Session SBI51 (2019)

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Multilateral Assessment
A compiliation of questions to - and
answers by - Switzerland, exported 1 December 2019,
by the UNFCCC secretariat

Question by United States of America at Tuesday, 01 October 2019

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

Type: Before 30 September

Title: Inventory QA/QC

Could you describe the benefits you have seen from having a dedicated inventory QA/QC officer?

Answer by Switzerland, Thursday, 28 November 2019

Switzerland's dedicated QA/QC officer(s) established and maintained the quality management system over the last years. The respective person has a broad overview on all quality-related issues arising, but is not directly involved in e.g. data collection or processing. This independence enables a continuous but fresh view on QA processes and QC tasks. The dedicated QA/QC officer is also in charge of securing adequate QA/QC across all sectors. An external contractor audits the Swiss quality management system yearly following the ISO 9001 standard. These official audits are especially valued as a motivator for all persons involved in the preparation of the greenhouse gas inventory, ensuring that the given processes and quality standards are respected. Furthermore, Switzerland's QA/QC officer safeguards a complete and transparent archiving of the Swiss greenhouse gas inventory.

Question by Republic of Korea at Tuesday, 01 October 2019

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

Type: Before 30 September

Title: Institutional arrangements

In order to track progress in achievement of quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets, how does the Swiss instituional arrangements function in detail especially among the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, the Swiss Federal Audit Office, and the Switzerland's national greenhouse gas inventory system?

Answer by Switzerland, Thursday, 28 November 2019

In the process of official consideration and approval of the greenhouse gas inventory, the national inventory system supervisory board (NISSB) is presented with the current greenhouse gas inventory and an outlook towards the emission reduction target. After consideration, the board submits the greenhouse gas inventory to the directorate of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment for approval of the submission. The emission reduction target is also listed as performance indicator of the legislature plan. The indicator is annually updated

and used for the situation analysis in the annual report of the Swiss Federal Council (i.e. the Swiss Government) to the Swiss parliament. The Swiss Federal Audit Office supervises the financial management of the Swiss Federal Administration, assisting in an independent manner the Swiss Federal Assembly and the Swiss Federal Council. For instance, the Swiss Federal Audit Office may, at its discretion, audit the implementation of individual policies and measures such as the CO_2 levy on heating and process fuels or the emissions trading scheme.

Question by United States of America at Tuesday, 01 October 2019

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

Type: Before 30 September

Title: Land Sector

Switzerland notes a trend of decreasing net reductions from LULUCF between 1990 and 2015 (with annual variations). Are there measures being considered to increase the long-term sequestration potential of standing forests?

Answer by Switzerland, Thursday, 28 November 2019

Goal 2 of the Swiss forest policy aims at maximizing all CO_2 effects of the Swiss forestry and wood sector, including carbon sequestration in forests and in long-lived wood products as well as increasing energy and material substitution effects. To ensure the long-term sequestration potential in standing forests, there are several measures like adaptation to climate change, combating invasive species, etc. Adaptive forest management in Switzerland aims at avoiding major emissions from advanced age structure forest stands that are not adapted to climate change. The Forest Act prescribes the preparation of Swiss forests for future climate conditions by adaptation measures. This means that in some forest areas a reduction in short-term sequestration from forest management is necessary to achieve positive long-term removals through adaptation activities today. Swiss forests are in some regions characterised by high carbon stocks (old forests). To convert these old forests into more stable younger forests, a temporary decrease in biomass would occur, resulting in net emissions if the harvested biomass is not entirely transformed into harvested wood products. However, this harvested biomass will also contribute to increase energy and material substitution thereby contributing to the overall CO_2 effects (which, however, cannot be accounted for in the LULUCF sector). Further, specific forest stand types might need a change in species composition because of changing climate and corresponding changing stand characteristics. This exchange in tree species composition is typically spread over decennia. Emissions from these measures are expected to be moderate or small. See also the answer to the question “Forest Reference Level approach” asked by the European Union.

