

Session SBI50 (2019)

Session starts: 15-03-2019 00:00:00 [GMT+1]

Session ends: 08-06-2019 23:59:59 [GMT+1]



Exported from Session final result section

[Question by](#) Canada at Friday, 12 April 2019

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

[Type:](#) Before 12 April

[Title:](#) Evaluation of 2015 PAMs

In the section on Total Effects of Policies and Measures, how did Ireland tease out the effects of policies and measures in 2015 given that that year overlaps with their emissions inventory?

[Answer by](#) Ireland, Friday, 07 June 2019

Most of the effects of policies and measures presented in Section 5.6 of Ireland's National Communication relate to energy related policies and measures. The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland provided the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with updated energy savings data (e.g. GWh savings) associated with energy related policies and measures for the year 2015. The EPA completed the relevant calculations to determine the updated savings (CO₂ equivalent) associated with those policies and measures in addition to an estimated impact from renewables (for electricity and transport) using historic inventory data for the year 2015.

[Question by](#) Canada at Friday, 12 April 2019

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

[Type:](#) Before 12 April

[Title:](#) Sectoral Projections as Shares

In section 5 on Projections and the Total Effects of Policies and Measures, is there a reason for sharing sectoral projections as shares rather than levels? Shares can be an interesting way to look at sectoral projections, but they do not allow the reader to see if a sector's emissions are increasing or decreasing.

[Answer by](#) Ireland, Friday, 07 June 2019

Sectoral projections are presented in Section 5 to give an overview of the percentage contribution by sector to total national emissions over the historic and projected period. Please note that historic and projected levels of emissions by sector (kt CO equivalent) are

presented in Annex B of the National Communication.

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: Projection

The projection of LULUCF sector includes the estimation of emissions and removals from land use change categories. How the future areas of land use change are estimated?

Answer by Ireland, Friday, 07 June 2019

The approach taken by Ireland in estimating greenhouse gas emission and removals from the LULUCF sector utilises the approach used for the national greenhouse gas inventory in conjunction with a projected land use and land use change matrix developed with external consultants in 2014.

Emissions and removals from the sector follow a hierarchical approach in line with the GHG Projections Guidelines (https://ec.europa.eu/clima/sites/clima/files/strategies/progress/monitoring/docs/ghg_projection_guidelines_b_en.pdf) Page 182 Grade 1 emission factors projections, Alternative 1 approach (emission factors for future years is based on the average of previous ten years)).

In Ireland, projected forest land areas are the most developed, followed by wetland areas and areas under settlement. Projected cropland and grassland areas are supplied by Teagasc, Ireland's semi-state Agriculture and Food Authority, in conjunction with the activity data supplied for the agriculture sector. The remaining land areas are assumed to remain constant for the projected time series.

Further information is available in Section 15 of Ireland's National Greenhouse Gas Emission Projections 2017 Methodological Approach document available at:

<http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/air/airemissions/IE%20GHG%20Projections%20Technical%20and%20Methodological%20Approach%20April%202017.pdf>

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: Cultivation and usage of bioenergy crop

It is mentioned that Bioenergy scheme planting the energy crops willow and miscanthus for use as a renewable fuel had been implemented before and is under review now (page 142). The feasibility of bioenergy crop as mitigation action is got attention in the IPCC special report of 1.5 . Are there any issues found from Bioenergy scheme in implementing bioenergy crop cultivation and/or promoting such actions?

Energy use of forest-based biomass is increasing and is explained used as energy generation mainly within the forest products sector (page 143). Is this the result of fossil fuel substitution by wood tips in forest product sector? What is the background allowing the increase of using forest-based biomass for energy use?

Answer by Ireland, Friday, 07 June 2019

A Bioenergy Scheme to facilitate the establishment of energy crops (Willow and Miscanthus) for use in renewable energy production was in operation in Ireland from 2007 to 2015. However, due to low uptake, the scheme is currently suspended, pending further review in light of the ongoing evolution of demand-side supports and ongoing CAP reform analysis.

