to be held in Madrid (Spain) in May 1980, to review progress in introducing the changes, keeping particularly in mind the need to concentrate on the most important problems and to avoid a dispersion of effort. It also requested the Joint Committee to give further attention to the possibilities and means of transferring the experience and information which it was generating among its Member Countries to other regions, including the presentation of technical material in a form adapted to the needs and conditions of developing countries.

(b) Joint FAO/ECR Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics

23. The Commission considered the report of the Twelfth Session of the Joint FAO/ECR Working Party on Economics and Statistics held from 2 to 6 July 1979 in Geneva, Switzerland (TIM/EFC/WP.2/8). In introducing the report, the Chairman of the Working Party, Mr. E. Glicheroux, drew attention to the progress that had been made in the Working Party on forest resource assessment, forestry labour statistics, classification and definition of forest products, the design of capacity surveys for the wood-based panels and the sawmilling industries, on conversion factors and on forest fire statistics.

24. He drew particular attention to the question of forest resource assessment, including the quantification of the environmental benefits of the forest, on which an ad hoc meeting had been held from 21 to 23 May 1979, in Geneva. That meeting had made recommendations on the broad format to be adopted in the next collection of national forest inventory data by FAO in the 1980s. These recommendations included a format for the assessment of the extent of forest land providing environmental and services functions. Mr. Glicheroux remarked that, though this would constitute a step forward in assessing the environmental benefits of forests, the Working Party considered progress in confronting this subject was still unsatisfactory.

25. In endorsing the report, the Commission supported the recommendations by the Working Party to include in its programme an item on the transfer of economic and statistical methods and experience in the forest and forest products sector to countries in other regions. It also expressed its support for the priorities in the work programme and the inclusion of economic studies such as those proposed on afforestation and wood and energy questions. This would achieve a better balance between the economic and statistical aspects of the Working Party's activities. The Commission also approved the proposal for a number of projects to be carried out by teams of specialists, which should operate with the support of the Secretariat.

26. The Commission welcomed the inclusion of forest fire statistics in the programme.

27. The Commission requested that the Working Party consider an approach to assembling regional information within countries where these would be appropriate to support work of the Commission relating to particular zones, such as the Mediterranean basin.

28. The Secretariat drew the Commission's attention to the increasing difficulty in obtaining timely and complete responses to statistical questionnaires. One possible explanation appeared to be the increasing use of computers in processing internal forestry and forest industry sector data without the development of processing or transfer arrangements to meet international data collection requirements. This may require further consideration by the Working Party.

(c) EFC Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds

29. Mr. S. Munteanu, Chairman of the Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds, gave an account of the activities of the Working Party since the last session of the Commission. Following a preparatory meeting in April 1978, the Twelfth Session had taken place in Rome in September 1978. The 52 participants attending the session had included 20 representatives of EFC Member Countries and 22 observers from non-Member Countries, in addition to representatives of Unesco, the World Bank and FAO (Headquarters and field staff). National progress reports had given extremely useful information, especially from developing countries (including three case studies), and technical, socio-economic and institutional aspects of watershed management had been discussed.

30. The number of participants from all countries, both developed and developing, and their active participation in every aspect, had been an indication of the need for opening the Working Party to a broader participation. In view of the legal and financial implications involved, however, as discussed earlier under "Matters arising from the Fourth Session of the Committee on Forestry" (paras. 10-14 above), the objective envisaged could be achieved with the participation in an observer capacity of countries in other regions that are interested in the work of this Working Party (Alternative "A" of Secretariat Note FO:EFC/79/2, see Appendix E.) In the meantime, ways and means should be studied to enlist the cooperation of specialists from other regions in a joint effort to find more effective measures for dealing with watershed management problems.

31. The Director of the Forest Resources Division thanked the Chairman for the invaluable work which had been accomplished under his dynamic leadership and undertook to give to the Working Party all possible assistance. Meanwhile, he expressed the hope that the activities of the Working Party would continue through collaboration in special meetings sponsored by Member Countries, such as the one to be held in France in 1980.

32. The delegate of France fully supported the suggestions made by the Chairman and confirmed his Government's invitation for a symposium to be held in his country in September or October 1980.

33. The delegations of Austria, Italy and Switzerland praised the Working Party's activities and expressed their keen interest and wish to cooperate as actively as in the past. They also shared the view that the Working Party should continue its work as a subsidiary body of the European Forestry Commission, with the active participation of specialists from other regions.

NATIONAL PROGRESS REPORTS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF FORESTRY (Item 4 of the Agenda)

34. Delegations introduced their written statements, highlighting some of the main forestry developments which have been taking place in recent years. The statements covered a number of subjects of particular concern, namely: recent changes of emphasis introduced or being considered in forest laws or statements of forest policy; long-term studies, including the FAO/ECE European Timber Trends and Prospects, 1950 to 2000 (ETPS III), and their impact on policies and objectives for wood supply; and structures for the administration of the public and private forestry sectors.

35. In addition to the above questions which were considered under the present item of the agenda, other topics covered by the statements and relevant to other items of the agenda were: technical assistance in the forestry field to developing countries; present situation and problems in expanding this service (Item 7(b)); suggestions for future international cooperation in the forestry field within Europe or between Europe and other regions (Item 9); effect of taxation on forest management and wood supply (Item 6 (a)); financing of forestry developments, including government support to private forestry (Item 6 (b)); and the scope for improving the relationship between game management and forest management (Item 6 (c)).

36. The Commission expressed its appreciation for the national reports, which provided a valuable source of information. It considered that the Secretariat Note (FO:EPG/79/5) summarizing the reports, correctly reflected the main areas of concern.

37. Among the matters raised by a large number of countries as being of concern at the present time were:

- (i) the adaptations proposed or already made to forest laws or national forest policy statements to recognize the enhanced importance of the non-wood functions of the forest, even while wood production remains nearly everywhere the primary forestry objective at the national level;
- (ii) measures to ensure adequate protection of the forest from forest fires, insects and diseases. With regard to the latter, the Commission noted the concern of several European countries to put into effect common measures to prevent the introduction of oak wilt disease from North America;
- (iii) the re-emergence of the energy issue, and its major implications for the forestry and forest industry sector;
- (iv) the consideration being given by timber-deficit countries to possible measures to reduce in the long-term, if possible, the extent of their import dependency on forest products. Such measures include afforestation, changes in silvicultural practices, for example the conversion of coppice to high forest, mobilization of the private forestry sector through such means as owner cooperatives, subsidies and the provision of training and extension services.

REVIEW OF FOREST PRODUCTS MARKET DEVELOPMENT (Item 5 of the Agenda)

(a) Current developments and short-term outlook

38. The Commission took note of the "Annual Forest Products Market Review" (Supplement 1, Volume XXXII of the Timber Bulletin for Europe, Geneva, July 1979).

