



Summary report on the multilateral assessment of Liechtenstein 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 Liechtenstein took place at a working group session during SBI 42, on 5 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 Liechtenstein had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Brazil, China, European Union and Netherlands. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Liechtenstein can be found on the IAR web page for Liechtenstein.¹

¹ <<http://unfccc.int/8826.php>>.

II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Amena Yauvoli. Liechtenstein was represented by Ms. Heike Summer, Office of Environment.

5. Ms. Summer made an opening presentation, summarizing Liechtenstein's progress in the implementation of its emission reduction and removal commitments related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets. She outlined the national circumstances of Liechtenstein, which is a very small country with small and medium-sized enterprises and an export-oriented economy. She explained that, although its impact on global emissions is insignificant, Liechtenstein takes its commitments regarding climate change seriously. Liechtenstein's economy-wide emission reduction target corresponds to a 20 per cent emission reduction by 2020 compared with the 1990 level. Although Liechtenstein experienced significant economic and population growth, by 230 and 25 per cent, respectively, between 1990 and 2012, the emission level in 2012 was slightly below the level in 1990.

6. Given that Liechtenstein's energy sector contributed 84 per cent of its total GHG emissions in 2012, Liechtenstein's policies and measures are targeted mainly at that sector. The most important supporting legislation includes: the Emissions Trading Act, which stipulates Liechtenstein's participation in the European Union Emissions Trading System; the Energy Efficiency Act, which regulates financial support for energy efficiency measures and measures to increase the share of renewable energy sources; and the Carbon Dioxide Act. A new version of the National Climate Strategy is expected by the end of 2015. In addition, Liechtenstein has been investing in photovoltaic installations since 2008, resulting in an installed capacity increase from 1,170 MWh in 2009 to 15,550 MWh in 2014. Other measures that are specific to the national circumstances of Liechtenstein include the commissioning of a wood-fired power station and a steam pipeline from a waste incineration plant in neighbouring Switzerland. Regarding forests, Ms. Summer explained that wooded area comprises 41 per cent of Liechtenstein's total area and that most of the forest is protected forest with provisions that prohibit deforestation.

7. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the following delegations: Brazil, China, Netherlands and New Zealand. The questions related to: Liechtenstein's plans to use units from market-based mechanisms to achieve its emission reduction targets; additional measures planned to achieve its targets; the relationship between its target under the Convention and that under the Kyoto Protocol; the implementation status and expected effect of its infrastructure measures relating to railways; and the contribution of Liechtenstein's mitigation actions to the observed trend in the emission intensity of its economy. In response, Liechtenstein provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for Liechtenstein.

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