

Session SBI59 (2023)

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A compilation of questions to - and answers by - Bulgaria [exported on 02-12-2023] by the UNFCCC secretariat

Question by Canada at Friday, 29 September 2023

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

Type: Before 30 September

Title: How is atmospheric measurement data considered in your GHG inventory?

Improved measurement technologies in recent years have resulted in the advancement of emissions data derived from atmospheric measurements which can be compared to emissions/removals data reported to the UNFCCC. Could you please share information about how atmospheric measurement data are considered in the development of your GHG inventory, including any plans to incorporate such measurements into inventory methodologies?

Answer by Bulgaria, Wednesday, 29 November 2023

We consider that the atmospheric measurements could provide benefits to the improvement of national GHG inventories. The implementation of the 2019 Refinement guidance on use of atmospheric measurements to improve national GHG inventories should include both efforts to incorporate observations data directly into GHG inventories, and efforts to use observations to provide independent assessments of GHG inventory results that have led to identification of areas for improvement for the GHG Inventories.

Also, we consider that the atmospheric measurements could be used to provide useful quality assurance of the national greenhouse gas emission estimates.

Measurements of atmospheric concentrations provide fully independent datasets as a basis for comparison. The approach is particularly valuable as it can be largely independent of standard estimation method drivers, such as sector activity data and implied emission factors

Establishing a verification system for national greenhouse gas inventories based on atmospheric observations requires overcoming technical challenges and involves significant costs. Such verification of emission estimates needs to be undertaken by atmospheric observation scientists informed by GHG inventory priorities and needs. Therefore, we still consider use this option for the future.

Question by United States of America at Friday, 29 September 2023

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

Type: Before 30 September

Title: Energy Dependency

It was reported that Bulgaria saw a 10 percent decrease in energy dependency between

2005 and 2020. This is despite over 70 percent of energy demand is met by natural gas and crude oil imports. Could you outline which measures and/or circumstances led to the 10% decrease in dependency?

[Answer by Bulgaria](#), Wednesday, 29 November 2023

The Bulgarian energy import dependency decreased between 2005 and 2020 by more than 10 % is due to a strong domestic production of local resources (such lignite), a relatively high share of nuclear electricity production and by a robust expansion of renewable output.

[Question by Japan](#) at Friday, 29 September 2023

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

Type: Before 30 September

Title: Emission reductions by policies and measure in the agriculture sector

According to the total effects of sectoral policies and measures shown on p.241 and 242 of the NC8, the emissions from the agriculture sector reduced 457,375 t CO₂ eq. per year, which is considerably larger than the expected reductions. What are the main factors contributing to the achievement of such large reductions?

[Answer by Bulgaria](#), Wednesday, 29 November 2023

The key PaMs in the agriculture sector focus on reducing GHG emissions from agricultural land by encouraging the suitable rotation of crops, the management of degraded agricultural land through biological reclamation and the implementation of erosion control measures.

In addition, we have in place measures for improving the management of manure, including the introduction of low-carbon practices.

From all the measures implemented in Bulgaria in the agriculture sector, the crop rotation measures have the highest mitigation potential in 2020.

[Question by Japan](#) at Friday, 29 September 2023

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

Type: Before 30 September

Title: Roles of National Expert Committee on Climate Change and Coordinating Committee on Climate

The policy-making process described on p.102-103 of the NC8 states that The Ministry of Environment and Water conducts the overall state policy on climate change mitigation, assisted by the National Expert Committee on Climate Change and Coordinating Committee on Climate Change as advisory bodies. In the descriptions provided for the National Expert Committee on Climate Change and the Coordinating Committee on Climate Change, it appears that both are responsible for coordinating other institutions. Could Bulgaria let us know specifically what roles they play and what their functions are different from each other?

Answer by Bulgaria, Wednesday, 29 November 2023

The main body for implementing the national policy on climate change in Bulgaria is the Ministry of Environment and Water which is empowered to implement, coordinate, monitor and evaluate the policies and the measures to mitigate the consequences of climate change on the environment at national level.

The Ministry of Environment and Water is assisted by the National Expert Committee on Climate Change and the Coordination Committee on Climate Change.

The National expert council on climate change (NECCC) is established, under the Climate change mitigation act, as a consultative body to the Minister of Environment and Waters, which includes representatives of all responsible bodies (as Ministry of Environment and Waters, the Ministry of Agriculture, Foods and Forestry, the Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, National Security State Agency, Executive Agency of Environment, the Bulgarian Academy of Science, the National Association of Municipalities and Non-profitable Legal Persons. The activity of the NECCC has direct relation to climate change mitigation.

The coordination Committee on Climate change was formed by Order RD-230 of 04.26.2016 in order to assist the Minister of Environment and Water in developing a National strategy for adaptation to climate change and other issues related to the implementation of the national climate policy, incl. and coordinating interactions with institutions involved in policy development and implementation of adaptation policy and measures.

Question by New Zealand at Friday, 29 September 2023

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

Type: Before 30 September

Title: EU ETS and Bulgaria's national context

With the EU ETS (Emissions Trading Scheme) under revision, can Bulgaria share more insights into their experience of the ETS since it was adopted? How has Bulgaria developed a scheme that is a balance between the interests of the industry and the ambitious EU targets for progressive reduction of emissions? Can Bulgaria provide lessons learned in the development of their scheme to meet their 2013-2020 emission reduction target?

