



Summary report on the multilateral assessment of Austria at the forty-fifth 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 second round of the IAR process is to be conducted during the period 2016–2017 (the first round of the IAR process was 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 second round of MA of Austria took place at a working group session during SBI 45, on 12 November 2016. 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 Austria had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Brazil, China and New Zealand. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Austria can be found on the IAR web page for Austria.¹

¹ <<https://unfccc.int/9701.php>>.

II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Rapporteur, Mr. Sidat Yaffa. Austria was represented by Mr. Helmut Hojesky, Director, Division for Climate Change and Air Quality, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management.

5. Mr. Hojesky made an opening presentation, summarizing Austria's progress in implementation towards the achievement of emission reductions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets. As a European Union (EU) member State, Austria is committed to contributing to the achievement of the joint EU quantified economy-wide emission reduction target of 20 per cent below the 1990 level by 2020. Austria's emission reduction target from sectors covered by the EU effort-sharing decision (i.e. sectors not covered by the EU Emissions Trading System) is 16 per cent below the 2005 level by 2020. Mr. Hojesky highlighted that under the 'with additional measures' emission projection scenario, Austria is expected to attain its 2020 targets.

6. Mr. Hojesky presented emission trends and key policies and measures for the buildings, transport, agriculture, waste and energy supply sectors. Such policies and measures include: mandatory building codes; blending of fossil fuels with biofuels; improved management of landfills; organic farming; and feed-in tariffs for electricity from renewable sources. In addition, he explained that the Party is preparing the Austrian Integrated Energy and Climate Strategy for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through 2030 and well as through 2050. Mr. Hojesky also highlighted that since Austria is a transit country located at the crossroads between Western and South-Eastern Europe, GHG emissions from the transport sector remain a significant challenge and that the shift to public transport and e-mobility needs to be enhanced.

7. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the following delegations: Canada, India and Republic of Korea. The questions were related to: the challenges encountered in attributing emission reductions to the implementation of policies and measures; the source and quantity of biofuel used in Austria; and the framework used to address emissions in the transport sector. In response, Austria provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for Austria.

8. In closing, the SBI Rapporteur reminded Austria 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 Rapporteur thanked the delegation of Austria, all the other delegations and the secretariat for this successful MA session.