39. The Secretary, in presenting the review, stressed the importance of the development of the economic situation in determining the level of activity in the forest products sector. 1978 had been a year of emergence from the difficult period of 1974-77 with moderate economic growth. In 1979 new perturbing factors had appeared, creating new uncertainties regarding the short to medium-term outlook. Main features of the wood product sector were the recovery to satisfactory levels of production capacity utilization of the pulp and paper industry, constrained growth in production of sawn softwood, excepting Finland and Austria where output is running at record levels in 1979, and continued under-utilisation of wood-based panel industry capacity, though a recovery of the particleboard industry to improved levels of capacity utilisation was achieved in some countries. Due to high costs and a 1978/79 winter season with exceptionally difficult logging conditions, the restricted supply of roundwood had imposed a constraint on production, particularly of sawnwood in some of the main producing areas.

40. Several delegations considered that the review gave a realistic picture of the forest products market in Europe. The delegate for Finland noted the important effect that a marked upturn in production and sales in his country had on the recovery of its total economy. The currently firm sales situation indicated that in a number of countries the level of activity was being maintained as were prices. It was pointed out, however, that the strong markets over the past year for several forest products had arisen partly because of the temporary limitations of supply, noted above, and partly from restocking by consumers and retailers. There was no evidence of any marked upward trend in real consumption in 1979, nor was there likely to be in 1980. Therefore, with elements of the earlier supply/demand imbalance now removed, the 1980 market was being approached with some caution.

41. In the light of the energy situation, significant increases were reported in the demand and market price for fuelwood, and the value of the recovery of this outlet for improved silvicultural treatment, particularly of hardwood stands, was pointed out.

42. Attention was drawn to the effect of changes in the market situation and regulations affecting the export of forest products by tropical countries. This related to the restrictions increasingly being enforced on the export of products where domestic demand had not been satisfied. This manifestation of limited supply in relation to world demand for forest products would tend to lead to increases in prices. It was noted that the objective of the exporting countries was to increase value added within their economies and ensure an optimum contribution to their economic development. It also provided an incentive for investment in their economies by trading partners and an incentive to further utilization of the roundwood harvested and the utilization of lesser known species.

(b) Medium-term trends and prospects in the markets for pulpwood and miscellaneous roundwood, including fuelwood

43. The Secretary presented the "Medium-term Survey of Trends for Pulpwood and other Roundwood" (Supplement 9 to Volume XXXI of the FAO/ECE Timber Bulletin for Europe). After an introductory section on trends in total roundwood supply and demand in the ECE region (Europe, USSR, North America), the survey reviews trends between 1970 and 1977 in the pulpwood sector, the generation of energy from wood and trends for miscellaneous industrial roundwood, concluding with a comparison between actual trends since 1970 with the forecasts in European Timber Trends and Prospects, 1950 to 2000 (ETTS III).

44. After 1973/74, levels of supply and consumption of most assortments of roundwood in Europe declined and in 1977 were still well below record levels, and consequently also well below the ETTS III trendline. In the case of pulpwood particularly, removals had been affected by the post-1974 recession, especially in the Nordic countries, but in contrast use of industrial residues had continued to increase in absolute and relative importance.

45. While wood in its various forms suitable for combustion (fuelwood, industrial residues, pulping liquors) currently contributed only about 1.6 percent to the ECE region's total energy consumption, the survey revealed that about one quarter of all the wood removed in the region is ultimately used as a source of energy. Wood is an important source of energy for the forest industries, accounting for over 25 percent of their energy input. Their self-sufficiency in energy could, if necessary, be considerably increased, but such a step would have consequences for the availability of wood as a raw material for industrial processing.

46. The Commission expressed its appreciation for the Medium-term Survey, stressing its value in monitoring actual trends in the roundwood sector in general and pulpwood in particular in relation to the ETTS III forecasts and hence in providing early warning to planners and policy makers of divergencies from expected developments; and in providing a preliminary overview of the wood/energy relationship which was becoming a key issue for the forestry and forest industry sector.

47. In discussion of the supply outlook for pulpwood the scarcity of pulpwood relative to sawlog sizes was noted by Finland, leading to the higher cost of raw material for the pulp industry. The high cost of harvesting small-sized roundwood resulting in the neglect of early thinnings and the loss of this supply was noted by several countries.

48. France indicated its potential greatly to increase the supply of roundwood, particularly of pulpwood dimensions. Its delegation expressed the wish that data on comparative prices of pulpwood and costs at all stages of pulp and paper manufacture as well as of product prices should be made available for the assessment of the prospects of the pulp and paper industry and the formulation of investment policy for that industry. The work in FAO and ECE on the publication of price statistics, of the FAO Advisory Committee on Pulp and Paper, and of the FAO Pulp and Paper Industry Working Party were noted as examples of particular study material in this area. The activity of the OECD on certain problem areas in the pulp and paper sector was also mentioned.

49. In considering the section of the survey concerned with energy from wood, the Commission noted that the increase in the price of fuelwood must have consequences for the supply of pulpwood. The French delegation reported an under-estimate of fuelwood consumption in his country of around 5 million m³ due to the omission from the reported statistics of fuelwood consumed by forest owners and not entering the market. The Commission stressed the importance of realistic estimates of actual consumption if the role of wood as an energy source was to be satisfactorily assessed.

50. The Commission stressed the importance of assessing the contribution and potential contribution of wood in its various forms to total energy consumption. This lay in the fact of its being a renewable resource with a particular potential in meeting the energy requirements of the forest industries themselves.

51. The Commission considered that research on energy from wood needed to be intensified. The information that IUFRO had introduced a multi-disciplinary research project on the subject was therefore welcomed. It noted that the International Atomic Energy Agency had commissioned a project on logging and transport techniques for fuelwood, headed by Professor P.O. Nilson of Sweden.

52. In concluding the discussion of this agenda item, the Commission stressed the importance of international studies of trends and outlook for forest products which were of great value to individual countries in the development of national strategies and policies for the sector. The Commission urged that FAO maintain its endeavours in this field.

IN-SESSION SEMINARS (Item 6 of the Agenda)

(a) Effect of taxation on forest management and wood supply

53. The Commission discussed the effects of taxation on forest management and roundwood supply on the basis of findings of the Twelfth Session of the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics and the preliminary report of a consultant, Mr. Cyril Hart, (FO:EFC/79/6) which he presented to the Commission. Mr. Hart also made a full text in English available to delegations during the session.

54. In his presentation, Mr. Hart reiterated the objective which he had pursued in preparing the report which was: to identify the main forms of taxation relating to forestry activity in each country of the region, to make a judgemental assessment of the likely effects of these taxes on the forest management and the harvesting policy which a rational private woodland owner would adopt and to make recommendations on changes in taxation which would better reinforce major tenets of forest policy.

55. The Commission expressed its thanks to Mr. Hart for his work in preparing this valuable report which was seen as an extremely valuable reference and basic source of information on the tax systems relating to forestry in the region.

56. In general, the Commission agreed that it was desirable that the tax system should support national forest policy. It recognized that this could be achieved only in so far as there is no conflict between what would be ideal for forestry and the general principles and policies adopted in national taxation systems. Specific subsidies also provide an effective means of supporting forest policies and subsidies and taxation should be carefully harmonised to ensure that their combination is not counter productive.

57. The judgements about the effect of various taxes in individual countries were noted with great interest. The point was made that the relation between tax and action would be seen in different ways by the individual taxpayer, the tax expert and the government official; also that the individual situation of the taxpayer may lead to a variation in reaction to taxes to which he may be liable. In general, the Commission considered that the report constituted an invaluable reference to be consulted by forestry and fiscal authorities concerned with revision of tax systems and in the consideration of harmonization of taxes between countries.

