

## TIMBER & WOODWORKING

### Excerpts from an Article on Perestroika by Minister of the Timber Industry V. Mel'nikov

We are still a long way from solving such vitally important problems as improvements to management based on integration of forest use, and devising a strategy for the mechanization and social reorientation of the forest-based industrial complex. It is because of this that we are unable to meet all of the requirements of the economy and the general public for paper and other forest-based products. The annual shortfall of timber is between 20 and 25 million cubic metres.

Undermechanization is preventing our sectors from moving ahead. Restructuring (perestroika) must therefore hinge on three main requirements: increasing the productivity of labour by at least 50-60 per cent; effecting major improvements in the social sphere; ensuring ecologically clean production processes. None of this will be possible in the absence of a machine-building capacity within the sector. Establishing it will be a difficult task and will not be achieved overnight. Accordingly, the role of external economic relations will be vastly increased. Without the active involvement of foreign firms and without increased exports of timber and paper products it will be very difficult for us to supply the country with all the consumer goods it needs.

Simultaneously with the growth in exports the development of new forms of cooperation is foreseen. To date, in the timber industry nine joint enterprises have been formed with Finnish, West German and Japanese manufacturers of lumber, veneer and furniture. A further 40 such projects are under consideration. Among them are enterprises with annual production capacities of 200 to 400 thousand tonnes of newsprint, 250 to 300 thousand tonnes of