While an evaluation of the scheme has not been conducted to date, anecdotal evidence suggests that there were a number of reasons for the resultant low take-up. These included:

- i. Lack of end use market – many of the proposed large scale projects did not go ahead due to the lack of finance, or planning issues and immaturity of renewable heat and renewable electricity markets and perceptions around viability of their long term future.
- ii. The cost of transporting energy crops over long distances significant increases the cost of the material.
- iii. Reluctance to grow energy crops on good land – willow needs good quality arable land for successful growth.
- iv. Establishment costs are high and cash flow in early years is poor, so accessing finance can be an issue.

Ireland's Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine continues to make considerable investments to support indigenous biomass supply through the Afforestation Programme.

The age classification of Irish forests is uneven as a result of past afforestation efforts, and much of the estate will mature over the coming decades. This will result in an increase in Ireland's annual harvest and the residues associated with forest management, such as thinning, harvesting and wood processing. At the same time, Ireland's Afforestation Programme and market forces should help to ensure that the country's annual harvest becomes more even in the future.

Annual total roundwood harvest has increased from 3.04 million m³ in 2013 to 3.54 million m³ in 2017. A number of large wood processors employ onsite boilers to generate heat for use within their own installation using residues from wood processing. In addition, sawmills produce sawdust and other side products which are suitable for pelletisation. Pulp wood resulting from harvesting activities is also used for energy production, primarily as wood chip. Demand for wood biomass has increased as a result of new commercial and industrial installations, a smaller increase in domestic use, and movement away from the use of fossil fuels, including peat, in existing facilities.

In addition to supporting a wide range of tree species for afforestation, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine supports the mobilisation of wood biomass through supports for forest infrastructure and knowledge transfer initiatives. Through the Forest Roads Scheme, forest owners can avail of supports for the construction of roads, turning bays and other infrastructure necessary for forest access. Direct and indirect supports are also available, including encouraging forest owners to form peer-learning groups and to access information necessary for active management.

Ireland's National Forest Inventory has noted an increase in forest thinning in recent years which demonstrates an increase in management by forest owners.

The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment also recently launched the Support Scheme for Renewable Heat (SSRH), a key demand-side measure to support the development of the bioenergy sector in Ireland. Phase one of the scheme, an installation grant for heat pumps, opened for applications in September 2018. Phase two of the SSRH, an operational support for biomass boilers and anaerobic digestion heating systems, opened for applications on 4 June 2019. The primary objective of the SSRH is to contribute to meeting Ireland's renewable energy targets and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. When fully rolled out, the SSRH can deliver an estimated 1,300GWh of additional renewable heat annually and reduce Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions by circa 11.1 million tonnes of carbon equivalent over the lifetime of the Scheme. Furthermore, by stimulating demand for renewable energy feedstock, such as biomass, the SSRH provides an opportunity for the growth in the domestic production of bioenergy.

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: Review of the National Mitigation plan

According to page 103 - 104 of the NC7, Ireland has published the National Mitigation Plan to set out its mitigation measures. Ireland also will review this plan every five years and update based on the on-going analysis. Could you please explain the overall analysis and review process of the National Mitigation Plan, especially which organizations are responsible for what activities?

Answer by Ireland, Friday, 07 June 2019

The publication of Ireland's first statutory National Mitigation Plan (NMP) in July 2017 was an important initial step to enable the transition to a low carbon economy and society. The governance and reporting arrangements that underpin the NMP are critical to successfully delivering on the full range of over 70 measures and 106 related actions in the Plan. Section 14(1) of Ireland's Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 (Climate Act 2015) provides that an Annual Transition Statement must be presented annually to both Houses of the Oireachtas by the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment. This Statement also serves as a progress report on the implementation of the NMP. A Climate Action High Level Steering Group chaired at Ministerial level also meets quarterly to review progress on the implementation of the NMP with all key Government Departments and Agencies represented.

Each Annual Transition Statement includes an overview of climate change mitigation and adaptation policy measures adopted to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and to adapt to the effects of climate change in order to enable the achievement of the national transition objective. The Annual Transition Statement also contains a summary of current and projected greenhouse gas emissions published by the Environmental Protection Agency, together with a report on compliance with obligations of the State under EU law or an international agreement referred to in section 2 of the Climate Act 2015.

