

## Session SBI50 (2019)

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A compilation of questions to –  
and answers by – Finland  
exported 11 June 2019 by  
the UNFCCC secretariat

Question by Japan at Friday, 12 April 2019

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

Type: Before 12 April

Title: Links between national strategy, policies and measures, projections and GHG inventory

According to p.92 of NC7, ministerial working groups are responsible for preparing and updating the national strategy on energy and climate change, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment is responsible for overall reporting on policies and measures and projections, while sectoral ministries are in charge of projections and impact assessments of their own field. It is also mentioned that Statistics Finland is responsible for publishing GHG inventory three times a year including information on monitoring progress. How are the activities of different institutions interlinked? How do these institutions cooperate one another? Could you please provide details of the coordination process between the relevant institutions?

Answer by Finland, Wednesday, 05 June 2019

The work on the energy and climate strategies is coordinated by the ministry of the Economic Affairs and Employment, whereas the work on the Medium-term Climate Change Mitigation Plans is coordinated by the Ministry of the Environment. The materials for the strategies and plans are prepared by the sectoral ministries, often based on work done by different expert organisations, e.g. on mitigation options, their impacts and costs. The ministerial working groups include representatives from all relevant ministries. Coordinator of the work puts the material together and this is then evaluated and further developed by the ministerial working group, also often subject to commenting by experts and the general public, before the outcomes are adopted by the political process.

Statistics Finland is the national entity responsible for compiling the Finnish greenhouse gas inventory. Statistics Finland publishes the greenhouse gas inventory data three times every year. The publications include information on monitoring progress with Finland's commitments to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions under the EU and the Kyoto Protocol. Statistics Finland has nominated an Advisory Board including ministerial experts to support the inventory preparation. These ministerial experts are often also involved in the preparation of the above-mentioned strategies and plan. The Advisory Board serves an important forum for communication, the ministerial experts gain knowledge of the emissions/removals and their trends, as well as factors impacting the emissions. The inventory experts gain information on the related policy processes and international negotiations.

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Question by China at Wednesday, 10 April 2019

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

Type: Before 12 April

Title: Bio-energy technology

The promotion of bio-energy is an important contributor to GHG emission reduction, could Finland identify the most key technologies regarding biofuels and other bio-energies that have been developed and employed in Finland?

Answer by Finland, Wednesday, 05 June 2019

At the moment, most of the biofuel (transportation) production is based on hydro treatment of vegetable oils. In addition, some production of bioethanol and biogas from wastes. However, in the future the processes are moving towards thermochemical and biochemical processes using lignocellulose.

For other bioenergy (heat, steam, power), large share of the production of bioenergy is based on the utilization of black liquor in recovery boilers. For heat and power the most common technologies are biomass combustion in grate fired and fluidised bed boilers. These include CHP as well as heat-only boilers.

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Question by China at Wednesday, 10 April 2019

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

Type: Before 12 April

Title: conditional target

As a member state of European Union whose conditional 2020 target is 30% emission reduction comparing with 1990 level, what is the plan to further strength your mitigation actions and to enhance its pre-2020 ambition?

Answer by Finland, Wednesday, 05 June 2019

In addition to its unilateral 20% reduction commitment, the EU made a conditional offer to move to a 30% reduction by 2020 compared to 1990 levels, as part of a global and comprehensive agreement for the period beyond 2012, provided that other developed countries commit themselves to comparable emission reductions and developing countries

contribute adequately according to their responsibilities and respective capabilities.

While the conditions for the EU to move to a 30% reduction by 2020 compared to 1990 levels have not been met, the EU remains on track to reach its target of reducing GHG emissions by 20 % from 1990 levels by 2020 under the Convention (including aviation as covered by EU legislation, excluding LULUCF) as well as its commitment for the Kyoto Protocol second commitment period (average emissions between 2013-2020 below 80% of base year emissions, jointly with Iceland).

In 2017, EU GHG emissions were down by 21,9 % from 1990 levels, according to preliminary data (covering emissions from international aviation, but not emissions and removals from land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF)). According to projections from 2017/2018, the domestic greenhouse gas reductions in 2020 compared to 1990 would be around 26% with existing measures and without the use of international credits (JI and CDM).

The European Commission and Member States are in continuous process of climate policy review and design, further strengthened by the development of integrated national climate and energy plans (NECPs) under the recently adopted Governance Regulation. Progress towards targets is monitored annually on the basis of greenhouse gas inventory information and projections (updated at least biennially) to inform policy development (more information at: [https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/strategies/progress\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/strategies/progress_en)).

Finland is committed to and on the path to fulfill its share of the commitments in the EU joint reduction target for 2020 under the UNFCCC (see Chapter 3 in Finland BR3). According to Finland's 2019 greenhouse gas inventory submission to the UNFCCC, in 2017 the total greenhouse gas emissions without the LULUCF sector were 55.4 million tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> eq. These emissions were approximately 22 per cent (16.1 million tonnes) below the 1990 emissions level. The LULUCF sector has been a net sink in all years during the period 1990 – 2017. The net sink has varied from approximately 19 to 50 per cent of the total annual emissions during this period. In 2017, the net sink (-20.4 million tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> eq) was 37 per cent of the total annual emissions and almost 38 per cent larger than in 1990. The EU joint target does not cover the LULUCF sector.

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