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Multilateral Assessment

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

Question by New Zealand

at Monday, 05 April 2021

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

Type: Before 05 April

Title: 2025 productive pact

Could France please elaborate on the “2025 productive pact” that aims to involve industry players in the transition? How does France intend to encourage businesses to be accountable for emissions and climate change issues?

Answer by France

By the time the report has been elaborated, the “Productive Pact” has been integrated into our COVID-19 recovery plan. On the industrial sector, the plan has two aspects: a national one and a territorial one. At the national level, support is provided for modernization of strategic sectors (e.g. car manufacturing, nuclear, food, health, and electronics industries). For those, specific terms were negotiated which included commitments from the companies to contribute to France’s climate neutrality target in 2050. For example, Air France committed to reduce emissions from flights through improvements in energy efficiency and use of biofuels, as well as research on use of hydrogen for planes. At the territorial level, 1,2bn € will be spent by 2022 in order to foster the decarbonization of industry. Several calls for interests have been launched by the environment agency, in the fields of energy efficiency, electrification, and use of renewable heat. The already selected 33 projects represent 742ktCO₂eq annual emissions reductions.

At a wider level, since 2012 all firms with more than 500 employees are subject to the reporting every 4 years of GHG assessments following a specific methodology approved by the Ministry of the Ecological Transition. This assessment is a diagnosis of GHG emissions of the organization that must be published online with an action plan specifying the objectives, means and measures envisaged to reduce the reported emissions. All reporting and methodologies are publicly available at :

<https://www.bilans-ges.ademe.fr/>

More recently, our 2020 finance law established that each firm in which the French State takes capital participation is to establish GHG emissions reduction targets aligned with national carbon budgets, and to produce a strategy to reach that target as well as regular GHG assessments.

Question by New Zealand

at Monday, 05 April 2021

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

Type: Before 05 April

Title: Cycling in urban areas

One incentive to encourage cycling mentioned in France's BR4 is tax credits for businesses to provide bicycles to their employees for free. Can France please elaborate on the effect of this measure on cycling in urban areas, and whether a decrease in transport emissions has been observed?

Answer by France

Businesses that provide bicycles to their employees get tax credits of 25% of the cost. From 2015 to 2020, bicycle modal share in trips to work increased by 0.9% from 2.0 % to 2.9%. In core city centers the increase is higher: +1.9% from 4.1% to 6.0%. Several measures in favor of cycling contributed to this: the tax reduction for businesses but also the development of bicycle lanes and infrastructure. It is nevertheless difficult to identify the impact of the tax credit alone. Another measure to encourage cycling is a financial aid of employers for their employees that cycle to work. Employers can pay part of their employees' costs for trips to work made by bicycle (the bicycle mileage allowance, now replaced by the sustainable transport stipend created by the mobility orientation law). The first effects of this measure were recently assessed and are encouraging :

<https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/premiers-resultats-encourageants-mise-en-oeuvre-du-forfait-mobilites-durables>

Question by New Zealand

at Monday, 05 April 2021

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

Type: Before 05 April

Title: 2050 carbon-free land transport target

The Loi d'Orientation des Mobilités includes an intention of ending the sale of new private cars and light commercial vehicles that run on fossil fuels by 2040, and also includes a goal of carbon-free land transport by 2050. New Zealand is interested to know how France plans to phase out fossil fuel-powered cars that generally have lifetimes well over 10 years, so that the 2050 goal can be met?

Answer by France

Fossil-fuel vehicles have indeed lifetimes over 10 years. The "Loi d'orientation des Mobilités" sets an

objective of ending the sale of new private cars and light commercial vehicles that run on fossil fuels by 2040, but the objective is to have a sharp decrease of internal combustion engines sales from now to 2040 so that electric cars represent the vast majority of sales way before 2040. There is a European objective of a 37.5% reduction of emissions for new vehicles in 2030, and the French low carbon strategy objective is that electric cars represent the vast majority of sales in the years 2035-2040. In the low carbon strategy scenario, the share of internal combustion engines is thus only 4% of the vehicles still in operation in 2050. The remaining emissions are taken into account in the 2050 balance that achieves climate neutrality.

Question by New Zealand

at Monday, 05 April 2021

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

Type: Before 05 April

Title: Information on composition and proportion of solid waste production

Can France please provide more information about the overall composition and proportion of its solid waste production (I.e. organics, municipal, construction and demolition, farm fills and rural waste)?

