



Summary report on the multilateral assessment of Estonia 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 Estonia took place at a working group session during SBI 42, on 4 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 Estonia had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Brazil and China. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Estonia can be found on the IAR web page for Estonia.¹

¹ <<http://unfccc.int/8819.php>>.

II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Amena Yauvoli. Estonia was represented by Mr. Meelis Münt from the Ministry of the Environment.

5. Mr. Münt made an opening presentation, summarizing Estonia's progress in the implementation of its emission reduction and removal commitments related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets. He elaborated on the national circumstances of Estonia as a small economy and member State of the European Union (EU). Estonia is committed to contribute to the emission reduction target of the EU under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol. Under the EU effort-sharing decision, Estonia has a target of limiting the growth of its emissions in the sectors not covered by the EU Emissions Trading System to 11 per cent by 2020 compared with the 2005 level (+11 per cent). He explained that the target of the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol had been overachieved, with an emission reduction of 52.8 per cent in 2012 compared with the 1990 level. This was partly due to a decoupling of economic growth and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from 1990 to 2012, when gross domestic product (GDP), after an initial decline in the 1990s, almost doubled, while emissions halved. Although emissions decreased in all sectors, the most significant reductions could be observed in the energy and agriculture sectors. However, in 2012, energy remained the most significant sector in terms of GHG emissions, with a share of 87.9 per cent of the total.

6. Successful implementation of national policies and measures has led to a transformation of the energy supply structure towards an increase in the share of renewables to 25 per cent in gross final energy consumption in 2014; limitations on oil shale extraction to 20 million t/year; an efficiency improvement in the use of oil shale; investments in climate change mitigation and energy efficiency measures of more than EUR 700 million; and environmental taxation reaching 2.8 per cent of GDP. In addition, several strategies and plans are under preparation to achieve the Party's long-term targets, including the Estonian Low Carbon Road Map up to 2050, the Estonian National Development Plan of the Energy Sector up to 2030, the National Development Plan for the Use of Oil Shale 2016–2020 and the national Climate Change Adaptation Strategy up to 2030. Thus, Estonia projects further significant emission reductions and expects to fulfil its commitments for 2020.

7. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the following delegations: China and Republic of Korea. The questions were on emission levels and trends in the energy and land use, land-use change and forestry sectors, and the specific measures to reduce GHG emissions in the industrial processes and agriculture sectors. In response, Estonia provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for Estonia.

8. In closing, the SBI Chair reminded Estonia 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 Estonia, all the other delegations and the secretariat for this successful MA session.