Question by United States of America at Tuesday, 01 October 2019

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

Type: Before 30 September

Title: PAMs

- Given Switzerland's high reliance on energy imports, is there a concerted effort to increase the development of domestic renewable energy supplies?
- What lessons can be drawn from Switzerland's policy of 100% incineration of solid waste for energy production, and its high recycling rate?
- What is the current status of the Third CO2 Act?

Answer by Switzerland, Thursday, 28 November 2019

Domestic renewable energy supplies: Switzerland is currently revising its CO_2 Act that forms the legal basis for its climate policy. Switzerland committed to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 50 per cent until 2030 compared to 1990. Additionally, the Swiss Federal Council announced in August 2019 that Switzerland aims net zero emissions by 2050. For the energy sector, Switzerland adopted the Energy Strategy 2050, which aims at phasing out nuclear energy and increasing domestic supply of renewable energy. The progress regarding intermediate goals of the Energy Strategy 2050 is monitored and evaluated on a regular basis.

Incineration of solid waste, high recycling rate: Since the year 2000, waste incineration is mandatory in Switzerland. Consequently, disposals of burnable solid waste on waste disposal sites have dropped to zero and emissions from the waste sector declined considerably. Additionally, all waste incineration plants produce electricity and/or heat and thereby contribute to Switzerland's renewable energy supply. Banning the disposal of burnable solid waste on waste disposal sites further solved related issues regarding odour emissions, need of space and pollution. The high recycling rates contribute to an increasingly circular economy.

Current status of the third CO_2 Act: The third CO_2 Act is currently discussed in the Swiss Parliament that is called the Swiss Federal Assembly and is composed of two chambers, namely the National Council and the Council of States. In 2018, the National Council completed the first round of the debate, but turned the Act down in the final vote. The Council of States then took over and finished its discussion in September 2019. The Council of States advocates several amendments to the initial draft proposed by the Swiss Federal Council, all of them aiming to increase ambition. The revised draft will go back to the National Council, likely during the spring session of parliament in March 2020. Once the Swiss Federal Assembly agree on a final version, there may be on optional referendum allowing citizens to approve or reject the revision of the CO_2 Act.

Question by Thailand at Monday, 30 September 2019

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

Type: Before 30 September

Title: National GHG inventories

In secton QA/QC: Switzerland has shown excellent progress in the QA/QC processes, could Switzerland provide more information regarding the key success for QA/QC process?

Answer by Switzerland, Thursday, 28 November 2019

A description of Switzerland's quality management system and its processes is provided in chapter "1.2.2 Overview of inventory planning, preparation and management" and chapter "1.2.3 Quality assurance, quality control and verification plan" of Switzerland's most recent national inventory report (NIR 2019, see https://www.bafu.admin.ch/latest-ghg-inventory). A very important factor for securing a good quality inventory and continuous improvement is a well-established national system in which high-quality data sources (e.g. energy statistics, land-use statistics, forest inventory, and agricultural statistics) are available routinely. Also, regular exchange between the data providers and the inventory compiler and mutual understanding of the tasks, timelines and requirements supports establishing of inventory preparation procedures.

Additionally, over the years, several expert peer reviews for specific sectors were commissioned on a case-by-case basis (see page 32 and 33 of the NIR 2019 for more details), each providing sector-specific suggestions to further improve the inventory. Please also compare Switzerland's answers to other questions related to the QA/QC process.

Question by United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at Monday, 30 September 2019

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

Type: Before 30 September

Title: Inventory verification

The UK notes that Switzerland conducts ambient air measurements and associated verification of the trends of GHG inventory emissions in the central EU region. What lessons have been learned from that process? Does Switzerland use the verification findings to inform improvements to the evidence base? It would be helpful if Switzerland could outline any key challenges and how it has overcome them, and whether Switzerland considers that there is scope for expansion of inventory verification studies, and/or whether wider regional efforts to improve the infrastructure and analysis to support inventory verification from terrestrial measurements might help to further improve the GHG emissions evidence base, and to help monitor regional emissions performance.