Annual transition statements are also delivered by those Ministers with responsibility for the range of sectors contributing to greenhouse gas emissions in Ireland. These Sectoral Mitigation Transition Statements set out a record of the mitigation measures adopted by the relevant Minister and an assessment of the effectiveness of the measures in the achievement of their purpose.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides a range of expert scientific and technical advice on climate change to the Government of Ireland. In addition, the Technical Research and Modelling (TRAM) Group was established in 2015 on foot of a Government

decision, with the purpose of performing a number of functions in support of climate, air and energy policy development - including the development and updating of the NMP - for the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and for other Government Departments and Agencies as required. TRAM membership comprises technical experts from relevant Government Departments and Agencies. In addition, representatives of externally contracted bodies providing modelling and analytical support may participate in TRAM meetings. To date, these services have been provided by the Economic and Social Research Institute, University College Cork (Ireland), University College Dublin (Ireland) and consultancy and research operation EnvEcon.

Ireland's first NMP contains a series of mitigation measures and actions, covering greenhouse gas emissions in the Electricity Generation, Built Environment, Transport, and Agriculture, Forest and Land Use sectors. The complexity of the issues and time horizon involved means that, while this Plan clearly sets Ireland on the path to long-term decarbonisation and provides a roadmap to that end, between now and the achievement of our 2050 objective, the Plan will be supplemented and amended and updated to ensure that it remains an appropriate and active Plan capable of addressing, incorporating and responding to developing issues and technologies.

The Climate Act 2015 requires the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment to bring forward a new National Mitigation Plan at least once every five years. The latest date by which this must happen is therefore July 2022. The continuous review process will mean that actions stemming from the Plan are and will be based on substantive policy and resourcing decisions. Under Section 3 of the Act, when considering approving a National Mitigation Plan, Government must endeavour to achieve the 2050 national transition objective through the implementation of cost effective measures which have regard to a range of factors, including Government policy on climate change.

In response to the significant challenge Ireland faces in meeting its 2020 and 2030 targets, and following a mandate from government in November 2018, the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment will shortly publish a new Government climate plan. This plan will complement the NMP and will set out the actions which must be taken to make Ireland a leader in responding to climate change. The new plan will have a strong focus on implementation, including actions with specific timelines and steps needed to achieve each action, assigning clear lines of responsibility for delivery.

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: Institutional arrangement for NC/BR preparation

Could you tell us Ireland's institutional arrangement for the NC/BR preparation? We assume that the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment has overall responsibility, but we would appreciate if you could tell us how other governmental agencies and private institutions cooperate in the NC/BR preparation.

[Answer by](#) Ireland, Friday, 07 June 2019

The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment has lead responsibility for the coordination and drafting of National Communications and Biennial Reports. The drafting process for Ireland's Seventh National Communication and Third Biennial Report included inputs from a range of relevant Government Departments and Agencies through a cross-Departmental UNFCCC Delegation which is chaired by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment.

The published document includes contributions from the following Government Departments:

Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (including contributions from climate mitigation, adaptation, energy, waste management and environment policy areas)

Department of Finance

Department of Transport Tourism and Sport

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Department of Public Expenditure and Reform

Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government

The following State Agencies also contributed to the drafting of Ireland's Seventh National Communication and Third Biennial Report:

Central Statistics Office

Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)

Environmental Protection Agency

Met Éireann, the Irish National Meteorological Service

Ireland's NGO sector also contributed to the in-country review of the National Communication

in the context of outlining the nature of Irish support for environmental NGOs and overall engagement with this sector.

Question by United States of America at Friday, 12 April 2019

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

Type: Before 12 April

Title: Residential sector energy use

Energy use in the residential sector, and related emissions, have fallen substantially since 2005. Can Ireland elaborate on what has driven the reduced electricity use and other energy use per dwelling shown in Table 2.6 and Fig 2.12 (pp. 48-49)?

Answer by Ireland, Friday, 07 June 2019

Section 2.10 of Ireland's Seventh National Communication outlines the country's approach to reducing residential energy use, targeting existing dwellings through the Better Energy Homes and Better Energy Warmer Homes schemes, and new housing stock through building regulations.

