



Summary report on the multilateral assessment of Luxembourg 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 Luxembourg 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 Luxembourg had been submitted in writing two months before the working group session by the following delegations: Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The United States of America submitted a written question after the deadline. A list of the questions received and the answers provided by Luxembourg can be found on the IAR web page for Luxembourg.¹

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

II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Amena Yauvoli. Luxembourg was represented by Mr. Eric de Brabanter from the Département de l'Environnement in the Ministère du Développement Durable et des Infrastructures.

5. Mr. de Brabanter made an opening presentation, summarizing Luxembourg's targets for, approaches to and successes in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, as well as the progress it has made towards achieving its targets.

6. Mr. de Brabanter outlined Luxembourg's national circumstances most relevant to its GHG emissions, as well as its GHG emission trends and emission intensity related indicators. He also provided information on Luxembourg's total GHG emissions and emissions by sector in 2012.

7. He further reported on Luxembourg's progress towards the achievement of its target under the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol and its need to use units from the clean development and joint implementation mechanisms. Regarding Luxembourg's 2020 targets, Mr. de Brabanter reiterated its commitments under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, as well as its targets as a European Union (EU) member State contributing to the 2020 targets of the EU.

8. Mr. de Brabanter presented projections up to 2020 of Luxembourg's GHG emissions in the 'with additional measures' scenario from sectors not covered by the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) sectors. He mentioned Luxembourg's package of 51 additional policies that are to be implemented to help bridge the gap to its 2020 targets. He acknowledged that Luxembourg will likely need to use units from market-based mechanisms to achieve its targets.

9. The opening presentation was followed by questions from the following Parties: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Fiji and United States. These questions were on the types of policies and measures (PaMs) in sectors not covered by the EU ETS, in particular in the buildings and transportation sectors, and their roles in achieving Luxembourg's 2020 target and modifying longer-term trends in GHG emissions; the quantitative effect of individual PaMs and the identification of those with the greatest effect on GHG emission reductions, in particular PaMs targeting the sectors not covered by the EU ETS; plans regarding the implementation of additional PaMs in order to achieve the target; how Luxembourg plans to attribute GHG emissions from transiting road freight transport in future GHG emission projections; the use and accounting of different units from Kyoto Protocol mechanisms and market-based mechanisms in achieving the target, as well as on the contribution of these units compared with reductions realized by PaMs; and on GHG emission reductions for the period 1990–1999. A question was also raised on the impacts of Luxembourg's PaMs on small island developing States. In response to these and further questions, the Luxembourg delegation provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for Luxembourg.

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