Answer by France

France produces 326 million tons of waste per year. Construction and demolition represents 69% of the waste (224 Mt), industry 8% (26 Mt), farming 0.4% (1 Mt), the tertiary sector 6% (20 Mt), households 10% (32 Mt), sewage sludge and dredged material 7% (22 Mt). Farming material reused on the farm is not considered as waste, as specified in European regulation.

Organic waste (other than sewage sludge) represents 37 million tons a year from the total.

More information can be found on this webpage:

<https://www.ademe.fr/expertises/dechets/chiffres-cles-observation/chiffres-cles>

Question by New Zealand

at Monday, 05 April 2021

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

Type: Before 05 April

Title: New technologies in waste sector

Can France please explain whether new technologies are expected to play a major role in limiting and reducing emissions from France's waste sector? If so, what technologies might these be?

Answer by France

The priority for the waste policy is to reduce the amount of waste produced, and then to increase material recovery (re-use, recycling, methanisation of organic waste). Only in case of no other alternative, the waste is incinerated with energy recovery or stored with capture and incineration of the methane produced. New technologies can help achieving these goals, such as technologies that improve recycling for complex products, the quality of automatic sorting of materials in waste collection centers, etc. A call for proposals on the circular economy has been launched to support innovating initiatives in eco-design and optimized circular economy channels.

<https://www.gouvernement.fr/les-appels-a-projets-en-cours>

However fighting wastage, encouraging better sorting by the consumer himself remain the priorities. Implementing compulsory sorting of organic waste by households by 2025 is for instance one of the key action to reduce emissions in this sector.

Our general waste policy has been renovated and precised by recent laws, among which the Anti Waste and Circular Economy law of 2020 :

<https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/loi-anti-gaspillage-economie-circulaire-1>

Question by New Zealand

at Monday, 05 April 2021

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

Type: Before 05 April

Title: Planned measures to reduce waste emissions

Could France please elaborate on any planned measures to reduce waste emissions from sources other than solid waste (i.e. municipal and industrial wastewater, sludge, compost)?

Answer by France

France has implemented policies and measures to reduce waste emissions from sources other than solid waste, namely :

- The agriculture part of the Circular Economy Roadmap, which includes measures in favor of the production of fertilizers from the recycling of sewage sludge.
- The waste fund, which purpose is to support local authorities and companies who carry out operations in accordance with the waste policy.
- Sectors with extended producer responsibility, which are organizational mechanisms for waste prevention and management, based on the “polluter pays” principle. Some sectors deal with non-solid waste such as specific diffuse waste (chemicals).
- The anti-waste law for a circular economy, which sets several measures, especially in favor of solid waste prevention and consumer information, but also creates new sectors with extended producer responsibility, including lubricating or industrial oils.

Question by Thailand

at Monday, 05 April 2021

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

Type: Before 05 April

Title: GHG emission and trends

In figure 1.3 shows the trends of GHG emissions from the main sectors, however the GHG emission trends from transportation sector in the past did not change much. Could France clarify more on how does the electric vehicle policy effect on the GHG emission trend in transportation sector?

Answer by France

Until now, the share of electric vehicles in new vehicles sold was very small, so that electric vehicles have had no or little impact on emission trends. However this is expected to change. In 2020, the share of electric vehicles rose to 6% for electric vehicles and 4% for plug in hybrid vehicles. This share is expected to increase sharply over the next few years due to European regulation and national incentives. Car manufacturers have to reach a 37.5% decrease in the CO2 emissions of new cars by 2030.

Besides, in 2019, French legislation has introduced new measures requiring some entities to purchase an increasing share of low-emission vehicles in their fleet renewals, including electric

vehicles, by 2030. These measures are also accompanied by financial incentives for the purchase of electric vehicles.

In this context, electric cars are thus expected to reach a significant share in vehicles sold in the coming years. The development of electric vehicles is expected to lead to a reduction of annual emissions of around fifteen million tons CO₂ e by 2030.

Question by Japan

at Monday, 05 April 2021

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

Type: Before 05 April

Title: Quantification of Impacts about policies and measures in biomass use

It is impressive that many mitigation actions relating to biomass use for energy purpose and material substitution are implemented in France due to the list in the table 3.6 of land sector actions in page 68-69. As the emission reduction amounts achieved by this type of actions will be appeared in the Energy sector not in the Land sector in GHG inventory, how to promote and incentivize those actions to the stakeholders of the Land sector may need special treatment. Is there any domestic scheme introduced or plans to introduce to resolve this matter in France, including a scheme assessing the contributions of enhancement of removals, archiving carbon stocks in wood materials or evaluating emissions reductions due to biomass use in companies?