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) administers the retrofitting schemes, which have delivered energy efficiency improvements to over 375,000 homes since 2000 out of a stock of approximately 1.7 million dwellings. New building regulations introduced in 2008 introduced a Maximum Permitted Energy Performance Coefficient (MPEPC), through which a dwelling would need to achieve 40% efficiency savings compared to the reference point. This degree of efficiency savings was increased in 2011 to 60%

Over the period identified in the question, the fall in unit consumption of dwellings in Ireland can be attributed to these improvements, along with reduced energy use brought about by high energy prices and reduced household incomes during Ireland's economic downturn. The continuing shift away from the use of solid fuel also contributed to the fall in residential emissions over the period.

Further information on these measures can be found in the SEAI Energy in the Residential Sector 2018 report, which is available at the following link:
<https://www.seai.ie/resources/seai-statistics/key-publications/energy-in-residential-sector/>

Question by Thailand at Wednesday, 10 April 2019

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

Type: Before 12 April

Title: Mitigation

In the table 4.3, a list of existing policies, plans, and measures have shown the status of implementation, could Ireland explain a little more on why the estimation of mitigation impact for 2020, 2025, 2030 and 2035 are almost the same amount even the status of implementation identified in the column are different (implemented, expired, and planned)?

Answer by Ireland, Friday, 07 June 2019

Table 4.3 of Ireland's Seventh National Communication includes a range of policies and measures with a similar mitigation impact for 2020, 2025, 2030 and 2035, the majority of which are energy-related.

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland provided the Environmental Protection Agency with updated energy savings data associated with energy related policies and measures. At that time of drafting the National Communication, Ireland's post-2020 emission reduction objectives under the EU Effort Sharing Regulation were not yet defined and no assumptions were made of the impact of energy policy post-2020. The mitigation impact is assumed to remain largely similar to 2020 levels for the years 2025, 2030 and 2035 for most of the energy related policies and measures.

Once published, the additional measures included in Ireland's forthcoming new Government climate plan will be modelled to estimate their mitigation impacts and inform analysis of Ireland's efforts to comply with national and international emission-reduction commitments.

Question by Thailand at Wednesday, 10 April 2019

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

Type: Before 12 April

Title: Mitigation

Could Ireland provide additional information on how to ensure your future implementation of actions will achieve the country's mitigation target?

Answer by Ireland, Friday, 07 June 2019

Ireland's Third Biennial Report sets out the context of Ireland's engagement in the fulfilment by the European Union of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target.

Section 4.4.3 of Ireland's Seventh National Communication outlines the statutory basis provided by Ireland's Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 (the Climate Act 2015) for the country's national transition objective – the goal of progressively pursuing a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050. To enable the achievement of this objective, the Climate Act 2015 provides the legislative framework for the development and submission for Government approval of national mitigation plans and national adaptation frameworks. Ireland's first statutory National Mitigation Plan (NMP), published in 2017, provides a framework to guide investment decisions by Government in domestic measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The NMP sets out the policy measures required in order to manage Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions at a level appropriate for making progress towards our long-term national transition objective, as well as our EU and international obligations.

Provisions within the Climate Act 2015 include the institutional and governance framework for the review of the NMP on a regular basis, together with independent advisory and accountability arrangements. The Climate Change Advisory Council (CCAC) was established in 2016 under section 8 of the Climate Act 2015 to fulfil such independent advisory and accountability functions. The CCAC provides advice and recommendations to, inter alia, the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment in relation to climate action policy and the fulfilment of the Government's statutory obligations under the Climate Act 2015. In addition, the CCAC has a number of reporting obligations, including the provision of annual and periodic reviews of progress towards meeting the national transition objective.

The development and publication of national GHG emission inventories and projections is a key element of compliance with the Kyoto Protocol and of informing Government of the effectiveness of its emission mitigation efforts. As a Party to the Protocol, Ireland has assigned responsibility for the compilation and publication of these reports to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Further strengthening the governance and reporting arrangements that underpin the NMP as set out by the Climate Act 2015, the Act also provides that an Annual Transition Statement (ATS) must be presented to both Houses of the Oireachtas by the Minister for

Communications, Climate Action and Environment. This statement serves as a progress report of the implementation of the NMP, with each Statement including an overview of Ireland's mitigation policy measures adopted to enable the achievement of the National Transition Objective. The ATS also contains a summary of current and projected greenhouse gas emissions published by the EPA, as outlined above, together with a report on compliance with obligations of the State under EU law or an international agreement referred to in section 2 of the Climate Act 2015.

