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## Summary report on the multilateral assessment of the European Union at the forty-fifth 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 second round of the IAR process is to be conducted during the period 2016–2017 (the first round of the IAR process was 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 second round of MA of the European Union (EU) took place at a working group session during SBI 45, on 12 November 2016. 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: Brazil, China, New Zealand, Switzerland and the United States of America. A list of the 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> <<https://unfccc.int/9707.php>>.

## II. Proceedings

4. The working group session was chaired by the SBI Chair, Mr. Tomasz Chruszczow. The European Union was represented by Ms. Elina Bardram, Head of Unit, Directorate-General Climate Action, European Commission.

5. Ms. Bardram made an opening presentation, summarizing the European Union's commitments including the European Union joint quantified economy-wide emission reduction target under the Convention of 20 per cent below the 1990 level by 2020, its binding commitment under the Kyoto Protocol for the second commitment period, as well as its intended nationally determined contribution communicated under the Paris Agreement of at least 40 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. Ms. Bardram also described the progress made by the European Union in meeting its 2020 target. Based on the data provided by the European Union, the estimated 2015 GHG emissions were 22 per cent below the 1990 level. She stated that the European Union has been able to decouple economic growth and GHG emissions; from 1990 to 2015, the gross domestic product of the European Union increased by 50 per cent, while GHG emissions decreased by 22 per cent.

6. Regarding the policies and measures utilized to achieve the targets, Ms. Bardram referred to the climate and energy package, which includes: binding GHG emission reduction targets for sectors covered by the European Union Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) and those not covered by the EU ETS; a binding European Union renewable energy target combined with national binding targets of member States; and a non-binding energy efficiency target. In addition, she presented the framework strategy for a resilient energy union with a forward-looking climate change policy, to ensure that the European Union has secure, affordable and climate-friendly energy. The Party's emissions in 2030 under the "with existing measures" scenario are projected to be 26 per cent below the 1990 level, and Ms. Bardram commented that new mitigation policies are needed and are being put in place towards achieving the at least 40 per cent reduction in GHG emissions by 2030.

7. The opening presentation was followed by interventions and questions from the following delegations: Australia, Canada, China, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and the United States. These questions were on: the progress towards the achievement of the European Union renewable energy target; the formal mechanisms to coordinate policies across member States; long-term emission reduction strategies; how to ensure the consistency among the European Union projections and the projections of each member State; effective energy efficiency policies; the individual contribution from each member State towards the achievement of emission reductions and removals related to the European Union quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets; the European Union forestry strategy; the quality control and quality assurance mechanisms; and experience in the transport sector. In response, the European Union provided further explanations. Details can be found in the webcast of this session on the IAR web page for the European Union.

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

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