



Summary report on the multilateral assessment of Lithuania 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 Lithuania took place at a working group session during SBI 42, on 5 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 Lithuania had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by China. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Lithuania can be found on the IAR web page for Lithuania.¹

II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Amena Yauvoli. Lithuania was represented by Ms. Stasile Znutiene, Ministry of Environment.

¹ <<http://unfccc.int/8870.php>>.

5. Ms. Znutiene made an opening presentation, summarizing Lithuania's progress in implementation towards the achievement of emission reductions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions excluding the land use, land-use change and forestry sector in Lithuania in 2012 showed a decrease of 55.6 per cent compared with the 1990 level, while gross domestic product increased by 25 per cent over the same period, indicating a decoupling of GHG emissions from economic growth. According to Ms. Znutiene, Lithuania overachieved its emission reduction target for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.

6. Ms. Znutiene presented Lithuania's 2020 targets at a disaggregated level, covering its targets under the European Union Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) and for sectors outside the EU ETS, as well as targets for renewable energy, biofuels in transport and improvements in energy efficiency. According to historical data and current GHG emission projections, Lithuania is on track to meet its targets. By 2012 energy consumption in Lithuania had reduced by almost 5 per cent compared with the 2009 level, while nearly 21.7 per cent of the total energy consumed came from renewable energy sources, against the target of 23 per cent by 2020. For the sectors not covered by the EU ETS, Lithuania is on track to meet its 2020 target with the use of additional measures. Key policies and measures are in place to ensure the achievement of Lithuania's 2020 targets, including the overarching National Strategy for Climate Change Management Policy for the period 2013–2050, the Action Plan to operationalize the Strategy for the period 2013–2020, and sector-specific policies and measures, as well as related economic instruments and financial support mechanisms.

7. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the following delegations: Brazil, China, India and Republic of Korea. The questions were on: Lithuania's further plans and policies to reduce emissions from the transport and agriculture sectors; the key drivers for the 56 per cent decrease in GHG emissions by 2012 compared with the 1990 level; the main reasons for the sharp decrease in GHG emissions during the period 1990–1992; the coverage of tariff subsidies as an economic instrument; and the development of renewable energy sources, including the institutional mechanism in place and specific policies on biofuel. In response, Lithuania provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for Lithuania.

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