

## May-June 2021 UN Climate Change Conference

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### Multilateral Assessment

A compilation of questions to - and answers by - Malta  
exported on 02-06-2021  
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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: Waste Management Plan

Could you outline some of the lessons learned in the implementation of the Waste Management Plan for the Maltese Islands?

Answer by Malta, Tuesday, 01 June 2021

In 2013, the Ministry responsible for the environment developed a Waste Management Plan for the Maltese Islands for the period 2014 – 2020. This Plan included a series of measures to promote waste prevention, re-use, recycling and recovery in order to move waste in Malta up the waste hierarchy. The Plan adopted a resource-efficiency approach before the notion of circular economy became the fulcrum of waste policy at European level.

In order to determine the progress achieved on the implementation of the waste prevention and management measures, Malta conducted a stock-taking exercise to track the status of measures, assess the progress achieved and to analyse opportunities for improvement. Throughout the exercise, each measure was monitored to understand its status, deadline and the way forward. In this sense, it proved a useful tool for reflection and planning and in helping define the key priority areas of the Waste Management Plan for 2021-2030.

Malta successfully implemented the majority (around 80%) of the measures identified in the Waste Management Plan 2014-2020. The most significant completed measures included those addressing infrastructural needs including new waste treatment facilities at the Magtab complex as well as the nationwide roll-out of organic waste collections from households. The latter was a game changer in establishing new waste separation practices in households leading to considerable amounts of separate organic waste collected on an annual basis. This was complemented by communication and awareness campaigns on sustainable waste management and the distribution of bins and waste bags to assist householders in this new endeavour. Plans for the introduction of a Beverage Container Repository System is well underway. Moreover, regulatory frameworks were revised, and the waste regulator's enforcement capacity was strengthened to improve compliance and curtail abuse.

Key lessons learned in the implementation of the previous Waste Management Plan include the importance of a strong institutional governance system that ensures regular monitoring of progress. The engagement and involvement of citizens is also key to ensure waste prevention and management initiatives are successful. Finally, understanding the impact of measures towards the bigger picture vision is vital to ensure coherence between various initiatives across entities.

The new Waste Management Plan (2021-2030) has been recently subject to public consultation and is soon up for adoption. It will implement a range of measures to move Malta towards a more resource efficient economy, utilising lessons learned from implementation of the previous Plan. Key priority areas of action which bolster the previous achievements include creating a more conducive landscape for waste prevention, reforming

the waste collection system, increasing capacities in waste treatment infrastructure; enhancing the Extended Producer Responsibility Principle, better regulating commercial waste and strengthening our monitoring and compliance systems. The Waste Management Plan 2021-2030 received overall support for its level of ambition and aims to maximise the inherent resource value through holistic waste management solutions.

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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: PAMs reporting lessons

Could you outline some of the lessons learned from the steps you took to significantly improve your PaM reporting in the BR4?

Answer by Malta, Tuesday, 01 June 2021

There are a number of lessons that Malta is learning in the process to improve reporting on policies and measures. It should be noted that this is a process that continues and there is much that remains to be done.

It is important to note that for Malta, reporting on policies and measures is not solely a result of biennial reporting to the UNFCCC; in fact, similar biennial reporting is required pursuant to European Union law, particularly the European Union's Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action (Governance Regulation). This Regulation requires the elaboration of National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) every 10 years, with interim biennial progress reporting to the European Commission in the course of each NECP cycle, and parallel biennial reporting on policies and measures and projections.

The process to prepare Malta's 1st NECP highlighted the importance of a coordinating structure that brings together all relevant stakeholders, to provide the necessary input and eventually compile a single document. The preparation of the 1st NECP was guided by an inter-Ministerial Steering Committee, with a number of technical working groups established to focus on specific aspects. The reporting for Malta's 4th Biennial Report benefitted from this process. This approach should not only be the approach to be used for future compilation of such national strategic documents but should also provide the basis for establishing a 'national system' for reporting on policies and measures and on the assessment of such policies and measures with a view to also reporting on projections.

A second crucial lesson is the importance of the role of sectoral entities in the process of reporting on policies and measures. Climate action is a mainstream policy and sectoral government entities are usually responsible for national policy-making in the sectors within the respective portfolios. Sectoral organizations (public and private) are then often directly

involved in actual implementation. These different stakeholders therefore have direct knowledge of their sectors, are closest to the planning and implementation of measures, and thus have a more in-depth view of the development of respective sectors. This is indispensable in not only determining the most appropriate policies and measures for each sector, but also to identify the appropriate tools to assess, ex-ante, the impacts of proposed policies and measures, to monitor the implementation of policies and measures, and to then ex-post assess the results of implemented policies and measures. Reporting on policies and measures should thus not be solely a centralized, top-down process, but should constitute a bottom-up engagement of different stakeholders. Indeed, efforts are ongoing to better engage with sectoral stakeholders.