Answer by France

Biomass use, for energy and material purposes, is central in our net-zero strategy. Policies are in place in order to boost both the production and the demand side. On the demand side, the use of biomaterials in new buildings will be incentivized through the « environmental regulation 2020 ». Support schemes are also implemented to support the use of biomass for heat production instead of fossil fuels. This support for an increased use of bioenergy has been further increased as part of the COVID-19 recovery plan.

Even if several plans and actions are devoted to the demand side in order to stimulate value chains up to the stakeholders of the land sector, a national strategy is also dedicated to the production side, aiming at mobilizing biomass potentials for energy, in an adequate balance with other purposes and the respect of a “hierarchy of use” principle. For the different types of biomass (agricultural, forest, livestock manure, wastes), this strategy draws an overview of resources and demand, in observed and projected terms, and suggest policy measures to ensure a match between the two. Biomass schemes decline this strategy at a regional level. Moreover, observatories have been created to help regulators to avoid “conflict of use” on the available resources and in particular ensure a smooth deployment of installations of energy production.

As for enhanced removals, France has created a domestic scheme called « Label Bas Carbone », aimed at incentivizing sustainable farming practices and forest management or plantation through generation of carbon credits. The purpose of the scheme is to set an innovative and transparent framework for financing local GHG reductions and removals enhancements. The environmental integrity and the quality of the projects is guaranteed through the validation of methodologies by the environment ministry, and the external control by an independent audit. Even though the Label aims at covering all sectors, most of the focus so far has been on the forest and agriculture sectors, which both are in need of financial schemes to incentivize sustainable practices. Since its inception in 2019, 88 projects have been validated, generating 270 ktCO₂ of emissions reductions. The scheme proved to be quite successful so far since this number is fast increasing, with 73 other projects under examination and many new methodologies pending approval, showing a strong appetite from stakeholders to engage in the transition.

More information on the Label Bas Carbone is available on the Ministry's website (French only) : www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/label-bas-carbone

Finally, France's long term strategy, the Stratégie nationale bas-carbone, relies on a scenario that accounts for all the biomass usages, and carbon sinks levels. This ensures that the many contributions of biomass are balanced and consistent on the short and long term. More information on the scenario underlying the Strategy can be found on the Ministry's website (French only) :

<https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/Synth%C3%A8se%20sc%C3%A9nario%20de%20r%C3%A9f%C3%A9rence%20SNBC-PPE.pdf>

The indicators of the strategy propose a rough assessment of the “climate contribution” (including substitution effects) of the “forestry and wood products” sector. More information can be found here:

https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/Suivi%20de%20la%20SNBC_edition%202019_indicateurs%20de%20r%C3%A9sultats.pdf

Question by Japan

at Monday, 05 April 2021

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

Type: Before 05 April

Title: Citizen Convention for the Climate

According to page 17 of the BR4 of France, "Convention Citoyenne pour le Climat (Citizen Convention for the Climate)" which consists of 150 randomly selected citizens was founded in October 2019 by the French President, and it is asked to propose measures to reduce GHG emissions. How are the conclusions of the Citizen Convention incorporated into the present French

climate change policies? Will the citizen conference continue to be held? What are the lessons learned from this process?

Answer by France

The Citizen Convention for Climate is an unprecedented democratic experiment in France, bringing together 150 people, randomly chosen and representing the diversity of the French society. Its mandate was to define a series of measures that will allow achieving a reduction of at least 40% in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 (compared to 1990) in a spirit of social justice. The Convention worked for several months and presented its final report to the Government in June 2020. The dedicated website provides more detail on how the Convention worked and its final report:

<https://www.conventioncitoyennepourleclimat.fr/en/>

The Convention issued 149 recommendations, 3 of which were rejected by the President of the Republic. The other recommendations are being integrated on different levels depending on their nature. A large part has been translated into a dedicated bill, which has just been adopted at first reading by the Parliament. The Ministry for an ecological transition provides a follow-up of the recommendations on this webpage:

<https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/suivi-convention-citoyenne-climat/>

Its mandate has now come to an end, but this process shows that this kind of participatory democracy can be very successful and help accelerating the transition toward more sustainable economies. It also demonstrates when citizens are provided with accurate information about climate change and its consequences, they can come up to very ambitious proposals in order to achieve climate objectives.

