



UNECE



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Marianske Lazne +70: Celebrating 70 years of ECE/FAO cooperation on forests
Marianske Lazne, Czech Republic

Roundtable Discussion, 6 September 2017

“Forest certification in the ECE region – are there any limits?”

Forest owners, policymakers, forest certification organizations, the industry and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are all involved in certification. This roundtable discussion addresses the question how these actors see their and other actors' roles in developing forest certification in the future in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region.

OBJECTIVE

The objective is to provide a platform for forest owners, forest based industries, policymakers, forest certification organizations, NGOs and other stakeholders to discuss the latest trends and developments on forest certification in the ECE region, its future and its complementarity with current legislation, such as the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) and the US Lacey Act. In particular, the discussion aims at addressing current issues with certification, including (i) demands of certification schemes, (ii) advantages of certification and disadvantages of non-certification respectively, and (iii) challenges for and interests of various stakeholders; thus bringing together policy and market perspectives. This event offers an opportunity for open discussion, and to potentially create a platform for dialogue between different stakeholders.

BACKGROUND

- Forest certification was introduced about 20 years ago with the intention to ensure that tropical wood and tropical wood products are sourced from sustainably managed forests.
- Forest certification evolved since the early days and today tackles vast areas related directly and indirectly to forests and forest management.
- The industry and non-governmental organizations are both strong advocates of forest certification while forest owners might have doubts about its added value, especially in developed countries with a strong legislation in place.
- 42% of the world's forests are located in countries of the ECE region. Today, more than 80% of the globally certified forests are located in countries in the ECE region.
- Forest certification caused overlaps with policymakers, especially in countries with a long history of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and, in most cases, proper forest legislation in place, by adding another layer of documentation to forest owners and wood processing industries.
- About 11% of the world's forests are certified under either the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and/or the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes (PEFC). The share of forests certified is distributed highly unevenly. 20% of the forest area in the ECE region is certified for SFM, whereas only 3% of forests are certified outside the ECE region.
- Latest data indicate that the total area of forests certified in the ECE region is slowing down and most newly certified areas issued by one of the two main schemes (PEFC and FSC) have already been certified by the other scheme. By the end of 2016, more than 68 million hectares or about 16% of the world's forests certified were double certified (more than 90% of double certified forests are located in the ECE region).
- Two main sub-regions of ECE have enacted legislations to prevent illegal timber entering the markets: the US Lacey Act (2008) and the European Timber Regulation (EUTR) (2013).



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TENTATIVE PROGRAMME OF THE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Roundtable Discussion on Forest Certification in the ECE region

Chaired by Tomáš Krejzar, Director of the Department of Forest Policy and Economics, Ministry of Agriculture, Czech Republic)

Moderated by Florian Steierer, ECE

14:30-14:50	Overview on certification in the ECE region (<i>presentation and Q&A</i>) Florian Steierer, ECE
14:50-15:30	Country perspectives & forest owner(s) (<i>presentations and Q&A</i>) - Josef Svoboda, The State Enterprise – Forests of the Czech Republic - Prof. Tomasz Zawila-Niedzwiecki, Deputy Director General of the State Forests, Poland - Petr Pražan, Chairman of the Association of Woodworking Enterprises of the Czech Republic
15:30-16:00	Private Sector (<i>presentation and Q&A</i>) - Mikhail Tarasov, Global Forestry Manager, IKEA of Sweden
16:00-16:20	Certification schemes (<i>presentations and Q&A</i>) - Xavier Noyon, Head of EU Affairs, PEFC Council - Anand Punja, FSC European Regional Director
Break	
16:50-17:50	Moderated discussion
17:50-18:00	Conclusions and closing of panel discussion by the moderator

The session will be chaired by Tomáš Krejzar (Director of the Department of Forest Policy and Economics, Ministry of Agriculture, Czech Republic), moderated by Florian Steierer (ECE) and will include 6-8 panelists (representatives from national authorities, representatives of certification schemes, the private sector and NGOs). The event will be held under the Chatham House Rule¹ in order to enable open and frank discussions.

The panelists will be invited to give a short initial presentation introducing themselves, their organization and discuss how they see the future of certification promoting SFM and legal sourcing of wood. After the presentations there will be time for a brief question and answer session.

During the discussion, the moderator will ask questions to the panelists and the audience will also be invited to contribute to the discussion. At the end of the roundtable, the moderator will provide a short summary and conclusions of the discussion.

¹ Chatham House is the origin of the anonymity rule known as the Chatham House Rule, which provides that participants of a seminar may discuss the results of the seminar, but may not divulge the identify or affiliation of the speaker. The Chatham House Rule evolved to facilitate frank and honest discussion on controversial or unpopular issues with speakers who may not have otherwise had the appropriate forum to speak freely.



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SHORT ONLINE SURVEY:

Perceptions of Sustainable Forest Management and of Forest Certification

In preparation of the roundtable discussion, a survey has been created to gather some information on perceptions of Sustainable Forest Management and on forest certification. The collected information may provide some preparatory insights to a roundtable discussion. Please note that the deadline for the submission of the survey was Friday, 28 July 2017. However, the survey is still available in case you would like to take it

To take the survey (15 minutes), please use the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/forest-management-and-certification>

For further information about the event “Marianske Lazne +70: Celebrating 70 years of ECE/FAO cooperation on forests”, please refer to: <http://www.unece.org/forests/ml70.html#/>