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Multilateral Assessment

A compilation of questions to - and answers by - Cyprus
exported on 01-06-2021
by the UNFCCC secretariat

Question by United States of America

at Monday, 05 April 2021

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

Type: Before 05 April

Title: Lessons from domestic MRV

Could you outline some of the lessons learned from the process of changing the institutional, legal, administrative and procedural arrangements used for domestic compliance, MRV, and evaluation of your climate targets?

Answer by Cyprus

In view of the new challenging GHG reduction targets for Cyprus, it was deemed necessary to apply a holistic approach in achieving national targets. There was a dangerous lag between the pace of political, economic, and technological changes in various sectors (energy, transport, waste, and forestry) which demanded the preparation of an integrated, effective, and transparent national system in order to coordinate the preparation and implementation of the national plan towards the reduction of GHG emissions.

Therefore, the need for the establishment of a reliable and transparent governance mechanism without any unnecessary administrative burden and with sufficient flexibility for each competent authority should be developed to help ensure that Cyprus meets its climate and energy goals. The governance system established is built on existing building blocks, such as national climate programmes, national plans for renewable energy and energy efficiency as well as the need to streamline and bring together separate planning and reporting strands to ensure systematic monitoring and to facilitate coordination of national climate and energy policies.

The governance system is based on the principles of integration of strategic planning and reporting on the implementation of climate and energy policies and coordination between actors responsible for energy and climate policy and ensure that the agreed energy and climate targets for 2030 are met and monitored.

The governance system will therefore enable the achievement of the objectives of the 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy, in the field of GHG emission reduction, energy from renewable sources and energy efficiency. None of these objectives, which are indissociably linked, can be regarded as secondary or independently to the other. This system is therefore linked to sectoral policies and actions implementing the 2030 targets for energy and climate.

Moreover, international collaboration with countries has been found important to share knowledge and experiences in best practices.

Question by United States of America

at Monday, 05 April 2021

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

Type: Before 05 April

Title: Climate and energy governance

Could you outline some of the lessons learned in establishing a new climate and energy governance (regulation 2018/1999/EU)?

Answer by Cyprus

Cyprus was a country with no climate commitments until 2013 that joined Annex I to the UNFCCC. During the second period of the Kyoto Protocol, the financial situation of the country has greatly contributed in meeting its targets. Thus, the first real challenge for climate mitigation in Cyprus is to meet its 2030 target. Until the establishment of the National Governance System for Climate and Energy, the responsibility for climate change issues was left to the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment. Climate change however, is an issue that is more of an economic issue rather than an environmental issue.

An effective climate governance structure is critical to ensure that a country properly assesses climate-related risks and opportunities, takes appropriate strategic decisions on how to manage those risks and opportunities, and sets and reports on relevant goals and targets. Without governance in place, Cyprus would not be sufficiently equipped to deal with the threats or to respond appropriately to international and EU responsibilities.

Therefore, the need for the establishment of a reliable and transparent governance mechanism without any unnecessary administrative burden and with sufficient flexibility for each competent authority should be developed to help ensure that Cyprus meets its climate and energy goals. The governance system established is built on existing building blocks, such as national climate programmes, national plans for renewable energy and energy efficiency as well as the need to streamline and bring together separate planning and reporting strands to ensure systematic monitoring and to facilitate coordination of national climate and energy policies.

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Question by United States of America
at Monday, 05 April 2021

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

Type: Before 05 April

Title: Additional policies and measures

BR4 projections indicate that you might fall short of your NECP targets without additional measures. Could you discuss some of the additional policies and measures that are being considered to meet the targets?

Answer by Cyprus

Additional measures under examination include:

- Fiscally neutral green tax reform – expected to be ready in 2020 for gradual implementation to start in 2021. No details are yet available to be included in the planned measures.
- Additional reductions in emissions from the implementation of measures to be included in the Common Agricultural Policy
- Further reductions in emissions from industries through the support scheme (expected to reach 15%).
- Design of nature based solutions for the increase of CO2 absorption (e.g. promotion of green roofs, increase of private forests, Increase of urban public green spaces, improvement of urban green spaces)
- Additional shift of modal share from car trips to sustainable modes of transport. The modal share for cars in Cyprus is currently over 90% and with the effects of the proposed tax reform, a modal share of 68% car, 20% public transport, 12% walking/ cycling can be achieved and is set as a national target. Potential revenues from the tax reform can also be used to finance part of the proposed measures.
- Higher penetration of vehicles and buses with low or zero emissions based on the effects of the proposed tax reform. Possible revenues from the tax reform can also be used to finance part of the proposed measures.

- Further tree planting along the urban and suburban network for a total of 2 million trees. Potential revenues from the tax reform can also be used to finance the proposed measure.
- Strengthen the involvement of local authorities
- Replacing of oil-fired boilers with Heat-pumps and further study the district heating and cooling network.
- Increase energy storage to allow larger penetration of RES.
- Explore the use of new technologies and fuels such as hydrogen.

Question by United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
at Thursday, 01 April 2021

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

Type: Before 05 April

Title: National Governance System for Climate and Energy

We note with interest the National Governance System for Climate and Energy in Cyprus' National Energy and Climate Plan. Please could Cyprus share what lessons they have learnt through instituting these new governance structures, and what its impact has been on policy making and implementation?

Answer by Cyprus

Cyprus was a country with no climate commitments until 2013 that joined Annex I to the UNFCCC. During the second period of the Kyoto Protocol, the financial situation of the country has greatly contributed in meeting its targets. Thus, the first real challenge for climate mitigation in Cyprus is to meet its 2030 target. Until the establishment of the National Governance System for Climate and Energy, the responsibility for climate change issues was left to the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment. Climate change however, is an issue that is more of an economic issue rather than an environmental issue.

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Question by New Zealand
at Thursday, 01 April 2021

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

Type: Before 05 April

Title: Best available technologies

Cyprus's BR4 states that it will introduce additional policies and measures once the best available technologies are more financially viable. Can Cyprus please provide further information on which specific technologies this is referring to?

Answer by Cyprus

Additional measures under examination include:

- Fiscally neutral green tax reform – expected to be ready in 2020 for gradual implementation to start in 2021. No details are yet available to be included in the planned measures.

- Additional reductions in emissions from the implementation of measures to be included in the Common Agricultural Policy
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- Replacing of oil-fired boilers with Heat-pumps and further study the district heating and cooling network.
- Increase energy storage to allow larger penetration of RES.
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Question by New Zealand
at Thursday, 01 April 2021

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

Type: Before 05 April

Title: Targets for renewable energy uptake

Cyprus's BR4 stated that major investments have been planned and implemented in renewable energy. Does Cyprus have any specific targets for renewable energy uptake that it can share?

Answer by Cyprus

Using recent available data and taking into account the recommendations received from the various stakeholders, the new trajectory can almost meet all the EU recommendations for Cyprus to achieve at least 23% RES by 2030.

In the transport sector, while the target is more difficult to be achieved, thus more synergies are needed from other sectors, Cyprus authorities with the PPM proposed in the National Energy and Climate Plan, under certain conditions, can also meet the 14% RES target. As indicated in a study funded by EU, there are some alternative options in the transport sector, that with the appropriate funding in infrastructure projects (Natural Gas Charging points and Electric Vehicles), besides the Modal Shift that is suggested in the study, Cyprus can achieve the set RES target.

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