

Session SBI59 (2023)

Session starts: 01-09-2023 00:00:00 [GMT+1]

Session ends: 30-11-2023 23:30:00 [GMT+1]



A compilation of questions to [European Union](#)
exported on 4 October 2023 by the UNFCCC secretariat

Question by Canada 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: LULUCF (AFOLU) Accounting – Question 2

In its Fit for 55 package, the EU indicated it intends to switch to net-net accounting approach for LULUCF (AFOLU) in 2026. When using a net-net approach, if the LULUCF sector is a net carbon sink in the base year (as is the case for the EU) and is included in the base year emissions used to establish the 55% 2030 target, this will make the emissions reduction target artificially easier to attain--a 55% reduction to a net sink is a smaller sink, meaning the LULUCF sector would be expected to remove less carbon than in the base year to meet its target). How will the EU ensure that its accounting approach is consistent with the rationale of reducing emissions/increasing removals?

Answer by European Union
Not answered

Question by Canada 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: LULUCF (AFOLU) Accounting – Question 1

In its Fit for 55 package, the EU indicated it intends to switch to net-net accounting approach for LULUCF (AFOLU) in 2026. How does the EU intend to account for forest age class legacy effects (i.e., the effect of past forest management practices on the 1990 base-year emissions/removals)?

Answer by European Union
Not answered

Question by Canada 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: Controlling for forest age-class structure effect within forest land emissions accounting

In order to simplify the regulatory framework for the LULUCF sector, the EU will eliminate LULUCF-specific accounting rules, including the reference level approach used for forests, starting in 2026. As such, compliance with national targets of the Member States will be verified on the basis of reported greenhouse gas emissions and removals starting in 2026 (Article 10; Regulation 2023/839 of the European Parliament and of the Council, 2023). Under this new accounting system, will the EU employ methods to address the effect of forest age-class structure* on forest emissions accounting? If so, please explain. *See <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1462901108000968> for more details on the forest age-class structure effect.

Answer by European Union
Not answered

Question by Canada at Friday, 29 September 2023

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

Type: Before 30 September

Title: Distribution of emissions reductions across member states

NC8 states that "the Effort Sharing Decision provided emission target paths for EU Member States for the period 2013-2020. Most EU Member States overachieved their targets, while some made use of flexibilities provided under this decision to achieve their targets." Was the use of flexibilities by some members stated linked to a higher population, to particular decarbonization challenges (e.g., in specific sectors), a mix of both, or were there other primary contributing factors?

Answer by European Union
Not answered

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 European Union
Not answered

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: Completeness improvements

In previous reports, the ERT recommended that the EU improve the completeness of its reporting by providing key sector-specific information including emissions trends and/or goals. Would you be able to discuss any updates with regards to this recommendation?

Answer by European Union
Not answered

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: Harmonizing Projection Outputs

The EU indicates that it is unable to provide projections of key sector-specific parameters, such as primary energy use, electricity generation, and transport volume because the relevant European Commission regulations do not require that Member States report such information as part of their projections (BR p. 255). Has the EU considered potential options for harmonizing the projection outputs provided by Member States that feed into the compiled projections for the EU as a whole, in a manner that would facilitate including projections for these parameters?

Answer by European Union
Not answered

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: Projections

Can the EU elaborate on the process it uses to compile emission projections for the EU based on Member States projections, including whether projection methods, parameters, and key assumptions are harmonized as part of the compilation process (as described in Section 5.6 of the BR)?

Answer by European Union
Not answered

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: National Energy and Climate Plans

The EU requires EU Member States to regularly report on their progress in implementing National Energy and Climate Plans, and lays out detailed reporting obligations on GHG emissions, policies and measures, projections, adaptation and support provided to developing countries. Do these internal EU requirements go beyond requirements included in the Article 13 MPGs and, if so, are there new elements or reporting innovations that the EU has identified that could be considered good practice for other countries?

Answer by European Union
Not answered

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: Methodological support for reporting of reductions in policies and measures from EU Member

According to page 61 of the NC8, it states that the aggregated effects of policies and measures in the WEM scenario are calculated based on the emission reductions of policies and measures reported by EU Member States registered in the EEA database on greenhouse gas policies and measures in Europe. Looking at the database, there are many policies and measures for which no emission reductions are reported. Does the EU plan to provide any methodological support for each EU Member State to quantify the reductions of policies and measures in each EU Member State?

Answer by European Union
Not answered

Question by Japan at Friday, 29 September 2023

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

Type: Before 30 September

Title: Sensitivity analysis

What specifically are the four scenarios (S1-S4) shown in Figure 79 in the BR5, p.252? According to the BR5, the EU regulation has been revised so that the basic information of sensitivity analysis is now reported in a structured manner. At present, the results of the sensitivity analysis in its NC8 are not integrated for the EU as a whole but are presented for each member state. How is the EU going to use the result of sensitivity analysis for each member state?

Answer by European Union
Not answered

Question by New Zealand at Friday, 29 September 2023

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

Type: Before 30 September

Title: Subsidisation of agriculture and fossil fuels

In the context of aligning financial flows with low-emissions and climate-resilient development –

what measures has the EU taken to reform, reduce and remove harmful fossil fuel and agricultural subsidies?

Answer by European Union
Not answered

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: Update on the EU Effort Sharing Regulation following the new EU 2030 target

The European Union's 'Effort Sharing Regulation' adopted in 2018 is intended to set new target paths with more ambitious emission reductions. The EU noted that this regulation is currently being revised to ensure that is in line with the new 2030 target by EU. New Zealand is interested to learn how the EU is planning to integrate/apply the European Commission's proposed target into the regulation, if there are any plans for more new ambitious paths, and when the EU plans to adopt the updated regulations?

Answer by European Union
Not answered

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: Carbon Markets

The EU, as one of the oldest and largest users of carbon markets, knows the value of carbon markets in delivering greater volumes of emissions reductions by directing finance flows to cost efficient mitigation. In the period covered, what was the Marginal Cost of Abatement in Europe, vs outside of Europe?

Answer by European Union
Not answered

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

The EU has maintained a decreasing trend in gross inland energy consumption over the last 15 years. The 8th National Communication attributes this to a series of EU-wide policies and measures. **Can the EU comment on which policies and measures have been most successful in decreasing inland energy consumption, and comment on any lessons learnt through their implementation?**

Answer by European Union
Not answered

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.

The European Union's 8th National Communication identifies that in addition to the 'no debit rule' in LULUCF regulations, the EU has launched several other initiatives and strategies to increase carbon removals and improve land management in the coming decades. **Is the EU able to elaborate on these other initiatives and strategies?**

Answer by European Union
Not answered

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Session closed at 30-11-2023
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