



Summary report on the multilateral assessment of France 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 France 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 France had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Algeria, China, Egypt, Japan, 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 France can be found on the IAR web page for France.¹

¹ <http://www.unfccc.int/files/national_reports/biennial_reports_and_iar/international_assessment_and_review/application/pdf/sbi41-france-full.pdf>.

II. Proceedings

4. The session was chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Amena Yauvoli. France was represented by Mr. Paul Watkinson from the Ministère de l'Écologie, du Développement Durable et de l'Énergie.

5. Mr. Watkinson made an opening presentation, summarizing France's approaches to and successes in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and achieving its targets. He referred to France's 2020 targets under the Convention and the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, and, as a member State of the European Union (EU), to its contribution to the joint targets of the EU. Information was also provided on the EU 2030 climate and energy package and France's 2050 emission reduction target. Mr. Watkinson provided information on France's total GHG emissions and its emissions by sector in 2012 relative to the respective base years and highlighted the progress made by the Party towards its targets.

6. Mr. Watkinson described the main policies put in place by France before 2012 and presented a set of new policies adopted since its elaboration of GHG emission projections up until 2020, including the pre-2012 measures. These new adopted policies target the buildings, energy production and distribution, agriculture and research sectors. At the EU level, the newly adopted policies concern the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) 'backloading'² and fluorinated gases.

7. The opening presentation was followed by questions from the following delegations: Brazil, China, Saudi Arabia and United States. These questions were on the peaking of GHG emissions in France in 1978; the clarification of France's national 2020 target combining the targets for emissions from sectors covered by the EU ETS and from sectors not covered by it; the EU conditional 30 per cent target; the land sector not being included in the EU 2020 target and the related impact on France in terms of it achieving the target; the role of the EU ETS and the role of units from Kyoto Protocol and market-based mechanisms in achieving the 2020 target; and France's plan for additional policies and measures (PaMs) in the electricity sector. A question was also raised on France's national approach to assessing the impacts of PaMs on developing countries. In response, France provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for France.

8. In closing, the SBI Chair reminded France 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 delegation of France, all the other delegations and the secretariat for this successful MA session.

² "Backloading" refers to the postponement by the European Commission of the auctioning of 900 million allowances until 2019–2020 to allow demand to pick up.