

Session SB63 (2025)

Session starts: 10-08-2025 00:00:00 [GMT+1]

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Facilitative, Multilateral Consideration of Progress

A compilation of questions to - and answers by - [European Union](#) exported
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Question by United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at Wednesday, 10 September 2025

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

Type: Before 10 September

Title: Question to European Union on their monitoring and reporting process

Thank you, **European Union**, for the opportunity to comment on your 1st Biennial Transparency Report. In your report you note that the European Commission is assisted by the European Environment Agency and European Chemicals Agency to assess and report on progress towards your targets. Can you share how each of these bodies work together to ensure accurate and transparency monitoring and reporting?

Answer by European Union

A core EU legislative instrument to support climate transparency is Regulation 2018/1999 (EU) on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action.

This Regulation has the objective to ensure integrated climate and energy planning and monitoring, which also helps to ensure quality reporting to UNFCCC by the Union and Member States. Article 42 of this legislation outlines the role of the European Environment Agency (EEA) in this process.

The EEA Furthermore the EEA concretely supports the European Commission with writing the GHG inventory report (NIR).

The EEA supports with the collection (digital survey tools) and processing (quality control and quality assurance and gap filling) of national data from EU Member States. One of the prime support of the EEA is specifically to support the European Commission in drafting the GHG inventory report (NIR). Also, the EEA compiles other major EU-27 datasets such as the approximate GHG inventory, GHG projections and GHG policies and measures. These datasets feed into the assessment of progress towards the EU and Member States climate targets and joint NDC.

The European Chemicals Agency supports the EU GHG inventory by providing data and expert advice on chemical substances and their use and their emissions.

In addition to the Biennial Transparency Report under the Enhanced Transparency Framework, the EU Climate Action Progress Report assesses the progress of the EU and

Member States in meeting the targets set out under the obligations in EU Regulations (EU) 2018/842 on binding annual greenhouse gas emission reductions by Member States from 2021 to 2030 contributing to climate action to meet commitments under the Paris Agreement and Regulation (EU) 2018/841 on the inclusion of greenhouse gas emissions and removals from land use, land use change and forestry in the 2030 climate and energy framework.

Question by Republic of Korea at Wednesday, 10 September 2025

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

Type: Before 10 September

Title: Transparent reporting – document format, p. 51

The EU submitted its BTR in a format that is not searchable by a PDF reader. In the interest of enhancing transparency, does the EU intend to provide its BTR in a format that enables keyword or subject-based search functionality?

Answer by European Union

The European Commission will correct this with a resubmission in a pdf reader searchable version.

Question by Republic of Korea at Wednesday, 10 September 2025

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

Type: Before 10 September

Title: Projections – up to 2050, p. 103

The EU has presented GHG emission projections up to 2050, which is distinctive compared to other Parties. Given the challenges of compiling data from Member States with varying assumptions and parameters, how does the EU ensure quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) in the process of producing such long-term projections? Could the EU share related experiences?

Answer by European Union

EU Member States report their projections according to Article 18 of the Governance Regulation

(<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32018R1999>). The regulation does not prescribe a specific methodology to generate these projections.

Projections are first prepared at the national level using sectoral models based on official national statistics while following common EU guidelines. The results need to be documented according to a detailed standardised format (see Article 38 and Annex XXV Commission Implementing Regulation 2020/1208,

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32020R1208&from=EN>).The results undergo a quality control and assurance process.

The EU ensures that quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) is a process involving Member States, the Commission, and the EEA. These include specifications on methodologies, assumptions, and reporting formats. The EEA compiles and reviews the submissions from Member States. During this process, checks are carried out for completeness, consistency across sectors and gases, and comparability between Member States. If data from the Member State is incomplete EEA will apply a gap-filling of data. The gap-filling of data is done in consultation with the Member State. Further, where significant differences in assumptions or parameters are observed, the EEA engages in bilateral exchanges with the Member States to clarify and will, if needed, harmonise approaches. All QA/QC procedures are centralised, including checks against historic trends and alignment with EU policy targets.

Experience is gained through regular review cycles under the UNFCCC and EU's internal governance framework, which helps strengthen the validity of projection methodologies over time. This highlights the importance of transparent documentation of assumptions, where differences across Member States can be understood and addressed.

Question by Japan at Wednesday, 10 September 2025

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

Type: Before 10 September

Title: Progress of the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED)

The revised Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) sets a new target of achieving an additional 11.9% reduction by 2030 compared with the projections under the 2020 EU reference scenario. Progress toward this target shows that final energy consumption in 2022 exceeded the target level by 23.3%. What additional or enhanced energy-saving promotion policies and measures could be considered to achieve this target?

