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## **Summary report on the multilateral assessment of Belgium at the forty-second session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation**

**Note by the secretariat**

### **I. Background**

1. The Conference of the Parties, by decision 1/CP.16, decided that developed country Parties should enhance the reporting in their national communications and submit biennial reports on their progress in achieving emission reductions. It also established a new process under the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) – the international assessment and review (IAR) of emissions and removals related to developed country Parties' quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets – that aims to promote the comparability of efforts among all developed country Parties. The first round of the IAR process is to be conducted during the period 2014–2015.

2. According to the modalities and procedures for IAR specified in annex II to decision 2/CP.17, the multilateral assessment (MA), being part of the IAR process, is to be conducted for each developed country Party at a working group session of the SBI, with the participation of all Parties. The aim of the MA is to assess each Party's progress in implementation towards the achievement of emission reductions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target.

3. The first MA of Belgium took place at a working group session during SBI 42, on 3 June 2015. Such a working group session is preceded by a three-month period of questions and answers; in the first month, any Party may submit written questions to the Party being assessed, which may respond to the questions within the remaining two months. Questions for Belgium had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Brazil, Canada, China, New Zealand and United States of America. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Belgium can be found on the IAR web page for Belgium.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <<http://unfccc.int/8815.php>>.

## II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Amena Yauvoli. Belgium was represented by Mr. Peter Wittoeck, Head of Climate Change Section, Federal Directorate-General for the Environment.

5. Mr. Wittoeck made an opening presentation, summarizing Belgium's progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets. Emissions, excluding those from the land use, land-use change and forestry sector, decreased by 18.5 per cent between 1990 and 2012 despite growth in gross domestic product and population over the same period. The emission intensity of the economy has thus decreased over this period, indicating a certain decoupling of emissions from economic growth. According to Mr. Wittoeck, Belgium is expected to achieve its target for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.

6. Mr. Wittoeck presented Belgium's target for 2020 for sectors outside the European Union Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) as well as the common European Union (EU) target for EU ETS as contained in the EU 2020 climate and energy package. Belgium has put in place a range of policies and measures in order to achieve its 2020 target, including for the renewable energy, building and transport sectors. Its National Climate Policy is formulated using a bottom-up approach – it is based on regional and federal climate policies.

7. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the following delegations: Algeria, Brazil, China, India and United States. The questions were on: shares of transport and commercial sectors in Belgium's greenhouse gas emissions; the inclusion of emissions from international aviation in the 2020 targets; the key policies and measures for the energy sector, in particular as related to the transport and commercial sectors; policies and measures for the agriculture and waste sectors, including those planned to increase mitigation in the agriculture sector; and the quantification of impacts of mitigation policies and measures with the greatest contribution to the achievement of Belgium's 2020 targets and their main focus in the future. Clarification was also requested on how Belgian domestic energy policy fits into the EU energy policy, division of mitigation effort between federal and regional levels, and how the Belgian National Climate Policy takes into account federal and regional policies. Belgium was furthermore asked to clarify how it plans to create incentives for other EU member States to undertake greater mitigation efforts in view of the downward trend in its own emissions since 2005. In response, Belgium provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for Belgium.

8. In closing, the SBI Chair reminded Belgium that it can submit any other observations on its MA process within two months of the working group session, and that they will form part of its Party record for the MA. The SBI Chair thanked the delegation of Belgium, all the other delegations and the secretariat for this successful MA session.

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