Finally, reporting on policies and measures reflects the policy planning process of the country. Apart from the already mentioned NECP, and a long history of policy-making within different sectors, another important long-term policy-making process currently in hand is the elaboration of a Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS), with a vision towards 2050. The LCDS should form the basis of sustainable, carbon-efficient, and well governed decision making across all policy areas, with the goal of achieving continued social and economic growth in an environmentally efficient manner. The LCDS, and the implementation of the measures identified within it, will therefore have a major influence on future reporting on policies and measures. Bringing these elements together is key for continued improvement of Malta's reporting on policies and measures.

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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:](#) Renewable energy target

New Zealand would be interested to hear whether Malta has a further renewable energy target that it will aim for once the 10 per cent target by 2020 is delivered?

[Answer by](#) Malta, Tuesday, 01 June 2021

Malta's renewable energy share, and thus its contribution to the European Union's 2030 target is expected to amount to 11.5% in 2030. Malta's contribution in the three reference years, 2022, 2025 and 2027 is expected to reach 10.3%, 11.0% and 11.6%, respectively.

Malta expects to make use of statistical transfers or other types of cooperation mechanisms in 2021 to maintain the minimum 2020 RES share of 10% post-2020. Malta is going to address key policies and measures to reach the 2030 target, including:

- Measures exploiting all technically and economically viable indigenous RES sources;
- Extension of current policy framework in the area of RES for the period until 2030 whilst

providing new initiatives tailored to local specificities;

- Financial support schemes for Solar PV (Grants for households, Feed-in Tariffs for both residential and non-residential systems);
- Schemes to support solar water heaters and heat pump water heaters;
- Biofuels substitution obligation on fuel importers reflecting recast of the EU Renewable Energy Sources Directive.

Malta will continue to assess innovative, viable and cost-effective solutions tailored to its specificities, such as energy storage solutions, which would solve challenges related to increased RES generation and solutions to ensure system stability with respect to grid integration constraints inherent in small and peripheral electricity systems. The implementation of investment schemes for PV-integrated battery storage systems in households can be expected to increase the share of self-consumed renewable electricity, which would then curb the impact on the low voltage network and in turn smoothen the demand.

In view of the high population density and limited land area inhibiting the development of onshore renewables, Malta is also committed to continue monitoring developments in floating offshore solar and wind technologies. Malta is focusing on the potential deployment of offshore renewable solutions at pilot level. This is being done with a view of establishing the necessary administrative and financial frameworks which will enable the future deployment of larger scale projects, as these technologies reach market maturity. Viable renewable offshore solutions would be included in future updates of Malta's National Energy and Climate Action Plan.

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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:](#) Assessments of the impacts of policies and measures

Can Malta please share any updates on the capacity building that they are undertaking to improve its assessment of the impacts of policies and measures?

[Answer by](#) Malta, Tuesday, 01 June 2021

It is to note that the assessment of impacts of policies and measures is, at present, mainly the responsibility of two government entities: the Energy and Water Agency (EWA) in respect of Energy-related assessment; the Malta Resources Authority (MRA) in respect of other sectors. Where relevant, the input of sectoral entities, especially those responsible for setting sectoral policy, is sought.

Capacity building efforts in recent years had been addressed primarily towards the compilation of Malta's 1st National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP), a policy planning and reporting requirement pursuant to the European Union's Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action (Governance Regulation).

EWA, which had the lead coordination responsibility for the compilation of the 1st NECP and was also responsible for energy-related benefitted from technical assistance through the European Commission's Structural Reform Support Service (SRSS). As part of the SRSS support, the EWA benefited from the services of resident experts for a period of 12 months, who assisted with the development of energy models.

The EWA energy modelling framework developed for the purpose of the NECP had been peer-reviewed by third-party consultants through the SRSS technical assistance that EWA had benefitted from. The Electricity Demand model has also been validated by another third party consultant. These efforts by EWA should ensure the availability of robust systems for assessment of policies and measures in the wider energy sector, this being the sector that accounts for the largest share of national greenhouse gas emissions, and thus also being the sector with an envisaged prime importance towards Malta attaining its quantified economy-wide emission reduction obligations.

The MRA is also engaging with external experts for further future support in additional capacity for reporting on projections. The main focus of further capacity building work will be to identify improvements that may be required in respect of sectoral modelling tools for those sectors and categories that are, to date, the responsibility of the MRA in terms of projections. Other entities, with a direct role in sectoral policy-making will be encouraged to explore further the possibility of enhancing their own capacity for preparing of sectoral projections of activity data and greenhouse gas emissions.

As part of the process of improving its own role in the reporting on policies and measures and on projections, the MRA will also explore the possibility of elaborating a formal quality management system for those activities it undertakes itself, building on the experience that the MRA has already gained with the elaboration of an internal ISO certified quality management system for the compilation of annual greenhouse gas inventories (the MRA is designated as Malta's national greenhouse gas inventory agency).

