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## Summary report on the multilateral assessment of the European Union at the forty-first 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 the European Union (EU) took place at a working group session during SBI 41, on 6 December 2014. 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 the EU had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, China, Egypt, Japan, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia and United States of America. The United States also submitted written questions after the deadline. A list of questions received and the answers provided by the EU can be found on the IAR web page for the EU.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <[http://unfccc.int/files/national\\_reports/biennial\\_reports\\_and\\_iar/international\\_assessment\\_and\\_review/application/pdf/sbi41-eu-full.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/national_reports/biennial_reports_and_iar/international_assessment_and_review/application/pdf/sbi41-eu-full.pdf)>.

## II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Amena Yauvoli. The EU was represented by Ms. Elina Bardram, Head of Unit, International and Inter-Institutional Relations, Directorate-General for Climate Action.

5. Ms. Bardram made an opening presentation, addressing the questions received prior to the working group session and the answers provided. She outlined the EU joint unconditional and conditional quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets for 2020 under the Convention, as well as its binding commitment under the Kyoto Protocol for the second commitment period. Ms. Bardram also described the progress made by the EU in meeting its pledge under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol commitments. Based on the data provided by the EU, its estimated 2013 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions were 19 per cent below 1990 levels. In addition, the EU projects that its GHG emissions in 2020, on the basis of existing policies and measures (PaMs), will be 21 per cent below the 1990 level.

6. Ms. Bardram elaborated on the contributions of individual member States to the EU 2020 target for emissions not covered by the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) under the effort-sharing decision.<sup>2</sup> In addition, she stated that the EU has been able to decouple economic growth and GHG emissions; from 1990 to 2012, the EU gross domestic product increased by 45 per cent, while GHG emissions decreased by 18 per cent.

7. Regarding the PaMs utilized to achieve the targets of the EU, Ms. Bardram referred to the climate and energy package, which includes binding EU GHG emission reduction targets for sectors covered by the EU ETS and those not covered by the EU ETS; a binding EU renewable energy target combined with member State binding targets; and a non-binding energy efficiency target. In addition, she highlighted that GHG emission reductions that have occurred since 2005 can be attributed to the reduced energy intensity of the economy, the reduced carbon intensity of energy use and the economic recession.

8. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and further questions from the following delegations: Australia, Brazil, China, India, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and United States. These questions were on the additional efforts that the EU will need to make to transition from the current 20 per cent emission reduction target to the conditional 30 per cent target; the assessment of the progress of individual EU countries in achieving their targets; the effectiveness of PaMs that are implemented to help individual EU member States' reach their targets; the inclusion of land use, land-use change and forestry in the conditional and unconditional targets of the EU for 2020; the progress towards achievement of the EU renewable energy target and the types of renewable energy sources being used; and the use of international credits to achieve the targets. Questions were also raised in relation to the EU approach to measuring the responsiveness of the social and economic consequences of its mitigation actions. In response, the EU delegation provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for the EU.

9. In closing, the SBI Chair reminded the EU that any other observations by the Party on its MA process can be submitted within two months of the working group session, and that this will form part of its Party record for the MA. The SBI Chair thanked the EU delegation, all the other delegations and the secretariat for this successful MA session.

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<sup>2</sup> The effort-sharing decision is part of the of EU climate and energy package.