

Session SBI45 (2016)

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Question by New Zealand at Tuesday, 30 August 2016

Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 August

Title: Feed-in tariffs

Could Austria please provide a brief description of its process for granting fixed feed-in tariffs for different forms of electricity generation from renewable sources in order to increase the share of renewable energy in energy supply and district heating? For example, do the feed-in tariffs vary depending on the type of renewables sources or technologies used?

Answer by Austria, Monday, 24 October 2016

Fixed feed-in tariffs are granted for most forms of electricity generation from renewable sources, and the tariffs are differentiated according to energy source. Medium scale hydro power plants > 2MW are supported by investment subsidies only, for small scale hydro power plants < 2MW there is a choice between investment subsidies and feed-in tariffs. Photovoltaic installations < 5kW_{peak} are not covered by the Green Electricity Act, but there are other provisions – as the Environmental Support Act – for investment subsidies.

The Green Electricity Act lays down targets for electricity production from different sources and provides the legal basis for the support system. Support is funded by green electricity fees which have to be paid as a supplement to electricity network fees by consumers, and by market prices for green electricity.

A management body (“OeMAG AG”) has been established, which is obliged to contract with green electricity installations and to buy electricity at fixed feed-in tariffs. A short description can be found on the first page of the attached file (taken from the latest Austrian report to the European Commission under Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources).

Feed-in tariffs for new installations are laid down biennially by ordinance of the Federal Minister for Research, Science and Economy. These tariffs are granted for a period of 13 years, for electricity from solid, liquid and gaseous biomass for 15 years. In order to take into account decreasing production costs, the feed-in tariffs (for new installations) are successively decreased. As an example tariffs from the 2012 ordinance are listed in the table in the attached file (first number in the third column is the tariff in EUR-cent for installations approved in 2012, second number for installations approved in 2013).

Law and annual reports on the achievement of the green electricity targets are available in German language only

(<http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20007386>, http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/BgblAuth/BGBLA_2015_II_459/BGBLA_2015_II_459.pdf, <https://www.e-control.at/documents/20903/388512/e-control-oekostrombericht-2016.pdf/bbd26620-e1a3-4243-aed7-33c95e317d7a>).

Attachment: Attachment.pdf



Question by Brazil at Tuesday, 30 August 2016

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 August

Title: CTF Table 3

Regarding mitigation actions referred to in “CTF Table 3 Progress in achievement of the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target: information on mitigation actions and their effects”, are there any current estimates of mitigation impacts since the respective years of implementation?

Answer by Austria, Monday, 24 October 2016

Austria's GHG emissions trends showed a relatively strong decrease over the past years. Between 2005 and 2014, total emissions were reduced by 18%. The buildings sector is leading in terms of relative reduction (-39%; -4.9 Mt), followed by ETS sectors (energy generation and industry; -22%; -7.7 Mt) and transport (-12%; -2.9 Mt).

A large share of reductions is directly related to mitigation efforts on the levels of federal, regional and local governments. However, in most cases we are talking about combined effects of a variety of policies & measures. Mitigation impacts described in table 3.1 of Austria's Biennial Report are mostly scenario driven results, but we are able to highlight some mitigation effects that are directly derived from evaluation efforts.

Projects subsidized in 2015 under the Federal Environment Support Scheme in the areas of renewable energy, energy efficiency and renovation of buildings resulted in a long-term annual GHG mitigation effect of 378,000 tons CO₂-equivalent. Similar effects were calculated for the years prior to 2015.

Transport fuels in Austria are blended with biofuels (6% on average), resulting in GHG reductions of 1.8 Mt per year. In addition, the Ministry of Environment's programme “klimaaktiv mobil” supported projects that had a mitigation effect of 590,000 tons CO₂ in 2014, focussing mainly at “mobility management” (companies, schools, touristic regions etc.) and changes in car fleets (e.g. taxis) to electric/hybrid solutions.

Housing support schemes of the nine provinces take into account climate change related measures, according to an agreement between the central government and the nine provinces. That includes measures such as improved building energy codes for new buildings, use of renewable energy sources (such as biomass, heat pumps or solar energy) and improvement of the energy performance of the building stock (renovation). Total effects from those measures amounted to an annual mitigation effect of more than 300,000 ton CO₂ between 2009 and 2015, matching well with overall GHG mitigation in the buildings sector.

Question by Brazil at Tuesday, 30 August 2016

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 August

Title: Differences on Mitigation actions from BR1 to BR2

The amount of mitigation actions in the BR2 increased with respect to the BR1, however, many of these actions are under different names, making it difficult to have a comparative analysis. It was also noted that some of the mitigation actions listed in BR1 have names related to the actions listed in BR2, however, the starting year of the implementation is different in the BR2.

Are the mitigation actions launched in BR2 CTF report new? Were the actions reported in BR1 revised and renamed in BR2? Were there changes in its initial years for beginning of the actions? Finally, considering the above questions, how can the BR1 CTF report be compared with BR2 CTF report on the differences noted?

Answer by Austria, Monday, 24 October 2016

In Austria a manifold of mitigation action is taken on different levels (Federation, federal provinces, municipalities) and to a large extent with shared responsibility (e.g. legislation at the level of the Federation and implementation/execution at the level of the nine federal provinces). Selection and names of mitigation actions have changed in the six National Communications that have been reported up to now, i.e. over a period of more than two decades. There may have been various reasons for such changes, and changes of names which occurred did not necessarily also mean substantial changes of the mitigation action.

It was therefore decided to develop a new naming scheme for policies, which should also be related to the focus areas of Austrian climate policy. This was used the first time for reporting in BR2. It is intended to maintain this scheme for the next reports; this should ease comparison of reports in the future.

Mitigation actions have largely been maintained between the reporting of BR1 and BR2. For a comparison it may be necessary to consult the report mentioned on the top of page 11 of BR2, which provides more details on individual instruments.

[Question by China](#) at Monday, 29 August 2016

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 August

Title: additional measures

It is shown in the projection that additional measures are needed for Austria to achieve the goal under the EU-ESD? Could Austria provide further information on the measures planned for mitigation in those non-ETS sectors?

[Answer by Austria](#), Monday, 24 October 2016

Several policies reported in Section 3.1.2 of BR2 as “planned” are expected to become effective before 2020 and to contribute to achieving the ESD target, i.e. policies no. 7, 11, 12, 13, 17, 21, 24. As mentioned in BR2, some of the measures were in the planning stage at the time when the projections were prepared and are therefore included only in the WAM scenario, but have been adopted in the meantime and are currently in the implementing stage.

[Question by China](#) at Monday, 29 August 2016

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 August

Title: PaMs of transport sector

What are the drivers for the decrease in GHG emission from transport sector since 2005? Would Austria take actions to reduce GHG emission from ‘fuel tourism’ in the future?

[Answer by Austria](#), Monday, 24 October 2016

Drivers for the decrease of GHG emissions from transport since 2005 are the substitution of fossil fuels by biofuels, improved fuel efficiency of vehicles, reduction of empty trips or increased load factor respectively in freight transport, increased share of rail transport in passenger transport, decrease of the fuel export in the vehicle tank (a.k.a. ‘fuel tourism’).

Austria has enacted two increases of fuel tax after 2005, which have decreased the fuel price

difference between Austria and its neighbouring states (or at least some of its eight neighbouring states). The tax increases counteract fuel export in the vehicle tank. Similar action will likely be taken in the future.



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