Answer by Switzerland, Thursday, 28 November 2019

Switzerland indeed performs an annual comparison between its estimates of greenhouse gas emissions gained by two different approaches: (i) the top-down approach, i.e. atmospheric observations at the high-altitude research station Jungfraujoch as well as measurements at different stations across Switzerland combined with transport models, and (ii) the bottom-up approach, i.e. greenhouse gas inventory according to the IPCC guidelines. Details of this comparison are reported in Switzerland's national inventory report (see Annex 5 of NIR 2019, www.bafu.admin.ch/latest-ghg-inventory). The analyses generally indicate a good agreement between the two approaches, providing confidence in the current understanding of national greenhouse gas emissions.

Both the top-down approach as well as the bottom-up approach have their individual advantages and disadvantages. The top-down approach is integrating over larger areas and allocation of emissions to a particular point source is only feasible under special conditions (large point source upwind of the measurement, appropriate meteorological conditions, etc.). The bottom-up approach relies on correct declaration of individual sources, but in some cases it may be difficult to ensure completeness. When comparing the results of the two approaches gas-by-gas, differences in the emission estimates point to possible over-/underestimation in either or both of the approaches. So far, such differences were taken as a starting point to further investigate potential reasons for the discrepancies. This led e.g. to the identification of an incomplete reporting of a point source of a particular HFC in the bottom-up estimate or the need for further measurement stations to cover a particular region.

Switzerland considers the ambient air measurements (and associated modelling) a valuable tool to validate greenhouse gas inventories. Such top-down approaches may help to further improve bottom-up estimates in many cases. However, the top-down measurements require high-quality measurements to be maintained over an extended period of time as well as substantial modelling capacity. In order to achieve sufficient spatial resolution, several measurement locations may be required. Based on its experiences, Switzerland advocates the continuation and further extension of comparison of greenhouse gas emission estimates with atmospheric measurements and strongly supports international collaboration on these matters.

In fact, Switzerland is encouraged to continue in these approaches by the adoption and acceptance by the IPCC during its 49th session of the *2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* that provide updated guidance and reflect the state of science on these comparisons.

Question by Japan at Monday, 30 September 2019

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

Type: Before 30 September

Title: Mitigation impact by the direct payment system for agriculture

The direct payment system is listed as one of policies and measures for the agricultural sector (p110, NC7/BR3). Could you please provide us more specific information on how the estimates of mitigation impact by the direct payment system were estimated? Also, are the results of actual reductions of the direct payment system estimated?

Answer by Switzerland, Thursday, 28 November 2019

It was assumed that, by 2020, the mitigation impact of the further development of the direct payments system corresponds to the difference between the WEM (with existing measures) and the WOM (without measures) scenarios (see section 5.3.3 of Switzerland's seventh national communication and third biennial report for further details about the assumptions made and models used for calculating the scenarios). The assumptions for the scenarios include the effect of the direct payments, e.g. on the development of livestock populations or the management standards and thus provides an aggregated estimate of the mitigation impact. Actual data of the national greenhouse gas inventory do not show a significant reduction in emissions between 2010–13 and 2014–17.

Question by Japan at Monday, 30 September 2019

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

Type: Before 30 September

Title: NMVOC incentive fee

According to an explanation for the NMVOC incentive fee listed as an measure to reduce indirect CO2 emissions (p.108 of NC7/BR3), three Swiss francs have been levied for per kilogram of NMVOC since 2003. What types of industries and/or business operators are targeted in this system? Also, how is the monitoring or calculation of NMVOC emissions by the targeted business operator implemented?

Answer by Switzerland, Thursday, 28 November 2019

All types of industries and even private customers who are using or buying NMVOC, e. g. in products such as paints or cosmetics that are on the positive list of substances, are targeted in this system. This positive list contains 76 substances and nine groups of substances of the most used NMVOC in Switzerland. The business operators monitor or calculate their NMVOC emissions either by measurements (in case of exhaust gases) or by modelling input minus output (in case of diffuse emissions).