Related pages : BTR1 p.62-63

<https://unfccc.int/documents/644477>

Answer by European Union

The EU target sets the goal of reducing EU final energy consumption by 11.7% by 2030, compared to the projected energy use for 2030, and indicative national targets for EU Member States to accomplish the EU target.

Following the adoption of the recast Energy Efficiency Directive in September 2023, the Commission adopted a series of recommendations to ensure implementation and help Member States in the transposition process. The Commission is also rapidly engaging in the implementation of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive adopted in April 2024, which will rapidly enable to decarbonise our building stock, still responsible for about 40% of the EU's total energy consumption, and ultimately increase our energy security and reduce our dependence on imported fossil fuels.

Member States national energy and climate plans (NECPs) contain the policies and measures that each Member State envisages to meet their climate and energy targets.

Question by Japan at Wednesday, 10 September 2025

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

Type: Before 10 September

Title: Differences between the WEM and WAM Scenarios

In BTR1, the EU provides projections under both the WEM and WAM scenarios. What

additional policies and measures primarily account for the differences between the WEM and WAM scenarios?

Related pages: BTR1 p.93

<https://unfccc.int/documents/644477>

Answer by European Union

EU projections constitute the compilation of bottom-up modelling processes by EU Member States (MS). The EEA prepares and aligns all Member States reporting to create an EU-27 dataset, on behalf of the European Commission. The difference of WEM and WAM is not directly comparable to EU policies and measures, as they relate to the effects of policies reported by the MS and not all Member States report consistently on EU policies and their effects. Though some Member States are aligning their policies impact reporting with their projections it remains a minority and therefore it is difficult to analyse the core policies which are contributing to emissions reductions expected to achieve WAM (i.e. difference of WEM/WAM). The European Commission and EEA are working with MS to better align this reporting to allow these insights to be analysed in the future.

For the aggregate EU projections, the largest difference between WEM and WAM arises in the transport, energy and buildings/residential sectors. Some Member States introduced new measures, particularly focusing on renewable energy; others outlined a range of plans and strategies and other are in the process of revising their long-term strategies to align with EU objectives.

Question by Japan at Wednesday, 10 September 2025

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

Type: Before 10 September

Title: Quantification of achieved/expected emission reductions by policies and measures

Looking at Table 5 of the CTF-NDC, the achieved and expected emission reductions by each policy and measure are not well-reported. What challenges exist in quantifying

this data? Furthermore, what considerations does the EU plan to address these challenges, and how are the results integrated into policy measures?

Related pages : CTF-NDC Table 5

<https://unfccc.int/documents/644478>

Answer by European Union

The EU continues to be challenged by the estimation of expected emissions reduction for individual policies and measures and is working on ways to overcome these challenges.

As described in the BTR p.38 and p.92 based on the EU better regulation principle, impact assessments are carried out for all legislative initiatives. Impact assessments are a key component of the European Commission's Better Regulation Agenda, which aims to boost transparency in EU policymaking and implement an evidence-based policymaking. However, throughout the trilogue negotiations and debates the legislative proposal could be amended. Therefore, the initial ex-post impact assessment may not be fully aligned with the adopted legislative text.

Once adopted, Directives need to be incorporated in Member States' national legislation. Member States play a key role in ensuring the implementation and they all have different circumstances.

Question by New Zealand at Tuesday, 09 September 2025

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

Type: Before 10 September

Title: EU's Fit for 55 - LULUCF regulation

The EU's Fit for 55 package sets a net removals target of 310 Mt CO₂-e by 2030 under the LULUCF Regulation. Could the EU elaborate on how this target is distributed across Member States, and what mechanisms are in place to ensure consistency and comparability in accounting approaches?

Answer by European Union

Following the adoption of the EU's Fit for 55 legislative package, a new LULUCF regulation (EU) 2023/829 amended the existing LULUCF regulation and introduced a target of 42 MtCO₂e removals in addition to the average of 2016-2018 as reported in 2020. These 42 MtCO₂e were then allocated to Member States based on the area of managed land reported by each Member State. The allocation can be found in annex IIa to the LULUCF regulation.

The accounting rules for the period 2026-2030 follows a gross-net approach reflecting exactly what is reported in the GHG inventory. In addition to the IPCC guidelines and the MPGs under the Paris Agreement, additional reporting requirements have been introduced that will ensure consistency and comparability among Member States, such as a minimum requirement for using tier 2 for all carbon pools starting from 2028 and tier 3 for specific land use categories starting from 2030 at the latest. The full list of which land use categories this include can also be found in the amended LULUCF regulation.