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 learned from residential energy efficiency

The residential sector is France's second largest source of GHG emissions. Could you please outline the lessons learned on how France made residential energy efficient renovations equitable for all households, including disadvantaged households (e.g., French National Housing Agency aid scheme, tax credits, and grant opportunities)?

Answer by France

National aids vary according to the revenues of the household. Until 2020, there were tax credits for households. Poorer households were entitled to extra-subsidies from the French National Housing Agency aid scheme. To simplify the system, tax credits were scrapped and now all households can get subsidies from the French National Housing aid scheme with the amount varying significantly according to the revenues.

Incentives for comprehensive renovation have been strengthened, on the one hand by moving from an individual logic to a collective logic by paying the MaPrimeRenov' aid directly to the syndicate of co-owners in the case of collective housing, and on the other hand by implementing simplified and grouped offers. Thus, in April 2020, the 'energy saving certificates' scheme (CEE) created an additional aid for high performance refurbishment for residential buildings (the «coup de pouce rénovation performante de bâtiments résidentiels collectifs »), which concerns the overall renovation of condominiums. This system was extended October 11, 2020 to renovation work on individual houses that would result in an energy gain of at least 55%, under the name "Coup de pouce rénovation globale d'une maison individuelle". These aids depend on the revenue of the households.

Since 2019, the "coup de pouce CEE" has enabled the replacement of more than 140,000 oil-fired boilers (90%) with renewable energy or heat pumps.

The government is also mobilizing other levers to stimulate demand for comprehensive renovation, in particular the strengthening of the 'FAIRE' network that within the framework of the CEE aims at advising and supporting people find the right contractor that can do the job and find what subsidies (national or local) they can get according to their revenues.

Households may also apply for a loan which facilitates financing the project.

Question by New Zealand

at Monday, 05 April 2021

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

Type: Before 05 April

Title: Food system resource use and sustainable forests

Has France considered the impacts on emissions projections of food system resource use efficiencies and integrating sustainable forests into agricultural landscapes?

Answer by France

All mitigation levers are needed in order to reach climate neutrality. Resource use efficiency was

indeed included in our modeling (with Climagri model, operated by our environment agency), for examples for crops, through assumptions related to increased use of decision-making tools, more advanced devices such as precision agriculture, etc. Food waste reduction is also an important lever to mobilize since it brings various social and environmental co-benefits. It is not possible to assess the impact of each individual lever on emissions reductions. However, it is likely that most of the emissions reductions in agriculture come from other levers such as farming practices (crop diversification in particular with legumes, longer rotations, reduced tillage, intermediary crops, etc.). Overall, the vision for the French agriculture in 2050 is to go towards agroecology. Among other things, this implies the integration of sustainable forests into agricultural landscapes, be it through the development of agroforestry (surface of trees planted on croplands x6 in 2050 compared to 2015), or through the extension of hedges (surface x5 in 2050 compared to 2015), etc.

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: Transition to clean energy jobs

In 2022, France will halt electricity plants that run exclusively on coal. How does France plan to retrain and integrate this labor force into new jobs? Will this labor force be directed to jobs in the clean energy/technology sector?

Answer by France

Halting coal-fired plants meant closing down four plants. These four plants represented 1.2% of electricity production and 30% of electricity production emissions with 10 MtCO₂ emitted every year. For each territory concerned, a 'territory project' is implemented to create new activities and green transition in the territory. These include two off shore wind farms, developing the harbor sites (two of the plants are located close to harbors), projects in bio-energy, projects for clean mobility including a hydrogen project, projects for enhancing the local environment. For one of the coal fired plants, there is some consideration into turning it into a biomass fired plant. For each site, accompanying the workers concerned (working for the electricity producers or the subcontractors) to new positions with training is therefore a priority.

Government's objective is indeed to facilitate job transition with projects that enable the recruitment of employees previously employed in coal activities: employees working in the coal plants, coal handlers and employees working for the subcontractors. The State finances and coordinates together with local authorities territory projects that precisely aim at facilitating the transition. Also, considering the employees themselves, for those that their company cannot maintain in their present position or offer another job within the same organization – indeed the

employees of the two plants that are owned by 'Electricité de France' will all be accompanied by their employer in view of another job within the same corporation – the State has carried out long term paid leave for professional retraining, partly financed by the State, to enable a return to work in the best conditions.