Since the last Multilateral Assessment, Malta has introduced, as part of the development of its Low Carbon Development Strategy the use of marginal abatement cost curves (MACC) in the analysis of measures. Effects of measures are now being analysed both from an emission abatement perspective as well as from an economic cost/benefit. The two analyses brought together in the MACC provide key information on opportunities for emission reduction at a benefit or at the least cost possible.

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[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: Sector and activity GHG emission reduction targets

We were interested to see that Malta's upcoming Low Carbon Development Strategy will consider the merits of setting sector or activity-specific GHG emission reduction targets at the national level. Can you tell us more about the development of this strategy and whether such targets are still being considered?

Answer by Malta, Tuesday, 01 June 2021

Malta will be issuing the Low Carbon Development strategy for public consultation in the month of June, and in line with the Low Carbon Development vision issues in 2017. ([https://meae.gov.mt/en/Public\\_Consultations/MSDEC/Documents/MSDEC%20LCDS%20Vision.PDF](https://meae.gov.mt/en/Public_Consultations/MSDEC/Documents/MSDEC%20LCDS%20Vision.PDF))

This strategy will contain specific activity related targets, whose achievement leads to emission reductions in line with the set mitigation targets at European level. The ultimate objective of this strategy is to chart the roadmap towards the achievement of carbon neutrality by 2050.

The development process of the strategy involved extensive consultations and discussions with stakeholders at various levels, owing to the horizontal nature of climate action. These included intra-governmental discussions, noting that the implementation of several measures would be led by different Ministries depending on the respective portfolios such as the case for energy and transport; and other external stakeholders mainly industry representatives whose collaboration and agreement in principle was sought on the main objectives and the direction and approach adopted in the design of the decarbonisation measures. The consultation process which will see its culmination in the public consultation to be announced in the coming weeks, was complemented by mathematical modelling in terms of marginal abatement cost, which further led to evidence-based policy decisions which were translated into a list of policy measures. The Strategy will include policy measures on a short medium term and longer term.

Key short term (2030) measures will include:

- Extended free Public Transport
- Electrification of vehicle
- Electric Vehicles charging points
- Electrification of government fleet
- Electrification of public transport
- Active Transport
- Remote Working
- PV systems
- Energy-efficiency single measures and retrofitting to achieve NZEB level
- Schemes for deep renovation
- Support scheme for services and industry
- Energy Efficiency and renovations in public buildings
- Incineration pre-sorting



- High Bio-Waste Capture
- Waste Prevention

Key Long-term (2050) measures will include:

- Explore the possibility of alternative sources of supply (such as hydrogen, offshore wind and solar) to cover more security of supply;
- Assess the cost-effectiveness and affordability of green hydrogen energy for power generation;
- Study feasibility of Mass transit systems;
- Include of ICE cut-off date to accelerate uptake of electric vehicles;
- Agriculture measures: improved agricultural irrigation, explore possibility of introducing innovative agricultural methods like aquaponics, and nitrate diets for cattle;
- Increase measures in relation to the building envelope and sustainable materials;
- Support domestic and industrial water conservation and reuse measures;
- Achieve net impact utility status within the water production and distribution sector.

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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:](#) "With additional measures" scenario

It was noted that Malta's BR4 did not report on a "with additional measures" scenario. New Zealand is interested to know if Malta will include a "with additional measures" scenario in its next BR and if so, what steps are being taken to enable this?

[Answer by](#) Malta, Tuesday, 01 June 2021

The reporting on policies and measures and projections in Malta's 4th Biennial Report was based on the information reported by the country in its 1st National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) submitted to the European Commission pursuant to the European Union's Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action (Governance Regulation). Malta's 1st NECP was based on a scenario that mainly includes policies and measures that had, or were, being implemented, or for which a firm decision to implement had already been taken at the time of compiling the NECP.

In the meantime, Malta is preparing its Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS; in accordance with the requirement for Long-term Strategies pursuant to the Governance Regulation). This Strategy has a dual purpose: to identify new, additional measures to bridge the gap towards the country's medium-term, binding commitments under the Effort-sharing legislative framework of the European Union and to set out a roadmap with a view



towards Malta's commitment for carbon neutrality by 2050, in the context of the European Union's objective of achieving collective climate neutrality by mid-century. The LCDS will be issued for public consultation during the month of June.

The new additional measures that will be presented in the LCDS will initially constitute a "with additional measures" scenario. Considering that the Strategy is going to be published in June, it will then need to account also for the necessary timeframe for public consultation, to assess whether to include the measures in the next Biennial Report or otherwise.

Hence, it is envisaged that subsequent progress reports will then be able to build on the list of proposed measures to set out such a scenario, also taking into account any measures which would, in time, be implemented and would thus form part of a revised "with existing measures" scenario. The same approach will be used in respect of reporting to the European Union, ensuring, to the highest extent possible, consistency between the two reporting streams.



# May-June 2021 UN Climate Change Conference

Session closes at 01-06-2021

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