

2<sup>nd</sup> WORKING SESSION  
**SUSTAINABLE WOOD BIOMASS MANAGEMENT  
IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES**

Bled, Slovenia, 9-11 November 2005

MINUTES — 13 March 2006

The meeting started with the official welcome of Mr. Andrej Kermavnar, director of Slovenia Forest Service, Mr. Robert Rezonja, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of the Republic of Slovenia and Mr. Miguel Trossero, Senior Officer, FAO and descriptive background and objectives of the meeting. After the presentation of modalities to be followed for the presentations, the description of results of the FAO's project on the »Supply and Utilization of Bioenergy to Promote Sustainable Forest Management (TCP/SVN/2901)» were presented by:

- Jurij Begus, General remarks about the FAO Wood Energy Project in Slovenia;
- Mag. Živan Veselic, Slovenian Wood Energy Information System (SWEIS);
- Rudi Drigo, Slovenian Wood fuel Information Supply Demand Overview Mapping (WISDOM);
- Dr. Nike Kranjc, State of the Art of Wood Biomass Preparation and Use in Slovenia and Education, Training and Demonstration;
- Jurij Begus, Strategy for the future activities in Slovenia.

In continuation Miguel Trossero, FAO, summarized the results and findings of the meeting "Supporting Wood Energy Planning in Eastern Europe", held in FAO-Rome, during the sessions of COFO on 16 March 2005.

In the afternoon, representatives from the participating countries presented the situations on wood biomass production in their own countries and their needs of technical assistance. The following topics were presented:

- Peeter Muiste, Estonia, Wood Energy in Estonia; Einar Kikkas, Estonia, Estonian Forest Policy Yeni Katsarska, Lubcho Trichkov, Bulgaria, Forestry: Fuel Switch Pilot Project, Bulgaria – Implementation and Potential for Replication;
- Suzana Trninic, Croatia, Biomass in Croatia
- Richard Slaby, Czech Republic, Sustainable Wood Biomass Management in the Czech Republic (potential for energy);
- Jovica Ristovski, FYR Macedonia, Utilization of Wood as Energy;
- Peter Kottek, Hungary, Current Situation of Biomass Usage in Hungary;
- Lelda Pamovska, Latvia, Wood resources in Latvia;
- Nicoleta Radu, Romania;
- Aleksandar Radosavljević, Serbia and Montenegro, Wood Biomass in Serbia.

Based on the presentations, the participants identified the main problems and barriers faced by their countries, especially by Forestry Services, regarding the production and utilisation of wood energy. The main problems can be summarized as:

1) lack of communication and cooperation between different government agencies and main local stakeholders, 2) limited market infrastructure, 3) inadequate regulations for new market opportunities, 4) inadequate taxes and incentives for the efficient energy use and sustainable production of woodfuels, 5) absence of sound national wood energy strategies and programmes, specially by Forestry Services in order to cope with new challenges and opportunities offered by the increased wood energy use in EC and CEEC countries; and 6) last but not least, the participants expressed that one major concern was the **lack of knowledge about woodfuel production, trade and consumption in the CEEC countries.**

The second day, the meeting organized a workshop to select aspects and issues to be addressed by the regional project. Even when the wood energy situation varies from country to country, participants expressed their expectations about the projects and contributed to better define main problems to be addressed by the project such as:

- generation knowledge and dissemination of information about the sustainable production, trade and consumption of woodfuel,
- sharing information and experiences among main public and private stakeholders within the region,

- sharing information between main wood energy stakeholders within the countries.

They also recommended that first project idea be modified accordingly following the lines above described and they also suggested that the main aims as well as description of estimated costs, national contribution should be better defined.

At the end of the session participants agreed with main **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS** (annex 1) and prepared a **MEETING STATEMENT (annex 2)**.

One of the major aim of the meeting was to explore the willingness and availability of possible donors to support and finance this project idea. During the discussion some possible donors were recognised: projects of EC, Central European Initiatives, some donor countries (Sweden), GEF projects.

Third day of the session field day in the region of regional unit Nazarje were organized. First stop was made close to town Mozirje with the presentation of first and second thinning in pole wood and subsidizing of tending measures. On the regional unit of Slovenia forest service participants got the information about Slovenian forestry and forests in regional unit. In the same place they visited forestry museum. Next presentation informed them about network of biomass advisers in Slovenia and about experiences of biomass production and consumption in the visited region. It was done in the village Ljubno ob Savinji on the farm and restaurant Prodnik. In Logarska valley participants got the information about management of Regional Park and visited waterfall Rinka. At the end of the day they visited company Biomasa, which sells equipment for biomass heating and woody biomass itself.