Annual transition statements are also delivered by those Ministers with responsibility for the range of sectors contributing to GHG emissions in Ireland. These Sectoral Mitigation Transition Statements set out a record of the mitigation measures adopted by the relevant Minister and an assessment of the effectiveness of the measures in the achievement of their purpose.

Ireland is currently finalising a new Government climate plan which will place the country on a trajectory to achieve its national and international obligations. This plan will set out a detailed road map of the actions which must be taken to make Ireland a leader in responding to climate change. The Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment is working closely with colleagues across Government to develop new initiatives in electricity, transport, heat and agriculture, as well as a range of other sectors. The new plan will have a strong focus on implementation, including actions with specific timelines and steps needed to achieve each action, assigning clear lines of responsibility for delivery. The new plan will also be informed by successful approaches in other countries.

The Plan will build on the policy framework, measures and actions set out in both the NMP and the National Development Plan, which sets out the key investments which will be made in the transition to a low-carbon and climate resilient society.

Question by Thailand at Wednesday, 10 April 2019

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

Type: Before 12 April

Title: GHG Inventory

Could Ireland provide more information regarding the assumptions and methodologies for emission estimation in Product Uses as Substitutes for ODS, clarifying that the tier1, 2 and 3 approaches was used in this IPPU subsector?

Ireland publishes regular annual inventory submissions, including the National Inventory Report and Common Reporting Format data, which set out detailed information on the country's emissions. The 2019 National Inventory Report can be found at <http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/air/airemissions/ghg/nir2019/> and contains detailed and transparent information on the country's greenhouse gas emissions for the period 1990 – 2017.

Ireland uses a variety of Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 approaches for the broad range of emission sources as appropriate, in line with IPCC guidelines. Table 1.4 and Table 4.1 of the Report provide a summary of methods by Tier approach used in the estimation of emissions in Product Use as Substitutes for ODS. Furthermore, section 4.7 of the National Inventory Report provides a full description of the methodological approach, activity data and resultant emission estimates for CRF sub categories 2.F.1 to 2.F.6.

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: carbon tax

Could Ireland provide information regarding the social and health impacts of the carbon tax? How has the carbon tax influence consumers' behavior?

Answer by Ireland, Friday, 07 June 2019

Ireland is one of a minority of countries globally to have implemented economy-wide carbon pricing measures. As outlined in the National Communication, Ireland introduced a national carbon tax in 2009 at a rate of €15 per tonne. The carbon tax initially applied only to liquid based fuels for transport, but was extended in 2010 to include liquid fuels for space and water heating in buildings. The rate of tax was increased to €20 per tonne in December 2011 for transport fuels and in May 2012 in regards to liquid fuels for space and water heating. The tax was then extended to include solid fuels. The tax applies to sectors outside the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) and is levied on the basis of carbon content on automobile diesel, petrol, kerosene, diesel oil, fuel oil, liquid petroleum gas, natural gas and solid fuel. Electricity generation and the production of carbon products are not covered by the carbon tax.

The role of carbon pricing in Ireland is to drive reductions in the consumption of fossil fuels and encourage energy efficiency improvements by households and businesses. It plays a role in changing individual or business behaviours and investment decisions, including harnessing non-Exchequer finance, as such clear long-term signalling by the Government on the future evolution of the tax is a vital element of Ireland's domestic climate action. Over the longer term, carbon pricing will have a key role to play in the transition to a low carbon economy as an important tool for Ireland to achieve its decarbonisation objective in a cost effective manner by 2050.

