



Summary report on the multilateral assessment of Bulgaria at the forty-second session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

Note by the secretariat

I. Background

1. The Conference of the Parties, by decision 1/CP.16, decided that developed country Parties should enhance the reporting in their national communications and submit biennial reports on their progress in achieving emission reductions. It also established a new process under the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) – the international assessment and review (IAR) of emissions and removals related to developed country Parties' quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets – that aims to promote the comparability of efforts among all developed country Parties. The first round of the IAR process is to be conducted during the period 2014–2015.

2. According to the modalities and procedures for IAR specified in annex II to decision 2/CP.17, the multilateral assessment (MA), being part of the IAR process, is to be conducted for each developed country Party at a working group session of the SBI, with the participation of all Parties. The aim of the MA is to assess each Party's progress in implementation towards the achievement of emission reductions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target.

3. The first MA of Bulgaria took place at a working group session during SBI 42, on 4 June 2015. Such a working group session is preceded by a three-month period of questions and answers; in the first month, any Party may submit written questions to the Party being assessed, which may respond to the questions within the remaining two months. Questions for Bulgaria had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Brazil and China. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Bulgaria can be found on the IAR web page for Bulgaria.¹

¹ <<http://unfccc.int/8816.php>>.

II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Amena Yauvoli. Bulgaria was represented by Ms. Veneta Borikova from the Ministry of Environment and Water.

5. Ms. Borikova made an opening presentation, summarizing Bulgaria's progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets. Emissions, excluding those from the land use, land-use change and forestry sector, decreased by nearly 41 per cent between 1988 and 2012 mainly owing to structural changes stemming from the transition from a centrally-planned economy to a market economy.

6. Ms. Borikova presented Bulgaria's individual targets for 2020 for sectors outside the European Union Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) and renewable energy set under the European Union (EU) climate and energy package. Bulgaria has put in place a range of policies and measures in order to achieve its 2020 targets as part of its Third National Action Plan on Climate Change, including for the energy, household and services, waste and transport sectors. According to preliminary estimates, Bulgaria is expected to over-achieve its 2013 targets for sectors not covered by the EU ETS, as well as its targets for renewable energy and biofuels under the EU climate and energy package.

7. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the following delegations: China and Marshall Islands. Bulgaria was requested to clarify whether it would consider the possibility of raising its target under the EU climate and energy package in order to allow the EU to raise its target for 2020 in view of the significant projected reductions in national emissions compared with the 1990 levels. Information was also sought regarding the relationship of Bulgaria's Climate Change Mitigation Act with its Energy Act, Renewable Energy Act, Energy Efficiency Act and National Climate Action Plan. Another question related to the time frame of Bulgaria's plans for increased use of cleaner energy sources in place of coal for power generation in relation to the time frame for its planned move towards a more electrified public transport system. In response, Bulgaria provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for Bulgaria.

8. In closing, the SBI Chair reminded Bulgaria that it can submit any other observations on its MA process within two months of the working group session, and that they will form part of its Party record for the MA. The SBI Chair thanked the delegation of Bulgaria, all the other delegations and the secretariat for this successful MA session.