Answer by Bulgaria, Wednesday, 29 November 2023

With the implementation of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, the EU uses a market-based instrument to achieve the objectives of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, creating the right incentives to make low-carbon investment decisions, and to reinforce a clear, undistorted and long-term carbon price signal.

This scheme is currently in its fourth phase of implementation, covering the period 2021-2030. The latest revision of the EU ETS builds on the positive experience of the harmonized rules implemented since 2013 by further developing predictable, robust and fair rules, which address the potential risk of carbon leakage, establish funding mechanisms for decarbonization and introduce mechanisms for market stabilization.

To a large extent, the reduction in the energy sector is the result of changes in the fuel mix for heat and electricity generation, in particular a reduction in the use of hard coal and lignite fuels and an increase in electricity generation from renewable energy sources. The increasing CO₂ price has put further pressure on carbon-intensive fuels.

Emissions in the largest industrial sectors (iron and steel, cement and lime) have also been reduced substantially since the beginning of the EU ETS. Emissions in industrial sectors experienced a sharp drop following the financial and economic crisis of 2008 and 2009 and have remained at lower levels since. Other factors, such as improvements in energy efficiency and the increased use of biomass and waste as energy sources in production, also have further contribution to lower emission levels.

The current Covid 19 pandemic had a strong impact on emissions trading in 2020 in the stationary sector and in the aviation sector compared to 2019. This is mainly related to the decrease in demand in electricity consumption, industrial production and lower travel.

Question by Australia at Thursday, 28 September 2023

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

Type: Before 30 September

Title: Submitted Question #2

Bulgaria's inventory data indicates a trend of increasing emissions in the transport subsector. **Can Bulgaria explain the dynamics behind this trend, and identify any policies and measures planned to reduce emissions from transport?**

Answer by Bulgaria, Wednesday, 29 November 2023

The road transport sector has undergone substantial structural changes and has seen substantial growth. The road transport sector is the only sector in Bulgaria that has experienced an increase in emissions by 32.1 % increase in 2020 compared with the 1988 level.

Reducing dependence on oil is one of the Party's biggest challenges in the transport sector.

We have put our attention on three main areas:

- 1) the modernization of existing transport infrastructure, the introduction of intelligent transport systems and the increased use of biofuels;
- 2) the reduction of fuel consumption through the diversification of the modes of transport by developing urban public transport and promoting cycling;
- 3) the diversification of the modes of transport by increasing the share of electric public transport and developing intermodal terminals.

In addition, to ensure that the EU policy framework is fit for the new climate target, the European Commission proposed in July 2021 the most comprehensive package of climate and energy legislation to 2030. The package proposes a separate emission trading system for fuels used in road transport and buildings, as well as higher reduction target for CO2 emissions of new cars and vans and faster roll-out of the alternative fuels infrastructure.

Question by Australia at Thursday, 28 September 2023

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

Type: Before 30 September

Title: Submitted Question.

Bulgaria's emissions projections indicate that increased economic activity may drive a slight increase in manufacturing and construction emissions by 2025. These emissions are expected to have fallen by 2030. **Can Bulgaria comment on which policies and measures are expected to drive the reduction of emissions from these sectors by 2030?**

Answer by Bulgaria, Wednesday, 29 November 2023

In addition to the EU ETS scheme, the following PaMs are expected to drive the reduction of manufacturing and construction emissions from these sectors by 2030:

- Improving energy efficiency in industry mainly increasing heat recovery as well as improved equipment choices;
- Reduction of the activity of the industry: this would occur in a circular economy context;
- Hydrogen use as fuel/feedstock;
- CCS/CCU: carbon capture is a general application which could apply to the flue gas from combustion or from process activities.

Question by United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at Friday, 22 September 2023

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

Type: Before 30 September

Title: Question to Bulgaria on its Energy Sector

Thank you, Bulgaria, for the opportunity to comment on your 5th Biennial Report and 8th National Communication.

Could you share any lessons learned from your experience of selecting measures for the Energy Sector through consultations with stakeholders, businesses, NGOs and academic circles?

Answer by Bulgaria, Wednesday, 29 November 2023

Bulgaria maintained a policy of transparency and public awareness on combating climate change and mitigate the effects of climate change.

The policy and measures for the Energy Sector is presented at a number of forums, meetings with non-governmental organizations and businesses, conferences, seminars and trainings through participation and presentations to familiarize stakeholders with relevant and up-to-date aspects of policy development in this area.

From various stakeholders, including NGOs, private and government energy companies, industrial associations, economic institutes, etc. stakeholders have been given the opportunity to submit their comments and recommendations. Some of them include the following recommendations:

- to set more ambitious targets;
- to ensure clarity on the future of coal-fired power plants and the way forward to achieve the targets for decarbonisation of the economy;
- to set more ambitious targets for the use of energy from renewable resources, mostly solar and wind power;
- To sets out specific legislative and regulatory steps to enable the construction of new powers plants relying on renewable sources and their integration into the market.
- The policy measures and policies should be properly costed.



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