Furthermore, overall national emissions are modelled by two approaches:

1. Emission data are based on surveys, assumptions and model calculations. Most activity data are collected and modelled annually. In many cases, production data or imported amounts of NMVOC are collected from associations or individual manufacturers, taken from annual reports and statistics, or modelled with the help of assumption-based calculations. Emission factors are then calculated based on the NMVOC contents of the different products used.

2. The income from the incentive tax is levied on imports into Switzerland or on domestic production. Taxes on NMVOC that are not emitted in the environment (e.g. correctly disposed waste or used for heat production) must not be paid or are refunded. The NMVOC emissions of the positive list can thus be calculated from the revenue of the incentive tax as a crosscheck to the first approach.

Question by Japan at Monday, 30 September 2019

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

Type: Before 30 September

Title: Way of monitoring and evaluation of policies and measures based on the GHG inventories

In p.84 of Switzerland's NC7/BR3, "4.1.2 Monitoring and evaluation of policies and measures", it is stated that the national GHG inventories annually submitted to the UNFCCC are fundamental for the monitoring of the overall progress achieved by policies and measures. Does Switzerland analyze the factors of increase and decrease of annual GHG emissions and evaluate the effects of policies and measures based on the annual GHG inventories? Also, how does Switzerland use the annual GHG inventories to develop and strengthen additional policies and measures?

Answer by Switzerland, Thursday, 28 November 2019

Switzerland’s annual greenhouse gas inventories are fundamental for the monitoring of the overall progress, because Switzerland’s emissions reduction targets on the national and international level are formulated with regard to the evolution of emissions as reported in the greenhouse gas inventory. Switzerland does not perform a detailed quantitative analysis of the factors influencing the annual development of greenhouse gas emissions, but aims at identifying the main drivers und usually provides a qualitative discussion of these drivers when communicating the inventories. The emission data also have direct consequences on some of the policies and measures. One example is the CO_2 levy; its rate increases automatically if the intermediate targets set in the legislation are missed (for details see section 4.2.5 on page 89 of Switzerland’s seventh national communication and third biennial report).

Question by New Zealand at Sunday, 29 September 2019

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

Type: Before 30 September

Title: Agriculture bottom-up projects

In its NC7/BR3, Switzerland describes bottom-up projects to subsidise measures for the more efficient use of natural resources in the agriculture sector. Can Switzerland elaborate on the rationale for carrying out bottom-up projects, as opposed to other projects? How does Switzerland measure the success of such projects?

Answer by Switzerland, Thursday, 28 November 2019

Bottom-up projects like the resource programme give the opportunity to design a project according to the specific needs and challenges of the respective region or production sector. Generally, these projects are closer to the practice and therefore generate more insights into the effect and acceptability of measures. As the project is developed by or in collaboration with the involved stakeholders, the intrinsic motivation of the participating farms is higher. Each project sets specific targets and reports on the measures taken on a yearly basis. Specific questions are analysed by accompanying scientific research. Further information on the resource programme can be found on the following website (in German, French and Italian): https://www.blw.admin.ch/blw/fr/home/instrumente/ressourcen--und-gewaesserschutzprogramm/ressourcenprogramm.html.

Question by New Zealand at Sunday, 29 September 2019

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

Type: Before 30 September

Title: Climate Strategy for Agriculture

Switzerland's NC7/BR3 notes the publication of a climate strategy for agriculture in 2011 by the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture, aimed at the exchange and transfer of knowledge. Has Switzerland put in place a mechanism to monitor the success of its climate strategy for agriculture, such as key performance indicators?

Answer by Switzerland, Thursday, 28 November 2019

Switzerland has not put in place a new mechanism to monitor the success of its climate strategy for agriculture.