58. The Commission emphasized that the type of fiscal or financial support given to agriculture and forestry was of great importance in determining the ability of forestry to perform its timber production, conservation and environmental roles, particularly in relation to the availability of land for forestry activity. The Commission recommended that this be a subject for its further consideration.

59. The suggestions for revision of the report in relation to a number of countries were noted. The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Economics and Statistics that the report prepared by Mr. Hart be revised and completed as soon as possible and published. Accordingly, countries should be invited to forward any further supplementary information, corrections or comments to Mr. T.J. Peck, Joint ECE/FAO Agriculture and Timber Division, Palais des Nations, CH 1211 Geneva 10, by the end of 1979.

(b) Financing of forestry developments, including government support to private forestry

60. The Secretariat Note (FO/EPC/79/7) served as the basis for the work of the Seminar organized by the Commission on Financing of Forestry Development, including government support to private forestry.

61. The need, among others, to ensure an adequate raw material supply in the future to forest industries has led national forestry authorities to attach increasing importance to the levels and mechanisms governing financing of the forestry sector. The role of the private forestry sector in this context, in particular, is the subject of special attention and the need to grant it the benefits of financial or fiscal assistance at least equal to that given to farmers has already been stressed. The aim of this concern is to ensure that the investments necessary for future supplies are made appropriately. Investments in forest industries are not included in this connection.

62. The present amount of investments for forestry development in the European region is known only in parts: the level per hectare of productive forest varies considerably from one country to another; on the other hand, the way investments are distributed among the different functions or activities of the forestry sector are usually not known.

63. While in many countries the investments needed to ensure future supplies at levels higher than those at present are already being evaluated, the importance of having a regular flow of data on investment levels in the forestry sector, and their evolution, has been stressed. Since the region will continue to depend partly on outside supplies, it would be desirable to have data on investment levels in the forestry sector not only in Europe but also in the rest of the world if possible.

64. The conditions the forestry sector offers to financing play an important role influenced not only by the intrinsic conditions of forestry activities, but also the interventions 'OF' or 'IN' fiscal type or in the form of assistance designed to make them more attractive. In this connection it has been pointed out that little is known regarding the extent to which aids such as subsidies can change and improve investment decisions in favour of the forestry sector. It has also been emphasized that the analysis of forestry investment results should be set in the broader context of forestry activity and, in particular, in the evolution of its results over a sufficiently long period.

65. State aid has an important role to play, not only to encourage an adequate volume of investments in the private sector but, at the same time, also to improve the conditions of its management and productivity. In view of the particular features of this sector, assistance of a financial character should be combined with measures designed to improve the technical level of operations and ensure the continuity of their impact.

66. The Commission supported the recommendation that it, and in particular, its subsidiary body, the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, examine the specific nature of the follow-up to be given to these operations and to the data which would be desirable concerning financing of the forestry sector. The follow-up should concern mainly a study of the nature and collection of data with a view to the evaluation and continuity of investment levels in the forestry sector, and an examination of the impact of subsidies and financial assistance methods on investment decisions.

(c) The scope for improving the relationship between game management and forest management

67. Mr. C. Giuraud, FAO Consultant, introduced the Secretariat Note on this topic (FO:EFC/79/8). The paper dealt essentially with the economic and ecological problems which need to be resolved to achieve better harmony between the needs of hunting and silviculture.

68. In accordance with the recommendation of the Eighteenth Session of the Commission to invite other organizations concerned with hunting, the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) and the Federation of the Hunting Associations of the EEC (FACE) were represented as observers and submitted papers on the disadvantages of over-browsing for wildlife conservation and land management and on the subject of silviculture, recreational interests and game management. The delegations of Austria and the Federal Republic of Germany also submitted papers on the topic of the seminar.

69. In the discussion that followed, delegates commented favourably on the quality and comprehensiveness of the papers and stressed that the seminar was a further step in the process of dealing with a subject important to European forestry. It was pointed out that game management was a complex problem since it included ecological as well as economic considerations, coupled also with cultural and historical aspects, and as such represented an emotional subject. Hence, solutions had to be found not only in various silvicultural techniques, but particularly also by applying appropriate psychological and political approaches. On the one hand, it was necessary to improve public awareness of the ecological and other issues involved in forest management and game conservation; on the other, given the seriousness of the game population problem in several countries and its detrimental effect on the forest, it was becoming urgent for the resource managers to be provided with the requisite political support for the necessary corrective measures to be introduced. In fact, the game population problem seemed to have deteriorated in some countries even in the two years since the Commission's last session. At the moment, the only effective means of controlling population densities was by introducing hunting plans, which set both the maximum and the minimum numbers of game which could be shot annually.

70. Many of the problems required further research, and the Commission recommended that countries extend their research efforts in the field of wildlife and game management. In many cases, however, the initiation of practical steps to alleviate the game population problem could not be delayed until research results became available.

71. Many delegations pointed out that wildlife forms an integral part of the forest ecosystem and was thus automatically one of the concerns of forest management. Much depended, however, on the management objectives of the individual forest as to how much emphasis should be allocated to game. One delegation remarked upon the inter-relationship between game management and forest recreation, and suggested that this might be a topic for further deliberation by the Commission.

72. The Commission extended its deep appreciation to Mr. Guiraud, as well as to the observers from CIC and FACE and the delegations of Austria and the Federal Republic of Germany, for their most interesting papers.

INTER-REGIONAL RELATIONS (Item 7 of the Agenda)

(a) Mediterranean forestry problems

73. The Commission was informed of the outcome of the ad hoc meeting on South European countries' prospects and policies in the forestry and forest industry sector, held in Lisbon (Portugal) from 19 to 21 September 1979. The report of the meeting would be presented to the EC/E Timber Committee, under whose auspices it had been held in cooperation with the Commission.

74. Several delegations, in commenting favourably on the positive outcome of the meeting, considered that it had clearly demonstrated the need for a body where the wide range of Mediterranean forestry and forest industry matters could be discussed and which could provide coordination of international activities.

75. Apart from its recommendation with regard to the reactivation of "Silva Mediterranea", the meeting had formulated a number of recommendations to the Timber Committee for possible future activities at the international level in the forestry and forest industry field. In reiterating its own recommendation regarding the reactivation of "Silva Mediterranea" (see para. 11 above), the Commission agreed that its Executive Committee, when acting upon its proposals in para. 14 relating to the drafting of a programme for that body, should take fully into account the Timber Committee's intended follow-up activities to the meeting's recommendations. Furthermore, in the preparation of this programme, the Executive Committee should give high priority to promoting effective international collaboration in the prevention and control of forest fires in the Mediterranean region, the importance of which had been underlined by the meeting. The Commission requested its Secretariat to draw the Timber Committee's attention to its own plans with regard to Mediterranean forestry.

