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## **Summary report on the multilateral assessment of Greece 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 Greece 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 Greece had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Brazil, China and United States of America. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Greece can be found on the IAR web page for Greece.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <<http://unfccc.int/8821.php>>.

## II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Amena Yauvoli. Greece was represented by Mr. Ioannis Ziomas, Advisor to the Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change.

5. Mr. Ziomas made an opening presentation, summarizing Greece's progress in the implementation of its emission reduction and removal commitments related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets. Under the Convention, Greece is committed to the European Union (EU) joint economy-wide emission reduction target to achieve a 20 per cent reduction in emissions by 2020 compared with the 1990 (base year) level. The target for the EU and its member States is formalized in the 2020 EU climate and energy package, which includes the European Union Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) and the effort-sharing decision (ESD). Under the ESD, Greece has an emission reduction target of 4 per cent below the 2005 level by 2020 for the sectors covered by the ESD. In line with the EU approach to its target, Greece does not include emissions or removals from the land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) sector in defining its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target. The ESD also includes binding renewable energy goals and non-binding energy efficiency goals for each EU member State. Greece has a binding renewable energy goal of achieving an 18 per cent share of renewable energy in its gross total final energy consumption, which it voluntarily increased to 20 per cent. Regarding energy efficiency, Greece has a non-binding goal to limit its final energy consumption to 18.4 Mtoe by 2020.

6. To meet its 2020 targets, Greece has various policies and measures (PaMs) in place, including the PaMs for the promotion of renewable energy sources and the promotion of natural gas. The PaM for the promotion of renewable energy sources includes Greece's national renewable energy action plan and a feed-in tariff for incentivizing the installation of renewable energy. Under the PaM for the promotion of natural gas, Greece undertook a number of actions from 1996 to 2013, such as maintaining no excise duty, developing natural gas infrastructure and encouraging fuel switching. Greece's emissions and removals for 2012 were estimated to be 5.8 per cent above the 1990 level excluding LULUCF, with the projections showing a slight decrease in emissions by 2020 compared with the 1990 level. Across the EU, it is expected that the market mechanism of the EU ETS will guarantee that emissions from the sectors covered by the EU ETS will be in line with the 2020 target of 21 per cent below the 2005 level. Under the ESD, Greece is expected to meet its emission reduction target as well as its renewable energy and energy efficiency goals.

7. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the following delegations: Brazil, China, India and United States. The questions focused on: what domestic PaMs are in place to fulfil Greece's 2020 target for the sectors not covered by the EU ETS; whether the economic situation in Greece has the potential to affect its climate change actions; whether Greece will continue to modify its feed-in tariff rates to encourage renewable energy deployment and use; how Greece plans to address the rising emissions from the transport sector; and Greece's use of biodiesel and whether it will consider the use of bioethanol. In response, Greece provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for Greece.

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

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