Question by Singapore at Sunday, 29 September 2019

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

Type: Before 30 September

Title: Preparing projections

For some policies and measures in the energy and transport sectors, Switzerland did not provide an estimate of their 2020 mitigation impacts (Tables 17 and 18, Chapter 4) for the reasons provided in Chapter 4. With the shift to a computable general equilibrium model for projecting emissions in the energy sector, is this new approach able to overcome the challenges of estimating Switzerland's 2020 mitigation impacts for the policies and measures listed in Tables 17 and 18, Chapter 4? If not, could Switzerland share how it was able to overcome these challenges to estimate its 2030 expected abatement and the impact of these policies and measures?

Answer by Switzerland, Thursday, 28 November 2019

In the tables 17 and 18 of Switzerland's seventh national communication and third biennial report (in chapter 4, i.e. the chapter on policies and measures), Switzerland did not provide estimates of the mitigation impacts in 2020 for the following two policies and measures: (i) SwissEnergy programme, and (ii) Negotiated commitments on energy efficiency. Nevertheless, the mitigation impacts of these two policies and measures were included in the projections by implementing bottom-up estimates into the computable general equilibrium model (see EPFL and Infras, 2016 for details). However, Switzerland decided not to show the respective bottom-up estimates as isolated values in the chapter on policies and measures, due to the reasons described in the sections 4.3.2 and 4.3.7 of Switzerland's seventh national communication and third biennial report.

Question by European Union at Friday, 27 September 2019

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

Type: Before 30 September

Title: Forest Reference Level approach

In the review of the BR3, the ERT noted that the impacts of the Forestry Act, Wood Action Plan and Forest Policy 2020, have not been quantified. In the subsequent Amendment submitted by Switzerland it was explained that it is difficult to define scenarios for these measures but there are plans to explore ways of quantifying in the context of the establishment of the forest reference level.

When does Switzerland plan to apply the Forest Reference Level approach and what do they expect the impact of its forest strategy and forestry act to be on its emissions reductions target for 2020?

It is difficult or nearly impossible to define scenarios including elements like ‘avoiding natural disturbances’ or ‘adaptation of forests’ because these include a lot of speculative assumptions. Moreover, while the mitigation impacts of these elements are quite important for forest ecosystem functioning, they are only of minor importance for Switzerland’s national CO_2 budget.

There are no quantitative estimates available, but overall the mitigation impact of the Forest Act (latest revision 2017), Wood Action Plan and Forest Policy 2020 is positive for Switzerland’s national CO_2 budget:

- In the medium to long term, mitigation cannot be sustained without adaptation: Adaptive forest management in Switzerland aims at avoiding major emissions from advanced age structure forest stands that are experiencing difficulty adapting to climate change. This means that in some forest areas a reduction in short-term sequestration from forest management is necessary to achieve positive long-term removals through adaptation activities today. To convert these old forests into more stable younger forests, a temporary decrease in biomass would occur, resulting in net emissions if the harvested biomass is not entirely transformed into harvested wood products. However, this harvested biomass will also contribute to increase energy and material substitution thereby contributing to the overall CO_2 effects. Further, specific forest stand types might need a change in species composition because of changing climate and corresponding changing stand characteristics. This exchange in tree species composition is typically spread over decennia. Emissions from these measures are expected to be moderate or small;

- By combating pests and diseases emissions from tree mortality can be avoided;

- The more active promotion of wood use (there is for instance a respective commitment for the construction of federal buildings) has a positive mitigation impact because the pool of harvested wood products will be increased, but will have a reverse impact on the carbon stored in the forest;

- The promotion of the ‘optimised cascaded use of domestic wood’ increases the carbon stored in the pool of harvested wood products. It is a challenge to define and model a scenario including the goal ‘optimised cascaded use of domestic wood’ because this would include many speculative assumptions. Therefore, only a descriptive and not a quantitative estimate is provided. By aiming at using wood for material purposes and afterwards for energetic purposes, the carbon stored in long-lived harvested wood products will increase and therefore the overall mitigation impact is estimated to be positive. Only the mitigation impact of long-lived harvested wood products is accounted for in the LULUCF sector, while the mitigation impact through substitution effects is reflected indirectly in the energy sector.