(b) Opportunities and problems faced by national administrations in providing technical assistance to other countries

76. The Commission considered the opportunities and problems encountered by national administrations in providing technical assistance to other countries on the basis of Secretariat Note FO:EFC/79/9 and papers presented by the delegations of Switzerland and the Federal Republic of Germany. Several delegations outlined the philosophy underlying their technical cooperation, problems encountered in its implementation which are predominantly linked with the human element, and the obvious opportunities foreign service afforded their technicians in broadening their experience and outlook.

77. The specialist recruited for international service must be of a high professional standard and integrity and possess personal and language qualifications enabling him to adjust to different living and working conditions. The problem may arise, however, that for career or personal considerations, he may not always be available, or in any case not at short notice, because of competitive needs in his home country.

78. Various possibilities of facilitating the recruitment process were considered. For example, Sweden indicated the need for a systematic and professional approach, which it believed it had met by forming a state-operated consultancy firm charged amongst other things, with the procurement of qualified manpower and the carrying out of overseas technical cooperation programmes. It was suggested that other countries could usefully give consideration to arrangements of a similar type. Some of the problems encountered in the timely implementation of technical operations projects require attention by the recipient as well as the donor countries and the Commission recommended that the Committee on Forestry should convene a small group of experts, with representatives from both recipient and donor countries to examine the question in more depth and to come forward with suggestions for improvements.

79. The Commission underlined the continuing need for technical cooperation in the field of forestry and forest industries and the willingness on the part of European forestry administrations to maintain and, where possible, increase their contribution to development in their role of donors of such assistance on a bilateral and multilateral basis.

(c) Prospects for inter-regional trade in forest products and their influence on national forest policies in Europe

80. The Chief of the Policy and Planning Service, in introducing the Secretariat paper (FO:EFC/79/10), drew attention to the Joint FAO/ECE Study on "European Timber Trends and Prospects, 1950 to 2000", the summary FAO World Study, presented to the Fourth Session of the Committee on Forestry, "Development and Investment in the Forestry Sector" (FO:COFO/78/2) and a more detailed world appraisal undertaken by a Working Party of forestry and forest industry experts of the FAO Pulp and Paper Advisory Committee.

81. He referred particularly to the development of consumption, production and trade balances that had been developed by this Working Party and which implied somewhat lower levels of future consumption, production and trade than earlier studies. He also stressed the growing tendency in developing countries towards domestic processing, in place of the export of unprocessed raw material, and their increasing domestic consumption, a contribution to the New International Economic Order that could be furthered through investment and technical cooperation of Member Countries of the Commission. He indicated the possibility of a tightening supply situation for softwood over the long term due to ultimate limitations of accessible resources in North America and the USSR, which suggested the need for action either to establish additional softwood resources or to make fuller use of hardwoods. The conclusion was that European forestry will have to consider its appropriate role on the basis of a continuing monitoring of a complex of economic and social factors determining the degree to which the region's dependence on imports should be offset by investment in domestic production.

82. In giving full credit to Crown Zellerbach Corporation for their leadership in the Industry Working Party and the assembly of the study, the Chief of the Policy and Planning Service indicated that its eventual publication would follow review by participants in the project and would be accompanied by a preamble discussing the basis for its findings and certain reservations about the results.

83. The Commission indicated the importance which forest administrations and others attached to this type of study and the urgency of making it available to countries so that the work is fully utilized in national planning for the sector. In the course of discussion, it was pointed out that the shortfall in supply relative to the projected consumption levels that would be shown from correlation with expected economic growth implied a higher rate of increase of real prices for forest products than had occurred in recent decades.

OTHER INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF FORESTRY RELEVANT TO THE EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION (item 8 of the Agenda)

(a) Eighth World Forestry Congress

84. The Commission heard a report from the Congress Associate Secretary-General on the organization in Jakarta of the Eighth World Forestry Congress by the Government of Indonesia. It commended the way in which the Congress had been conceived and conducted, and especially the innovative approach in which the role of forestry in rural development in general, and in local community development in particular, had been discussed. Satisfaction was expressed at the fact that, after consideration by the FAO Council, the "Jakarta Declaration" will be submitted for discussion by the FAO Conference in November 1979.

85. It was noted that for the first time in the history of world forestry congresses, IUFRO had been closely involved in the preparations and conduct of the Congress. It was agreed that this could usefully be repeated for future world forestry congresses.

86. In order to enable small delegations to follow as much of the congress proceedings as possible, the opinion was expressed that an attempt should be made in future to limit the number of "satellite meetings".

87. The Commission noted with appreciation that national meetings had been organized in Italy and Spain to discuss the implications of the Jakarta Declaration for national forest policies. The hope was expressed that other countries, members of the Commission, would follow suit.

88. The Commission also expressed the hope that it would be afforded an opportunity at its next session to offer suggestions on the theme and programme of the Ninth World Forestry Congress, due to be held in 1984.

(b) Other international bodies

89. Representatives of the Timber Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the European Economic Community and the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations presented statements on their respective organizations' activities.

90. Mr. A. Froncillo, Vice-Chairman of the Timber Committee, reminded delegations of the long-standing and fruitful links between his Committee and the Commission. He described the former's main activities, among which the findings of the Symposium, held jointly with the ECE Committee on Agricultural Problems in Warsaw (Poland) from 20 to 24 August 1979 on the effects of air-pollution on vegetation, appeared to be of particular interest to Member Countries of the Commission.

91. Mr. Froncillo informed the Commission of the wish expressed by the office-holders of the Committee that the collaboration between the two bodies be extended, which would require closer consultations between them in the elaboration of their respective programmes.

92. He transmitted the office-holders' suggestion that another Joint Timber Committee/ European Forestry Commission session be held (the previous one having been in 1975) at the time when the interim review of European Timber Trends and Prospects 1950 to 2000 is ready for consideration, perhaps in 1983.

93. Mr. F.C. Hummel, Director of the Forestry and Environment Division, Commission of the European Community, described the Community's activities with regard to forest policy; the Council Regulation establishing a common measure for forestry in certain Mediterranean zones of the Community; studies and research; plant health; and hunting. He also drew attention to the renaming of his Division to "Forestry and Environment Division" as from January 1979, when it was given certain environmental responsibilities in the Commission's Directorate General of Agriculture.

94. Mr. Hummel expressed satisfaction with the collaboration that existed in various forestry activities between the EEC and FAO.

95. Mr. A. de Philippis, Representative of IUFRO, confirmed the willingness of his Organization to collaborate with FAO. IUFRO was ready to take into consideration recommendations of FAO bodies concerned with forestry research. In this connection, he noted the recommendations of the ad hoc meeting on South European countries' prospects and policies in the forestry and forest industry sector regarding the need for further research on Mediterranean forestry problems and the reactivation of "Silva Mediterranea". He stressed the need for a forum where practising foresters and researchers could meet to discuss common problems and considered that such a body should be within the FAO framework.

LONG-TERM PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION (Item 9 of the Agenda)

96. The Commission considered its long-term programme of work (1980-1984) on the basis of Secretariat Note FOA/FC/79/12.

97. With regard to the general principles relating to the carrying out of the programme, the Commission agreed to design its projects, wherever possible, in such a way as to allow its Member Countries to take a more direct role, for instance by hosting meetings, which included accepting the financial obligations involved, and by nominating experts to join study groups or teams of specialists. It noted with satisfaction that its subsidiary bodies had already taken steps in that direction.

