Session SB65 (2026)

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Facilitative, Multilateral Consideration of Progress

A compilation of questions to – and answers by – **Greece**
Exported on 13-10-2026 by the UNFCCC secretariat

Title: Question on emissions monitoring

Question From Party: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Question raised on: 28.08.2026 CEST

Question Category: Progress towards/achievement of the NDC

Question: Thank you, Greece, for the opportunity to comment on your 1st Biennial Transparency Report. The UK has a couple of questions, on which we'd welcome your response: 1. Could Greece share how your experience from compiling maritime transport emissions data has informed national policymaking, and whether any lessons from these arrangements may be applicable to improving emissions monitoring and reporting in the international transport sector? 2. As interest in blue carbon continues to grow, could Greece share how it is assessing the role of coastal ecosystems, including saltmarshes, in future emissions and removals reporting, and any challenges associated with integrating these data into national transparency arrangements?

Answer:

1. For Greece, maritime transport is particularly important because of our island geography and the international presence of Greek shipping. Compiling maritime energy and emissions data has reinforced the need to distinguish domestic services from international shipping and to consider the different routes, vessel types and port activities when designing policy.
   This approach is reflected in Greece's updated National Energy and Climate Plan. For short ferry routes, the plan examines electrification; for larger vessels and longer routes, it considers alternative fuels. It also calls for shore power, port infrastructure and incentives to renew or retrofit vessels. These choices depend on practical information, including route lengths, vessel capacity, energy needs and the availability of suitable infrastructure. The plan proposes monitoring arrangements between the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy and port authorities to track performance and report progress.
   A lesson for international transport is that emissions reporting becomes more useful for policymaking when fuel and emissions figures can be linked to operational data, while accounting boundaries remain clear. Comparable data on fuels, vessels and port activities can help assess which measures are feasible and whether they deliver reductions. For international shipping, consistent methods and coordination through the IMO and relevant EU frameworks are especially important, since ships, fuels and emissions cross national boundaries.

2. Greece is assessing blue carbon as a potential component of future greenhouse gas reporting, with initial work focused on Posidonia oceanica seagrass meadows. The recent study, "*The untapped potential of Poseidon grass in Greece as a hotspot for climate change mitigation*," projects that net removals from these meadows could contribute approximately 100–200 kt CO_2 eq per year to the national GHG inventory. This is a research estimate, not yet a reported inventory value. The study supports further assessment of how removals associated with management interventions could be included in national reporting. Through LIFE LULUCF ATLAS, the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (ΕΛΚΕΘΕ/HCMR), working with the National Technical University of Athens and HOMEOTECH, is leading a roadmap for including emissions and removals from coastal wetlands in Greece's National Inventory Report. The work will compile and assess seagrass extent, habitat condition, losses and pressures; develop geographic datasets; and apply country specific data and Tier 2 methods where feasible. It will also examine how monitoring under EU environmental directives can feed into inventory reporting and assess a seagrass restoration case study. The main challenges are gaps in historical maps and activity data, limited carbon measurements outside the South Aegean, and the need for a consistent time series with documented uncertainties and quality checks. For saltmarshes, Greece does not yet have a corresponding national study or sufficiently developed estimates. The ATLAS roadmap focuses on seagrass; its methods could be extended to saltmarshes in subsequent work, once the necessary data are available.

Title: Phase out of lignite-fired power generation

Question From Party: New Zealand

Question raised on: 08.09.2026 CEST

Question Category: Mitigation actions, policies and measures supporting NDC implementation

Question: Greece reports that lignite-fired power generation is being phased out, with a plan for all but one lignite plant to be phased out by 2023, with the remaining plant converted to natural gas by 2028. Could Greece provide an update on the phase out of lignite-fired power generation?

Answer:

As of 23 September 2026, Greece has one lignite power plant still operating: Ptolemaida V in Western Macedonia. PPC's latest half-year report states that all five units at Agios Dimitrios and the other listed lignite plants have permanently ceased operation, while Ptolemaida V remains operational. Electricity generation from lignite-fired plants continued to decline, falling by approximately 91% between 2010 and 2025, including a about 17% decrease from 2024 to 2025.

Title: Transition in lignite producing regions

Question From Party: Australia

Question raised on: 09.09.2026 CEST

Question Category: Mitigation actions, policies and measures supporting NDC implementation

Question: Australia congratulates Greece on reducing the amount of lignite used for electricity generation, and its plans to phase out lignite entirely. Could Greece please provide more detail on the fair transition planned for the regions of Western Macedonia and Megalopolis, including in relation to transition planning for workers in the energy sector.

Answer:

Greece thanks Australia for its question. The phase out of lignite is accompanied by a *Just Development Transition Plan* for Western Macedonia and Megalopolis. The plan was developed through public consultation and is tailored to each area's strengths. Western Macedonia is being supported to develop clean energy

production and research alongside a more diverse economy. For *Megalopolis*, the emphasis is on modernizing its energy and industrial activities and creating new uses for former lignite sites.

The principal funding instrument is the *2021-2027 Just Development Transition Programme*, which allocates approximately €1.629 billion in public expenditure across all affected areas, including the two lignite regions and eligible islands. Its measures include support for existing businesses to adapt, investment to attract new enterprises and jobs, clean energy and energy storage, and the restoration and reuse of former lignite land.

For workers in the energy sector and others affected by the transition, the program's Fair Labour Transition priority aims to preserve employment, limit unemployment and create new, skilled jobs.

It provides for employment support, skills upgrading and retraining, measures to help workers and businesses adapt, and vocational education and training facilities. These measures are intended to connect workers' existing capabilities with the new activities being developed in their regions. Greece is also planning for continued heating supply in areas affected by the closure of lignite plants.

These arrangements recognize that phasing out lignite requires regional investment and practical support for workers, as well as a timetable for closing power plants. Greece will continue to assess the transition's effects on employment and local communities as the programme is implemented.