While a quantification is challenging, it is planned to explore ways to quantify the effect in the context of the establishment of the Forest Reference Level, which will be used for accounting of Forest Land including harvested wood products under the Paris Agreement starting in 2021. The mitigation impact of forest policy on the emission reduction target for 2020 under the accounting rules of the Kyoto Protocol is expected to be relatively small.

Question by European Union at Friday, 27 September 2019

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

Type: Before 30 September

Title: Revisions to the projections

Important changes and improvements have been made regarding the methodology and assumptions used for GHG emission scenarios in Switzerland. The impact of these changes has been clarified in the Amendment to the 7NC and shows the WOM scenario is 9.4% and 11.2% higher by 2020 and 2030, respectively compared to the scenarios presented in BR2; whilst the WAM scenario is 8.7% and 14.2% higher by 2020 and 2030, respectively. During the previous MA (SBI45 2016) Switzerland responded to a number of questions from Japan, Brazil, China and the EU on its achievement of 2020 targets, and indicated that its targets would be achieved through its domestic mechanisms (e.g. CO2 levy) to constrain emissions, offsetting, the ETS and the use of international carbon credits to achieve targets.

Whilst recognising the additional effort put into the projection scenarios, and the efforts made to improve the transparency of this analysis, it is noted that the revisions to the projections highlight that Switzerland's targets are even more challenging.

How does Switzerland plan to further strengthen mitigation actions or source additional units from market-based mechanisms to achieve its emission reduction target? What additional measures are planned and what emission reductions are they expected to achieve by 2020?

Answer by Switzerland, Thursday, 28 November 2019

The most recent inventory data show that meeting the target for 2020 on the national level has become increasingly difficult (the national target only allows domestic emission reductions). As the current legislation provides only little room for short-term adjustments, Switzerland plans to achieve its target on the international level by additional use of carbon credits. There are agreements between the Climate Cent Foundation and the Swiss Confederation to provide the required amount of carbon credits by the end of the second commitment period.

In the revised CO_2 Act for the years following the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, the Swiss Federal Council proposed to include, in addition to the target for the year 2030, also a budgetary target. Accordingly, emissions will have to be reduced by 35 per cent on average over the period 2021–2030

compared to 1990 levels. This means that if the target for 2020 is not met at the national level, emissions will have to be reduced more quickly in subsequent years, resulting in a reduction of more than 50 per cent in 2030 compared to 1990 levels.

Question by European Union at Friday, 27 September 2019

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

Type: Before 30 September

Title: Technology development and transfer

Switzerland reported qualitative information on the technology transfer activities and measures and capacity-building programmes and projects it provided in support of developing countries. The ERT, in tables 11 and 12 of the April 2019 TRR3, reiterated recommendations from previous technical reviews of BR1 and BR2, to provide information, to the extent possible, in CTF Tables 8 and 9, to improve the completeness and transparency of reporting.

Whilst appreciating that Switzerland is facing challenges in collating information on the technology transfer activities and measures and capacity-building programmes and projects it provided in support of developing countries, does Switzerland plan to complete CTF Tables 8 and 9 to further improve the completeness and transparency of reporting and will this be included in the next BR? Is Switzerland able to share more information about the types of challenges faced and the approach to be used to address them?

Answer by Switzerland, Thursday, 28 November 2019

Due to the integrated character of the bilateral technology development and transfer support measures of Switzerland, it is not possible to single out and quantify the respective components. In addition, it would not do justice to the integrated approach underpinning Switzerland's climate change interventions: Bilateral technology development and transfer is usually accompanied by capacity building activities to ensure long-term sustainability of these interventions. Therefore, the technology development and transfer components of Swiss-funded projects are not systematically identified in this report.

There is internationally no clear understanding and no consensus on how Parties should quantify their technology transfer components within climate-relevant projects. The lack of consensus prevents a comparison of quantifiable data. Switzerland is of the opinion that qualitative information therefore provides much more content to exchange on lessons learnt and improve the technology transfer and overall development support.