98. Considering further its request to the Joint FAO/EC/EILO Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers to give further attention to the possibilities and means of transferring experience and information to developing countries (see para. 22), the Commission suggested that this could be examined in detail at its Thirteenth Session in May 1980, which should formulate proposals which the Commission's Executive Committee should review and transmit to the Fifth Session of COFO scheduled to meet at the end of that month. Amongst other things, the Joint Committee would need to explore the possibilities of overcoming the problem of finding outside the Secretariat the additional manpower that would be needed.

99. The Commission endorsed the organization of a symposium in France in 1980 under the auspices of the Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds dealing with the relationship between the management of mountain watersheds and the management of the forests in these areas; and the proposal for holding the Thirteenth Session of the Working Party itself in 1982.

100. The Commission proposed the convening of a session of "Silva Mediterranea" during the 1982-83 biennium.

101. The Commission invited countries to come forward with offers of host facilities for the above two meetings, which should be forwarded to its Secretariat. It accepted with gratitude the offer of Portugal to host the Joint Committee's seminar in 1983 on forest fire prevention and control (aspects of particular relevance to dry zones).

102. The Commission invited its Executive Committee, which should meet in the course of 1980, to give consideration to possible modifications to its programme of work, including methods of carrying it out, on the basis of comments by countries in their national progress reports and of document FO:EPG/79/12, and to submit proposals to its Twentieth Session. The Executive Committee should also draw up the programme for that session, and set in train with its Secretariat the necessary arrangements.

103. The Commission adopted its programme of work for 1980-1984 as set out in Appendix F.

MATTERS TO BE REFERRED TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY (Item 10 of the Agenda)

104. The Commission listed the following matters which it had dealt with during its Nineteenth Session and which it considered should be drawn to the attention of COFO:

- (1) The Commission was informed that the proposal of its Eighteenth Session that FAO's publication on "Forest Policy, Law and Administration" be up-dated had not been pursued for lack of resources. Nor had it been possible, for the same reason, to convene a meeting to determine the scope of possible research activities on tropical forest soils (para. 9).
- (2) The Commission agreed to the formula set out as Alternative "A" in Secretariat Note FO:EPG/79/2 for the future organization of the AFG/EPG/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - "Silva Mediterranea" and that this decision be drawn to the attention of the African and Near East Forestry Commissions (para. 14). The Commission proposed the convening of a session of "Silva Mediterranea" during the 1982-83 biennium (para. 100).

- (3) The Commission also agreed to Alternative "A" for the future organization of the Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds (para. 14). The Commission endorsed the proposal for holding the Thirteenth Session of the Working Party in 1982 (para. 99).
- (4) The Commission recommended that the Regional Conference for Europe continue to include an item on Forestry on its agenda from time to time (para. 16).
- (5) The Commission recommended that COFO should convene a small group of experts, with representatives from recipient and donor countries, to examine the opportunities and problems of undertaking technical cooperation at the international level and to come forward with proposals for improvements (para. 78).
- (6) The Commission indicated the importance which forest administrations and others attach to studies of long-term trends and prospects; and the urgency of making the world appraisal undertaken by a Working Party of forestry and forest industry experts of the FAO Pulp and Paper Advisory Committee available to countries so that the work is fully utilized in national planning for the sector (para. 83).
- (7) The Commission adopted its programme of work for 1980-1984 (para. 103 and Appendix F).

OTHER BUSINESS (Item 11 of the Agenda)

Forestry and school forests booklet for school children in developing countries

105. The Commission was informed that, as part of the United Nations Year of the Child, the technical departments of FAO had been asked to submit projects for the benefit of children and young people in developing countries. The Forestry Department's contribution was the preparation of a manuscript for a booklet for teachers of children of ten to fourteen years old in developing countries to encourage the teaching of the basics of forestry combined with the creation of school forests. The booklet would not be published by FAO, but the text would be given to developing countries interested in publishing it themselves, with their own art work, layout and printing. The Department felt that it should from the start be a cultural tool that was culturally acceptable.

106. European countries might already have experience with such projects either at home or in their bilateral aid programmes, and FAO would like to have samples of what has already been produced. These would be of assistance to the consultant hired to write the text and to the governments to which FAO is proposing this project. The Commission invited Member Countries to send such material as soon as possible to the coordinator of the project: the Editor, UNASYLVA, Room B.528, Forestry Department, FAO, 00100 Rome.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION (Item 12 of the Agenda)

107. The Commission agreed to hold its Twentieth Session either late in 1981 or early in 1982, the precise dates to be arranged by the Executive Committee in consultation with the Secretariat.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Item 13 of the Agenda)

108. The Commission elected Mr. V. Benvenuti (Italy) Chairman; and Mr. E. Falk (Sweden), Mr. W. Strzelecki (Poland) and Mr. E. Plattner (Austria) Vice-Chairmen. It expressed its gratitude to the out-going Acting Chairman, Mr. A.W. Duggan (Ireland) and Vice-Chairman, Mr. J.C. Velez (Portugal) for their services to the Commission during their terms of office.

ADOPTION OF REPORT (Item 14 of the Agenda)

109. The draft report, presented by the Secretariat, was adopted with some modifications which have been incorporated in the present document.

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Position reports
 - (a) Follow-up to recommendations arising from the Eighteenth Session of the European Forestry Commission
 - (b) Matters arising from the Fourth Session of the Committee on Forestry
 - (c) Matters arising from the Eleventh Session of the Regional Conference for Europe
 - (d) Relevant activities and programmes of the FAO Forestry Department and Regional Office for Europe
3. Activities of subsidiary bodies
 - (a) Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers
 - (b) Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics
 - (c) EFC Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds
4. National progress reports on the development of forestry
5. Review of forest products market developments
 - (a) Current developments and short-term outlook
 - (b) Medium-term trends and prospects in the markets for pulpwood and miscellaneous roundwood, including fuelwood
6. In-session seminars
 - (a) Effect of taxation on forest management and wood supply
 - (b) Financing of forestry developments, including government support to private forestry
 - (c) The scope for improving the relationship between game management and forest management
7. Inter-regional relations
 - (a) Mediterranean forestry problems
 - (b) Opportunities and problems faced by national administrations in providing technical assistance to other countries
 - (c) Prospects for inter-regional trade in forest products and their influence on national forest policies in Europe

8. Other international activities in the field of forestry relevant to the European Forestry Commission
 - (a) Eighth World Forestry Congress
 - (b) Other international bodies
9. Long-term programme of work of the European Forestry Commission
10. Matters to be referred to the attention of the Committee on Forestry
11. Other business
12. Date and place of next session
13. Election of officers
14. Adoption of report

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LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS
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LIST OF DOCUMENTS

