

**Cost Action E43 – Harmonisation of National Inventories in Europe:  
Techniques for Common Reporting**  
21-22 October 2004, Gembloux, Belgium

Working Group 2 minutes

Present: Goran Stahl (leader: GS), Erkki Tomppo (ET), Mark Broadmeadow (MB), Karsten Dunger (KD), Antoine Colin (AC)

Objectives of the meeting:

- To identify the main headings of the state of the art statement (SOAA)
- To prepare the initial state of the art questionnaire, and for all participants to have completed it by 20 November
- To identify what questions relevant to WG2 should be incorporated within the WG1 questionnaire
- To discuss generic problems associated with the new IPCC reporting tables
- To plan WG2 activities at the meeting in Florence in December

Of the objectives listed above, the principal aim was to prepare the initial state of the art assessment/questionnaire, to ensure that this was circulated with responses returned by 20 November to allow time for analysis prior to the December meeting in Florence. The discussions of the break-out groups from the Horsholm meeting were briefly outlined by the temporary chairs of those groups. It was decided that for the Gembloux meeting, there was no need to consider these areas separately. Prior to the elaboration of the SOAA, generic problems were discussed.

Generic problems: The new reporting forms were discussed, although it was decided that time was insufficient to go through them in detail; furthermore, it was felt that the results from the initial SOAA would be helpful in any discussion of approaches to the new reporting forms. These brief discussions centred on:

- How do countries deal with the base year (1990)?
- How do countries deal with 2008-12 transitions?
- How will forest management be included and what definitions of forest management are used by different countries?
- How will individual parcels of land be accounted for?
- What is afforestation/reforestation; does planting (rather than natural regeneration) need to take place for afforestation/reforestation to have occurred?
- How will the findings of COST Actions E21 and E43 be integrated?
- What is the role of NFIs in carbon reporting?
- How to account for error and uncertainty – defer to a later stage?
- How are decisions on KP article 3.4 made – can this group give guidance (to the EU)?
- We know the requirements now, but what will they be in 50 years time?

The remainder of the meeting, with the exception of the combined meeting with WG1 (see below) was devoted to the elaboration of the SOAA. The following points relating to the SOAA were noted:

- The rationale for the questionnaire is to identify the state of reporting methods development in each of the participating countries
- The new reporting tables will be obligatory in 2006; at this point, new reporting systems will have been developed, and this will be the time for the main questionnaire to be developed and circulated

- The initial SOAA developed at the Gembloux meeting will be circulated to national competent authorities; the competent authorities will be identified and contacted by the COST E43 WG2 representatives.

It was agreed that the questionnaire needs to be relatively short and, more importantly, the answers need to be short; ideally, tick boxes will enable rapid analysis for presentation to the December meeting in Florence. It was decided that four sets of questions would be drafted, under the following headings:

- Organisation and the role of the NFI
- Land use definitions
- Carbon pool definitions
- Additional requirements of the Kyoto protocol

At the joint meeting with WG1, it was felt that definitions of forest management were important to both WGs; however, WG1 did not want to go into so much detail at this stage. The other principal area where it was thought WG1 questions could help WG2 was the area of soil sampling. It was agreed that WG2 would pass a question with check-box answers to WG1:

On what basis is soil considered in the NFI?

- Soil not considered
- Soil maps
- Observed soil type
- Profile description
- Chemical analysis

The drafting of the WG2 questionnaire was then finalised (see attached document), with the UK committing to completion by 29 October. Ronnie Milne (UK) would be asked to fill in the questionnaire as a test, while GS (Se) agreed to provide his completed form as an example when it was distributed to all participating countries.

Mark Broadmeadow  
29 October 2004