May-June 2021 UN Climate Change Conference

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Multilateral Assessment

A compilation of questions to - and answers by - Latvia
exported on 02-06-2021 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 arrangements

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 Latvia, Tuesday, 25 May 2021

Thank you for the question!

Since Biennial Report 3 (BR3) submission Latvia made changes to its institutional, legal, administrative, and procedural arrangements used for domestic compliance, monitoring, reporting, archiving of information and evaluation of progress towards its target. In 2018, Latvia amended the Law on Pollution, which is the primary national policy document on climate change. The changes determined a new responsibility of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development (MEPRD), in cooperation with the Ministries of Agriculture, Transport, Economics and other ministries, to prepare and submit an annual report to the Cabinet of Ministers (The Government of Latvia) regarding the fulfilment of commitments on GHG emission reductions and CO_2 removals.

The revised Law on Pollution stipulates that the annual report provides an assessment of progress on national commitments on reducing GHG emissions to date. Furthermore, the revised Law on Pollution requires the elaboration of proposals for any additional measures needed to fulfil those commitments (consistent with the established sectoral policy planning documents) and the identification of any conditions needed to meet the 2020 and 2030 commitments under the UNFCCC and as part of the EU (including for sectors covered by the EU's Effort Sharing Regulation), including delegation of authority, as necessary. The revised Law on Pollution determines that such proposals be evaluated for their socioeconomic impacts and assessed for cost-efficiency.

These changes helped to establish closer coordination among MEPRD and other ministries which has provided closer cooperation and helped in the development of climate policy documents.

Since the BR3, the Quality Assurance/Quality control program[1] including the process for projections preparation in relation to responsibilities, QA/QC aims, timing as per order 1-2/160 of 3 October 2018 of MEPRD, in accordance with regulation No 737 "Regulations Regarding the Establishment and Maintenance of the National System for the Greenhouse Gas Inventories and Preparation of Projections" (adopted 12 December 2017) have been introduced. This ensures that the measurement, verification and verification (MRV) system in Latvia includes specific tasks regarding quality control procedures, a timetable for preparing national projections for all the experts involved in the process of Biennial Report preparation and for experts it is easier to plan their work.

As the legal, administrative and procedural arrangements now are in place for domestic compliance, MRV and the evaluation of our climate targets:

-) provide the government with an actual information regarding progress made on meeting the determined targets;

-) help to determine the tasks for other institutions involved if some problems with meeting the tasks arise, that for example, Cabinet of Ministers can request to the responsible institution to introduce an additional measure.

[1] QA/QC program:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1c_feT1sy0yKb2d5RYcu6EQa124VeLQ_8/view

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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: Mitigation effects of preferential feed-in tariffs

Could you provide more information on why the mitigation effect of preferential feed-in tariffs for RES electricity and CHP electricity production has been so significant? How does this fact inform your future policies choices?

Answer by Latvia, Tuesday, 25 May 2021

Thank you for the question. According to policy impact evaluation, increase of utilisation of renewable energy sources (RES) in energy production (both electricity and heat production for district heating systems) has provided the largest contribution in GHG emissions reduction over the period of 2000 to 2019.

In this period the price of the electricity produced from RES was higher compared to electricity market price. Due to this reason the support mechanism – preferential feed-in tariffs (FIT) has been applied to promote implementation of both RES electricity and Combined Heat and Power (CHP) electricity production technologies. Particularly, all biogas, biomass CHP and wind power plants installed in 2000-2019 and currently being in exploitation had been put into operation mainly thanks to this support mechanism. As a result of FIT policy, the electricity production from RES has increased per about 32% allowing to meet (and even outnumber) the national RES-target for 2020, stated for Latvia as the EU member state. In addition to GHG emissions reduction, RES electricity production has significantly contributed to increase of Latvia's energy supply security due to decreasing dependence on imported natural gas.

At the same time application of particular FIT policy has provided some lessons learned. Our experience shows that highly important factors that must be clearly defined when starting the

FIT policy are the maximum time period of application of FIT and flexibility of FIT which should reflect both the changes in RES-electricity technology cost and electricity market price.

Taking into account that the particular RES electricity technologies today are capable to produce electricity that is competitive to the electricity market price and evaluating the lessons learned of FIT policy, FIT is no more considered as the appropriate instrument to promote RES electricity technologies in future in Latvia. Instead of FIT the support instruments better fit to electricity market conditions are considered to be applied.

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: Long-term policies and measures

Latvia's Technical Review Report states that longer-term policies and measures are being planned and drafted. Please can Latvia say any more about what progress has been made on these longer-term measures since Latvia's review?

Answer by Latvia, Tuesday, 25 May 2021

Thank you for the question. Please find the answer in the attachment.

Attachment: Long_term_policies_measures.pdf

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: Progress towards 2020 target for sectors under ESD

New Zealand is interested to know what progress Latvia has made towards meeting its national target of limiting emission growth to 17 per cent above 2005 level by 2020 for

sectors under the ESD, as mentioned on page 9 of the BR4? How will progress be monitored towards the target and beyond?

Answer by Latvia, Tuesday, 25 May 2021

Thank you for the question. Please see the answer in the attachment.

Attachment: Progress_towards2020target.pdf