Question by Canada at Wednesday, 03 September 2025

Category: All emissions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 10 September

Title: New technologies in GHG Inventory development

How have you been able to leverage new technologies such as artificial intelligence to improve GHG inventory development?

Answer by European Union

The EU is not applying artificial intelligence (AI) technologies in the development of its greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory at the moment. Instead, the focus is on exploring the use of Copernicus products to enhance the quality assurance processes, particularly in the early stages of data verification. For example, we are assessing how to incorporate burned area maps derived from Sentinel-2 and MODIS, produced by the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS). (<https://forest-fire.emergency.copernicus.eu/>).

The European Commission has developed its AI tools with pre-trained large language models (LLMs) and is currently exploring their use.

Looking ahead, the European Environment Agency (EEA) is considering the integration of AI for various objectives. In the upcoming year, they plan to publish some of the most relevant figures from the inventory online to take advantage of enhanced visualization tools. As part of this process, they aim to implement AI-generated descriptions of figures using large language models (LLMs), trained on EU GHG data, EEA reports, and related sources.

Question by Canada at Wednesday, 03 September 2025

Category: All emissions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 10 September

Title: GHG Inventory methodologies and mitigation measures

What processes do you have in place to ensure inventory methodologies effectively reflect changes in activities/practices resulting from mitigation measures?

Answer by European Union

The EU GHG inventory is the sum of emissions and removals of its Member States, and it also reflects the compound effects of Member States and EU-specific policies and measures. Member States are responsible for the methods, emission factors and emissions used, and for the implementation of the MPGs and the IPCC Guidelines, considering data availability, inventory priorities and resource constraints when estimating and reporting emissions and removals.

GHG inventories should be as accurate as possible and reflect the climate reality of the country. The regular update and recalculations of activity data, parameters, and emission factors consistent with IPCC methodologies and the decision trees by EU Member States ensure not only the comparability of emissions and removals across Parties but also supports the improvement of accuracy over time. Using higher tier methodologies requires more detailed information, which in turn improves the assessment of how different policies & measures and technology, and other drivers, impact GHG emissions and removals of different key categories over time.

The review processes, both EU-internal and under the Paris Agreement, also play a key role improving the quality of reporting over time, by recommending and/or encouraging Parties the use of higher tier methodologies for key sources. The latter is one of the focus areas of the EU-internal review, not only to be consistent with the IPCC Guidelines but also because higher tier methods are more sensitive to real emission changes driven by national mitigation policies and technology.

Question by [Canada](#) at Wednesday, 03 September 2025

Category: All emissions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 10 September

Title: Archiving system of GHG Inventory

Could you please give a brief overview of key processes part of your national GHG inventory archiving system that support its efficient maintenance?

Answer by [European Union](#)

All Member States submit their inventories to EEA. EEA uses automated processes to load values from relevant Parties into a database. Data are versioned according to the EEA submission deadline. The values from EU Member States are compiled into an aggregated EU dataset. Historical versions are kept in the database.

As explained in the NID, the archiving system includes quality management documentation in forms, checklists, inventory reports and correspondence. The process of QA-QC checks of Member States' GHG inventory submissions (initial checks), including correspondence with the Member States, is also documented in the EMRT (Emission Review Tool), a web-based tool hosted by EEA.

Question by [Canada](#) at Wednesday, 03 September 2025

Category: All emissions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 10 September

Title: Quality management system of GHG Inventory

Could you please share some examples of good practices used to ensure that QA/QC checks are done thoroughly for all sectors as well as for cross-cutting areas of the GHG inventory?

Answer by European Union

The quality checks of Member States inventories are organised centrally by the EEA and its European Topic Centre. A set of checking tools are populated with information from the Member States' inventories such that each tool includes all the relevant information from all Member States' inventories and Member States are treated equally. These tools check for outliers, recalculations and completeness. The checks to be carried out are listed in a guidance file, and the provision of the check files is discussed annually at a kick-off meeting at the start of the process. There are also dedicated tools for specific checks in individual sectors. Each observation raised by a Sector Expert is assessed by a quality expert to ensure a four-eye principle is maintained. Annex XXI of Implementing Regulation 2020/1208 to the Governance Regulation lays out the timeframe for cooperation and communication with the MS during this process. All communication is carried out on an Emission Review Tool (EMRT), where previous observations and findings can be cross-checked or followed up if action is outstanding.

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Session closed at 10-10-2025
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