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Title</u>
1	FO:EFC/79/1	Provisional Agenda
2(b)	FO:EFC/79/2	Matters arising from the Fourth Session of the Committee on Forestry
2(c)	FO:EFC/79/3	Matters arising from the Eleventh Session of the Regional Conference for Europe
2(d)	FO:EFC/79/4	Relevant activities and programmes of the Forestry Department and Regional Office for Europe
4	FO:EFC/79/5	National progress reports on the development of forestry
6(a)	FO:EFC/79/6	IN-SESSION SEMINAR: Effect of taxation on forest management and roundwood supply
6(b)	FO:EFC/79/7	IN-SESSION SEMINAR: Financing of forestry developments, including government support to private forestry
6(c)	FO:EFC/79/8	IN-SESSION SEMINAR: The scope for improving the relationship between game management and forest management
7(b)	FO:EFC/79/9	Opportunities and problems faced by national administrations in providing technical assistance to other countries
	FO:EFC/79/9 Add. 1	Switzerland's contribution to international development cooperation in the forestry sector
7(c)	FO:EFC/79/10	Prospects for inter-regional trade in forest products and their influence on national forest policies in Europe
8(a)	FO:EFC/79/11	Eighth World Forestry Congress
9	FO:EFC/79/12	Long-term programme of work of the European Forestry Commission

Information Documents

FO:EFC/79/Inf.1	General Information
FO:EFC/79/Inf.2	Annotated Provisional Agenda
FO:EFC/79/Inf.3	Provisional Timetable
FO:EFC/79/Inf.4	List of Documents
FO:EFC/79/Inf.5	List of Participants

	<u>Code</u>	<u>Title</u>
	<u>Background Documents</u>	
2(a)	FO/EFC/77/Rep.	Report of the Eighteenth Session of the European Forestry Commission
2(c)	EFC/78/3	Long-term policy implications of the conclusions of the study "European Timber Trends and Prospects, 1950 to 2000"
3(a)	TII/EFC/WP.1/8	Report of the Twelfth Session of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers
3(b)	TII/EFC/WP.2/8	Report of the Twelfth Session of the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics
3(c)		Report of the Twelfth Session of the EFC Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds
5(a)	Supplement 1 to Vol. XXXII of the Timber Bulletin for Europe	Annual Forest Products Market Review (referring to 1978 and the early months of 1979)
5(b)	Supplement 9 to Vol. XXXI of the Timber Bulletin for Europe	Medium-term Survey of Trends for Pulpwood and other Roundwood - Parts I and II
6(a)		The disadvantages of over-browsing for wildlife conservation and land management - Contribution by the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation, Paris
6(a)		Silviculture, recreational interests and game management - Contribution by the Federation of the Hunting Associations of the EEC (F.A.C.E.), Paris
6(c)		The scope for improving the relationship between game management and forest management - Contribution by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Austria
6(c)		The scope for improving the relationship between game management and forest management - Contribution by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany
8(b)		Forestry activities of the European Economic Community (EEC) - Contribution by the Forestry and Environment Division, Commission of the European Community, Brussels

National Progress Reports from:

Austria
Belgium
Cyprus
Denmark
France
Germany, Federal Republic of
Hungary
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Luxembourg
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom
Yugoslavia

OPENING ADDRESS

by

Dr. M.A. Flores Rodas
Assistant Director-General
Forestry Department
FAO

Mr. Chairman, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Director-General of FAO, I have the great pleasure of welcoming you to the Nineteenth Session of the European Forestry Commission. Your agenda is filled with rich and varied items of both regional and world-wide importance. The experience and sincere concern with forestry activities which characterizes all of you will, I am sure, lead you to make effective use of this rich and abundant subject matter for intellectual nourishment and stimulation of the forestry sector of Europe and of the world.

Europe has been the cradle of forestry management which, spreading throughout the world, expanding, changing and developing, has evolved in step with different ecological, economic and social conditions. Often it has proved equal to its task, but at other times it seems to have failed, or at least to have lost sight of its original objectives. In some instances it has conflicted with other land use disciplines; in other cases it has cooperated with them, sometimes changing its name or concealing itself under an alias. Increasingly numerous new or intensified world forces have made it imperative that forest management be both flexible and dynamic in the fulfilment of its role in improving the use of the world's forest for long-term human welfare.

Your joint study with the Timber Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe, known as "European Timber Trends and Prospects 1950-2000", and other analyses of world-wide scope sponsored by the industry, including the world forest products outlook, and the contributions by FAO to the study for "Agriculture Towards 2000" clearly point to the increasing contributions which forestry management will have to make in Europe in order to meet the constantly growing use of forest products in this region. Nevertheless, even on an assumption of slow economic growth in the western world, this Region will have to increase its imports from other parts of the globe. Certain aspects of this question will be examined in one of the items on your agenda. It should be stressed that the constantly increasing domestic consumption by many of the traditional exporting areas and the tendencies toward more processing at the source will have a considerable impact on the nature and quantity of available supplies.

In this context, FAO is collaborating very closely with UNCTAD in its Integrated Programme for Commodities, which includes tropical timber that has always constituted a large part of Europe's wood supply. These tropical woods are often complementary rather than competitive with those of the temperate area. Therefore, the Region has a strong interest in assuring a constant flow of these tropical woods and in encouraging a fuller utilisation of a larger number of species and qualities for different purposes including pulp production.

The supply of tropical wood is necessarily associated with public concern regarding the environment in view of the clearly alarming rate of decrease of the tropical forest cover. Although forest utilization practices may have caused considerable degradation of natural forests, usually it is the expansion of agricultural activity in the form of deep ploughing or shifting cultivation which has made the largest inroads in tropical forest areas. However, recent studies by FAO indicate that the present net rate of dense tropical forest losses is only between seven and eight million hectares per year, or an annual rate of 0.7 percent, although this usually occurs in the more accessible areas having better soils. These operations reduce wood output for both local and world markets.

Nor is Europe free from environmental problems. The demand for recreational services and forest exploitations other than wood output can increasingly reduce the latter production, limiting the flexibility and even the profitability of private and state forest management having wood supply as its main objective. You will be examining this question when you analyze the relationships between wildlife management and forestry administration.

The acute and constantly growing concern with energy as a world problem is having a continuing impact and implications for forestry and forest industries. The traditional value of wood as fuel is once more acquiring importance as energy sources are becoming more limited and costly, thus giving rise to more use of wood for energy. In many cases lower quality or smaller size wood can be destined economically for this purpose. In Europe and other areas now using most of the available wood for industrial purposes, there could be pressures to reverse the traditional tendency of using less wood for firewood and more for pulpwood. However, we must recall that, assuming that all European wood being used industrially today were converted to energy, it would meet only one tenth of the Region's energy requirements. Nevertheless, the use of wood as fuel can often be feasible in particular local circumstances.

The growing need for wood-fibre will hasten the exploitation of Europe's unused wood resource potential in countries such as France, the United Kingdom and Yugoslavia, and in the long term will stimulate more intensive forest management in other areas, the nordic countries in particular. Europe has many institutional limitations on its forest management, and in this connection you will be discussing questions related to taxation and financing.

Many of you were present at the World Forestry Congress held in Jakarta last October where the theme "Forestry for People" was explored in considerable depth.

That Congress confirmed that the forestry profession and administrations must devote greater efforts henceforward to the welfare of those living in and near forests who have frequently been ignored or injured by the development of the forest industry. This will often require the technical knowledge and contribution of specialists outside the conventional field of competence of foresters. I regard this important development not as an abandonment of the forest and its management, leaving it to others, but as a desirable broadening of this forest management to encompass a whole series of relevant socio-economic relationships which have been evolving in a changing world and which may have been temporarily neglected in the concern with new sources of wood supply. Europe, with its mountain areas, particularly in its southern regions, cannot be indifferent to these problems.