While a study by the Economic and Social Research Institute[1] in 2009 on the distributional impacts of carbon tax has found the tax to be markedly regressive, the research also determined that lower income households were better off after revenue recycling. Hypothecation is not a feature of the Irish taxation system. However, additional revenues collected through the carbon tax can be used to fund emission-reduction measures such as the 'winter fuel allowance' and the 'Better Energy Warmer Homes' scheme to address fuel poverty issues. Additionally retrofitting policies which facilitate household energy efficiency upgrades also contribute to a reduction in the consumption of fossil fuels. While the specific social and health impacts that may arise from carbon tax have not been examined to date, a reduction in GHG emissions and related exposure to air pollutants can positively contribute to public health.

The Irish government is currently developing an analysis of carbon taxation in order to develop a better understanding of the environmental, social and economic impact of increasing carbon tax rates. This will provide a robust basis for a clear long-term signal on the future of carbon taxation, ensuring that it can perform its core function of driving changes, over the longer term, in business and household behaviour.

[1] <https://www.esri.ie/publications/the-distributional-impact-of-a-carbon-tax-in-ireland>

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: overall progress

What is the overall assessment of the progress made by Ireland in achieving its 2020 emission reduction target,

including the target for non-ETS sectors?

[Answer by Ireland](#), Friday, 07 June 2019

As outlined in Ireland's Third Biennial Report, Ireland is committed, as a Member State of the European Union, to a quantified economy-wide emission reduction target through the pledge submitted by the EU in 2011 to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2020, compared with 1990 levels. This target will be achieved by a reduction of 21% for those sectors covered by the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS) and a reduction of 10% for those sectors not covered by the ETS. The non-ETS sectors include agriculture, transport, residential, commercial, waste and non-energy intensive industry.

The EU is well on track to achieve the emission reductions target for the EU ETS, and further revisions to the ETS in 2018 will drive further reductions over the period to 2030.

The EU's Effort Sharing Decision (ESD) sets targets for the non-ETS sector for EU Member States for 2020, including binding annual emissions targets for each year between 2013 and 2020, with Ireland required to deliver a 20% reduction (relative to 2005 levels) by 2020.

The latest projections, published in May 2019 by the Irish Environmental Protection Agency indicate that emissions from those sectors of the economy covered by the Effort Sharing Decision could be between 5% and 6% below 2005 levels by 2020.

The Effort Sharing Decision allows EU Member States to meet their targets using unused emissions allowances from earlier years, or through purchasing allowances from other Member States or on international markets. Section 4.4.3 of Ireland's National Communication notes that Ireland was in a position to bank unused emissions allowances from the period to 2015 which are expected to facilitate compliance with the country's emission reduction targets to 2018. Ireland will need to purchase additional allowances to meet the projected shortfalls in 2019 and 2020.

Ireland's National Mitigation Plan provided an initial step to set the country on a pathway to achieve the level of decarbonisation required, and contained a series of greenhouse gas mitigation measures in this regard. However, recognising the scale of the challenge faced by Ireland in reducing its emissions in line with our national and international obligations, the Irish Government will shortly publish a new Government climate plan which will set out specific greenhouse gas emission reduction actions across electricity, transport, agriculture and other relevant sectors. The plan will include clear timelines and steps needed to achieve each action, assigning clear lines of responsibility for their delivery. These actions will contribute to Ireland's efforts to meet the country's 2020 targets.

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 Ireland, Friday, 07 June 2019

Ireland's Third Biennial Report outlines the Quantified Economy-Wide Emission Reduction Target of the European Union, which commits to reduce GHG emissions with 20% by 2020 compared with 1990 (FCCC/SB/2011/INF.1/Rev.1 of 7 June 2011). This target translates to a reduction of 21% for those sectors covered by the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) and a 10% target for those sectors not covered by the scheme. This target was submitted by the EU-28 as a group and not by each of its Member States.

In addition to its unilateral 20% reduction commitment, the EU also 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 commitment for the Kyoto Protocol second commitment period and target of reducing GHG emissions by 20 % from 1990 levels by 2020.

In 2017, EU GHG emissions were 21.9 % below 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 the latest EU projections, the domestic greenhouse gas reductions in 2020 would be around 26% with existing measures and without the use of international credits.

Session SBI50 (2019)

Session closes at 08-06-2019

UNFCCC - LAST PAGE OF EXPORT