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 transition to renewable energy

France's 2017 hydrocarbon law prohibits new permits to explore and exploit fossil fuels and reiterates France's target to end all existing fossil fuel production by 2040. Could you please share the plans and progress on the deployment of renewable energy and technologies to take the place of fossil fuel energy sources?

Answer by France

The ecological transition towards climate neutrality implies an almost complete phase out from fossil fuels. The last coal-fired electrical power stations on mainland France will be shut down by 2022 in accordance with the energy and climate bill from 2019. This law also increased the fossil fuel consumption reduction target from 30 to 40% in 2030 compared to 2012 level. Meanwhile, France is undertaking ambitious policies in order to increase the share of renewable energy in the energy mix. Electrical renewables are being deployed through tenders, whose calendar is set by the Multi-annual Energy Plan, and support schemes are in place for renewable heat, in particular through the "Heat fund" (350M€ in 2021). As a result, renewable energies have been growing steadily in the last few years in France to reach 11.7% of primary energy consumption and 17.2% of gross final energy consumption in 2019 (a +84% increase compared to 1990). For electricity alone, renewables have reached 26.9% of total consumption in 2020. France also set a target of 33% of renewable energy sources in gross final energy consumption in 2030. Our COVID-19 recovery plan also includes actions to foster the production of green hydrogen in France, with 7b€ invested until 2030.

More information on the Multi-annual Energy Plan (including English versions) can be found at :

<https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/programmations-pluriannuelles-lenergie-ppe>

Question by Canada

at Monday, 05 April 2021

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

Type: Before 05 April

Title: Impact of COVID-19 and mitigation policy

Looking back at the last year and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, what have you learned or experienced that may impact the design of mitigation policies going forward? What lessons could other countries learn from your experience?

Answer by France

The pandemic has had a very important effect on our society and economy, but France is determined to turn this challenge into an opportunity to accelerate the transition towards a more sustainable and fair economy.

This translates into the design of our €100 billion recovery plan, with €30 billion directly dedicated for the green transition, by supporting the thermal retrofitting of public and private buildings, the financing of decarbonization investments in the industry, the development of green mobility and transportation, and the development of green hydrogen.

Also, green conditions have been set for companies which benefit from the recovery plan. The largest companies in which the French State will directly invest will have to develop and follow-up publicly on an emissions reduction strategy. Smaller companies will have to carry out a simplified assessment of their CO2 emissions. Another example is that in exchange for public support, Air France agreed to close the domestic flight connections when rail alternatives shorter than 2h30 exist. This measure is now being extended to all companies in our climate bill.

Finally, it is also interesting to see that the restrictions during the pandemic have also fostered virtuous behavioral changes: biking has strongly developed in urban areas, teleworking practices have proven to be an efficient alternative and will likely remain way above pre-crisis levels after the pandemic, local tourism has developed, etc. This is very encouraging and supports our belief that we can build back on a greener development.

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: High Council for Climate and the Citizen Convention for Climate

France's fourth biennial report highlights the creation of the High Council for Climate and the Citizen Convention for Climate. Could you say more on if and how the council and convention interact, and what the process will be for integrating their recommendations into policy making.

Answer by France

The High Council for Climate is a body of independent experts which is meant to assess France's climate policies and provide recommendations to the Government. All its reports are publicly available on its website : <https://www.hautconseilclimat.fr/>

The Citizen Convention for Climate is an unprecedented democratic experiment in France, bringing together 150 people, randomly chosen and representing the diversity of the French society. Its mandate was to define a series of measures that will allow achieving a reduction of at least 40% in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 (compared to 1990) in a spirit of social justice. The Convention worked for several months and presented its final report to the Government in June 2020. Its mandate has now come to an end. The dedicated website provides more detail on how the Convention worked and its final report : <https://www.conventioncitoyennepourleclimat.fr/en/>

The two bodies are therefore of different nature, but are both part of France's climate governance system, which was strongly enhanced over the last years.

The Convention issued 149 recommendations, 3 of which were rejected by the President of the Republic. The other recommendations are being integrated at different levels depending on their nature. A large part has been translated into a dedicated bill, which has just been adopted at first reading by the Parliament. The Ministry for an ecological transition provides a follow-up of the recommendations on this webpage:

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