FAO policy, obeying the wishes of all its member countries, is being directed more and more toward assistance to developing countries in their socio-economic struggle for improved well-being. While fully recognizing its responsibility to provide secretariat services in the fields of its competence, including forestry, FAO will be obliged to devote

fewer and fewer resources to the activities of the more developed countries. Moreover, I observe with satisfaction that those countries are depending more and more on their own resources to carry out their regional forestry programmes. Within its constitutional framework, the North American Forestry Commission operates mainly with its own facilities receiving only formal support from the Organization, for example to issue invitations and publish reports. Your Commission likewise has been moving rapidly in the same direction. Your secretariat services are provided primarily by the Joint ECE/FAO Agriculture and Timber Division. The dynamic activities of the FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers and the FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics depend mainly on the ECE offices from which they receive substantial support. The excellent cooperation of the ECE Timber Committee must be gratefully acknowledged.

The Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds has been operating for 27 years, largely thanks to the efforts of the members of this Commission. I am sure that in the course of this meeting you will devote some time to a discussion of these matters.

Not only have the European countries accepted a growing responsibility in forestry matters within their own region but they have directly and indirectly supported FAO in its primary function of action on behalf of the developing countries. These countries have always been welcomed as observers at your technical meetings whose work ranges from the development of classifications and definitions to utilization techniques, matters which benefit all countries. As an example I might mention the publications on "Forest Products Prices", initially pioneered and published by the FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, which has now become a world-wide data series constituting one of FAO's leading annual publications.

The European member countries have continually supplied technical experts for FAO's field projects and have provided both bilateral and multilateral financing through their own regional groups and, in particular, through FAO for major forestry programmes in the developing regions and countries.

We must also recognize that there are countries or parts of countries in Europe itself where certain forestry activities still need further development and FAO is playing its role of cooperation in several of them.

I have already been speaking for some time and I know that you must feel that a full agenda is right away. Nevertheless, I do not wish to conclude without stressing that the problems being felt today all over the world due to the population increase, the expanding demand for forest products, the ever tightening supply of energy-producing resources and the degradation of the environment (largely due to pressure on forests) need being about a rapid evolution, or possibly a revolution, in forest management if we are to be equal to our responsibility as foresters. This new concept of forest management must certainly be based on sound biological and economic knowledge and principles, but it must be broadened to take much greater account of the social benefits and costs of this highly complex world of ours.

The Forestry Department of FAO is confident that in our common reliance on the experience, imagination and energy of the foresters of ancient Europe, the skills and spirit of so many civilizations, in order that it may fulfill its proper function in this necessary evolution of world-wide forest management.

Thank you.

APPENDIX E

EXTRACTS FROM DOCUMENT FO/EFC/79/2 SETTING OUT ALTERNATIVES "A"
AND "B" FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF SILVA MEDITERRANEA AND THE
WORKING PARTY ON THE MANAGEMENT OF MOUNTAIN WATERSHEDS

"POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE WISHES OF THE
FORESTRY COMMISSIONS IN THE LIGHT OF COFO'S RECOMMENDATIONS

6. The following possible alternative solutions could be envisaged within the existing principles and provisions governing the establishment and abolition of FAO statutory bodies.

(1) Silva Mediterranea (SCM)^{1/}

Alternative "A": In accordance with paragraph 2 of the revised Statutes of the SCM, and Rule I of its Rules of Procedure, membership of this joint body which was established by the three Forestry Commissions as a joint subsidiary body, is open to all Member Nations and Associate Members of the African, European and Near East Forestry Commissions. If the question of "broader participation" were to be considered, this could mean participation of (i) countries situated in one of the three regions that were not members of any of the parent bodies and (ii) countries belonging to other regions. Such participation would be possible under the relevant provisions of the Statutes and Rules of Procedure of SCM, since paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Statutes and Rule VII, paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of the Rules of Procedure provide for attendance at meetings by non-members in an observer capacity in accordance with the provisions approved by the Conference relating to the granting of observer status in respect of Nations.^{2/} Thus, the structure and present composition of the SCM could remain unchanged, and countries which were not members of the AFC, EFC or NEFC, but which were interested in Mediterranean forestry problems might continue, if they so desired, to be invited to participate in the work of the SCM as observers. It should be noted, however, that the Basic Texts do not specifically provide for the establishment of joint subsidiary bodies of Regional Commissions set up under Art. VI. 1 and that reporting to three different bodies might give rise to some procedural or practical problems.

Alternative "B": Reconstitution of the SCM as a Committee of selected Member Nations under Article VI, paragraph 2 of the Constitution, grouping all countries possessing the same "Silva Mediterranea" characteristics. In this case the SCM, as a joint subsidiary body of the African, European and Near East Forestry Commissions, would have to be abolished by its parent Commissions, and a Resolution would have to be adopted by the Conference or Council establishing the new Committee or authorizing the Director-General to do so. Thus, entirely new statutes and, if considered necessary, rules of procedure, could be drawn up for the SCM if it were reconstituted as a Committee under Article VI. 2 of the Constitution.

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^{1/} Secretariat Note: The full title is the AFC/EFC/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - "Silva Mediterranea"

^{2/} Basic Texts, 1978 edition, Section L

(10) EFC Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds

Alternative "A": The European Forestry Commission which was established under Article VI, paragraph 1 of the Constitution is a regional Commission and as such is open to all Member Nations whose territories are situated wholly or partly in the European Region. Under Rule IX, paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Rules of Procedure of EFC, the Commission may establish subsidiary bodies the membership of which shall comprise such Members of EFC as have notified the Director-General of their desire to be considered as members of these bodies; or shall consist of selected Members of the Commission as determined by EFC, or of individuals appointed in their personal capacity. Since the European Forestry Commission is a regional Commission established under Article VI. 1 of the Constitution, the decision of the EFC that "membership of the Working Party be extended to include developing countries" would appear to be intended to make membership in its Working Party wider than that of the Commission itself. This would not be constitutionally permissible since it would be inconsistent with the regional character of the Commission. Such action would also be contrary to Rule IX. 2 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure.

However, Article IV of the Statutes and Rule VII paragraph 2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission as amended in pursuance of Resolution 10/73 of the Conference, provides that non-members of the Commission, which are Members of the United Nations or any of its Specialized Agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency may be invited upon request to attend in an observer capacity sessions of the Commission, of its subsidiary bodies 1/ and ad hoc meetings.

Since the objective of the Commission was to enable developing countries with watershed problems to participate in meetings of the working party, the objective envisaged by the EFC can be achieved by securing the participation of extra European developing countries in the work of this working party, in an observer capacity (as in the case of alternative "A" for Silva Mediterranea), without changing the structure and present composition of the working party.

Alternative "B": [This alternative is] similar to [that] suggested in this paper for the possible reconstitution of "Silva Mediterranea", and, therefore, would in principle apply mutatis mutandis to the case of the EFC Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds."