If Switzerland were to isolate the technology transfer components of its climate-related activities, it would need to fundamentally redesign its national reporting system related to technology transfer. An important corollary

would be that all project managers both at the headquarters and in the field offices would have to estimate the technology transfer components in the planning phase of their projects. This would considerably increase the administrative burden and reduce the resources available for project implementation, ultimately diminishing the climate impact on the ground.

Based on concrete project examples, Switzerland will therefore continue to report on its technology transfer activities in qualitative terms by emphasising their integrative character.

Question by European Union at Friday, 27 September 2019

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

Type: Before 30 September

Title: Uncertainties relating to key variables used for the projections

How does Switzerland plan to further clarify the sensitivities of its GHG projections to underlying assumptions on economy and technology in future reports, taking into account the considerable uncertainties relating to key variables used for the projections?

Answer by Switzerland, Thursday, 28 November 2019

This question goes into the same direction as the encouragement raised by the Expert Review Team during the review of Switzerland's third biennial report (see issue 1 in Table 8 of FCCC/TRR.3/CHE). Given the complexity of the computable general equilibrium model applied to compute the projections, Switzerland will not produce additional sensitivity scenarios. However, as encouraged by the Expert Review Team, Switzerland will enhance the transparency of its reporting by comprehensibly summarising the information provided in the original study (EPFL and Infras, 2016), illustrating the available information also graphically where possible. To facilitate access for a wide international audience, Switzerland prepared the respective report (EPFL and Infras, 2016) in English instead of one of the official languages of Switzerland.

Question by Australia at Monday, 23 September 2019

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

Type: Before 30 September

Title: ETS linkages

Switzerland's third biennial report states that Switzerland has plans to link its Emission Trading Scheme with the European Union's in 2021. How do you plan to do this? Are there any identified risks in successfully integrating the schemes? What steps are in place to ensure the planned linking goes ahead without complication?

Answer by Switzerland, Thursday, 28 November 2019

An agreement between Switzerland and the European Union on linking their emissions trading schemes (ETS) was approved by both parties. The agreement must still be ratified by both parties by the end of 2019 so that it can enter into force on 1 January 2020. The agreement provides for the mutual recognition of emission allowances of both systems for compliance entities in both systems. To this end, an electronic link between the emissions trading registries will be established to allow for the transfer of allowances between the registries. A Joint Committee with representatives of both parties is established to administer the agreement and to ensure its proper implementation. It may amend the annexes to the agreement if necessary, for instance due to legislative developments in either emissions trading scheme. More information on the linking agreement and its implementation is available on the following website: https://www.bafu.admin.ch/ets-linking.

Question by Australia at Monday, 23 September 2019

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

Type: Before 30 September

Title: Reducing emissions in energy dependence

Switzerland's third biennial report notes that its energy system depends largely on energy imports. Does Switzerland have measures in place to reduce emissions embedded in its energy dependence, or to reduce its energy imports because of domestic low-emissions energy supply?

Answer by Switzerland, Thursday, 28 November 2019

Switzerland heavily relies on the import of fossil fuels. Electricity on the other hand is largely produced within Switzerland. This is the starting point for energy and climate policy. The Swiss Federal Council (i.e. the Swiss Government) recently declared that Switzerland should reach net-zero emissions over all greenhouse gases by 2050. Therefore, the dependence on the import of fossil fuel will diminish. However, the challenge will be to reach this goal without becoming too dependent on the import of renewable electricity. To this end, Switzerland adopted the Energy Strategy 2050, which aims at efficient use of energy, promotion of the use of domestic renewable energy as well as at phasing out nuclear energy. The respective policies and measures are embedded in the revised Energy Act, which was accepted by the Swiss electorate on 21 May 2017. Details regarding the Energy Strategy 2050 and related policies and measures are available on the following website: https://www.uvek.admin.ch/energy-strategy-2050.

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