1/ The following countries made use of this provision and attended, in an observer capacity, the Twelfth Session of the EFC Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds: Argentina, Cape Verde, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Madagascar, Mexico, New Zealand, Senegal, Somalia, Thailand, Tunisia, United States of America.

APPENDIX F

PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION 1980 TO 1984

MAIN PROBLEM AREA	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
I. EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION	11th Session of the Executive Committee	20th Session	12th Session of the Executive Committee	21st Session	13th Session of the Executive Committee
1. Impact of environmental developments on European forestry and the multiple use function of forestry, including problems related to administration and legislation		At the 20th Session, review of national developments		At the 21st Session, review of national developments	
2. Problems of the institutional pattern of Europe's forest holdings, including cooperation among forest owners and between forest owners and industries		At the 20th Session, special lectures on the institutional and economic implications of the size of forest holdings on their management			
3. Effect of taxation on forest management and the supply of roundwood	Revision and publication of report	Further work to be discussed at the 20th Session			
4. Financing of forestry developments in Europe, including government support to private forestry		Further work to be discussed at the 20th Session, in the light of proposals to be drawn up by the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics			

MAIN PROBLEM AREA	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
5. Evaluation of trends in the wood raw material production potential of Europe's forests and review of such developments as can affect forest production, including developments in Europe's land-use and related policies.				At the 21st Session, review of national developments possibly affecting the conclusions of EPTS III a/ (Possibly in cooperation with ECE Timber Committee)	
6. Education and employment problems in forestry in Europe	Organization of course and seminars for leading foresters on economic, social, environmental and administrative problems and other aspects related to managerial skills in the broadest sense in forestry				
II. INCREASED EFFICIENCY IN FOREST OPERATIONS (covered by the activities of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Working Techniques and Training of Forest Workers)	13th Session of the Joint Committee (Spain) combined with seminar (see item A.1 below)	Meeting of Steering Committee	14th Session of the Joint Committee (Norway) combined with seminar	Meeting of Steering Committee	15th Session of the Joint Committee combined with seminar a/
(Programme reference TIM/EFC/WP.1/7)					
A. SILVICULTURAL OPERATIONS AND GENERAL MANAGEMENT ASPECTS					
1. Development and use of machinery and methods of stand establishment, including planting stock and equipment	Seminar, on afforestation and reforestation machines and techniques (Spain)				

a/ European Timber Trends and Prospects, 1950 to 2000.

b/ Host country to be decided.

MAIN PROBLEM AREA	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
2. Forest fire prevention and control		Seminar (Poland)		Seminar on southern European aspects of the problem (Portugal)	
3. Methods of measurement of labor productivity	Report to Joint Committee by team of specialists	Further work to be proposed by Joint Committee			
4. Planning and management of forest operations		Seminar on topic to be decided at 13th Session of Joint Committee (Netherlands, subject to confirmation)			
5. Methods of payment	Preparation of report by team of specialists for submission to seminar		Seminar on effects of methods of payment on labour productivity and the conditions of work and life of forest workers a/		
6. Review of standardization activities in the field of forest machinery	Review by 13th Session of Joint Committee		Review by 14th Session of Joint Committee		Review by 15th Session of Joint Committee
7. Standardization of concepts and terms used by the Joint Committee	Definitions to be prepared in connection with each seminar				
8. WOOD HARVESTING AND TRANSPORT					
1. Development and use of logging machinery				Seminar on silvicultural, technological, economic and other problems connected with the mechanization of thinning operations (German Dem. Republic)	

a/ Host country to be decided.

MAIN PROBLEM AREA	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
2. Maintenance of forest machinery		Seminar on maintenance of forest machinery in large and small scale operations (Sweden)			
3. Location and methods of primary round-wood conversion	Report to Joint Committee by team of specialists	Further work may be proposed by Joint Committee			
4. Terrain classification from the wood harvesting point of view	Report to Joint Committee by team of specialists	Further work may be proposed by Joint Committee			
5. Compatibility of harvesting methods and equipment with silviculture and the environment	Report to Joint Committee by team of specialists	Further work may be proposed by Joint Committee			
6. Harvesting of wood for energy purposes	Report to Joint Committee by team of specialists	Further work may be proposed by Joint Committee			
C. HUMAN ASPECTS OF FOREST OPERATIONS					
1. Vocational training in forestry	Seminar on vocational training and extension services for small scale forest owners and farmers (Norway)	Seminar on selection of machine operators and assessment of suitability for specific jobs (United Kingdom)			
2. Report on vocational training systems	Report by ILO on basis of 1977 returns	Report by ILO			
3. Ergonomic problems applied to forestry					

MAIN PROBLEM AREA	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
<p>III. FOREST ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS (covered by the activities of the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics) Programme reference: TIM/WG/WP.2/8</p>		13th Session of the Working Party		14th Session of the Working Party	
	Preparation and circulation of enquiry and review of progress at 13th Session of the Working Party		Further work linked with project I.5 above		
	1. Forest resource analysis	Activities linked with Project III.1 above			
	2. Quantification and evaluation of the environmental benefits of the forest	Revision and publication of study	Review at 13th Session of the Working Party		
	3. Labour statistics in forestry	Revision and publication of study	Follow-up to be considered by 13th Session of the Working Party		
	4. Effects of taxation on forest management and wood supply		Ad hoc meeting		
	5. Classification and definitions of forest products	Twice-yearly publication			
	6. Timber Bulletin for Europe	Review at each session of the Working Party			
7. Organization and periodicity of statistical data collection and dissemination		Review at 13th Session of the Working Party			
8. Conversion factors					

MAIN PROBLEM AREA	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
9. Utilization of forest products by end-use sectors				Review at 14th Session of the Working Party	
10. Forest fire statistics	Enquiry circulated, and review of results at 13th Session of the Working Party				
11. Economic aspects of the fuller use of the forest biomass	Report by team of specialists to 13th Session of the Working Party				
12. Economic aspects of afforestation and reforestation	Report by team of specialists to 13th Session of the Working Party				
13. Economic aspects of the introduction of new forest machines and equipment			Report by team of specialists to 14th Session of the Working Party		
14. Economic and statistical studies on wood/energy questions	Report by team of specialists to 13th Session of the Working Party				
15. Transfer of economic and statistical methods and experience in the forest and forest products sector	Proposals by team of specialists to be considered by 13th Session of the Working Party				
16. Dissemination and exchange of general information and experience	Preparation of country forestry and forest products profiles				

MAIN PROBLEM AREA	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
<p>IV. MEDITERRANEAN FORESTY SUSTAINABILITY (covered by the activities of the APC/EPG/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry (activities - "Silva Mediterranea")</p>	<p>20th Session to agree on programme for Silva Mediterranea on basis of proposals by Executive Committee</p>	<p>Session of "Silva Mediterranea" e/ (or in 1983)</p>			
<p>V. MOUNTAIN FOREST MANAGEMENT (covered by the activities of the Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds)</p>	<p>Symposium in Grenoble, France, Sept. on relationship between the management of Mountain watersheds and the management of the forests in these areas</p>		<p>13th Session of the Working Party e/</p>		

e/ Host country to be decided.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

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