

Session SBI41 (2014)

Session started at 01-09-2014 00:00:00 [GMT+1]

Session closed at 28-11-2014 23:59:59 [GMT+1]



A compilation of questions to - and answers by – Austria
Exported 29/11-2014 by the
UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Question from: United States of America at Tuesday, 28 October 2014
Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target
Title: Double counting prevention

How do you plan to prevent double counting with the host countries of projects that generated CERs that your country plans to use towards meeting its pledge in the pre-2020 period?

If a host country refuses to adjust its reporting towards its progress to its targets to reflect CERs it exported, do you still plan to count them?

Answered by: Austria at Friday, 28 November 2014

Net international transfers from market based mechanisms should be appropriately deducted from or added to a pledge. That is, when a Party acquires mitigation outcomes from another Party to meet its commitments, these should be credited to the acquiring Party (additions) and debited from the originating Party (subtractions). In this way, the integrity of the pledge is maintained. Allowing for such additions and subtractions while respecting agreed standards is the fundamental purpose of an accounting system for flexible mechanisms.

Parties agreed on exactly such a system under the Kyoto protocol which provides a robust accounting framework for market based mechanisms including the generation and use of CERs. The EU will follow these rules from 2008 until the end of the Kyoto Protocol's second commitment period in 2020. This means that all EU accounting towards UNFCCC commitments is underpinned by transparently measured, reported and reviewed emissions and supplementary information on transactions. The measurement, reporting, review, recording and tracking of this information is in accordance with UNFCCC agreed rules undertaken in UNFCCC certified registry systems.

We would also like to mention that from the current perspective Austria intends to achieve its EU-internal emission reduction target by domestic measures only.

Question from: United States of America at Tuesday, 30 September 2014

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Title: Question #1 for Austria

The ERT noted that "the BR1 does not include all information required by the UNFCCC reporting guidelines on BRs on mitigation actions, including on the policies and measures (PaMs) that Austria has implemented or plans to implement to achieve its economy-wide emission reduction target. In particular, in its BR1 Austria reported only adopted and implemented PaMs, while it did not report the additional measures that are necessary for reaching its non-ETS target according to the projections provided during the review. During the review, Austria provided additional information, elaborating on additional measures in a complete and transparent

manner. The ERT recommends that Austria include a description of all the measures that are envisaged for reaching its targets in its next biennial report (BR)." What is the current state of implementation of the additional measures that are necessary for Austria to meet its non-ETS target?

Answered by: Austria at Thursday, 27 November 2014

Austria would like to point to the fact that there is no Austrian quantified economy-wide emission reduction target as defined in para 4 of the "UNFCCC biennial reporting guidelines for developed country Parties" in Annex I to Decision 2/CP.17. The EU and its Member States communicated an independent quantified economy-wide emission reduction target, which will be fulfilled jointly by the EU and its Member States. EU-internal provisions lay down targets for sectors (EU-ETS) and for member states (non-trading sectors), respectively, which contribute to the joint fulfilment of the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target communicated by the EU and its Member States. Austria has a target of a 16% emission reduction from 2005 to 2020 in the sectors not included in the EU-ETS.

Austria's policies and measure to achieve the EU internal target therefore contribute to the fulfilment of the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target communicated by the EU and its Member States. With respect to the information on planned measures as mentioned by the ERT, Austria would like to state that progress has been made in implementing planned measures. The emission scenario based on implemented and adopted measures (WEM), which has been reported in the BR, takes into account measures implemented up to early 2012. Since then a decision on measures for 2013/2014 has been taken by Federation and Federal Provinces; a programme for 2015–2020 is currently being developed. Para 33 of the TRR states that Austria will reach its EU internal target according to the "with additional measures" scenario, which includes measures that were in the planning stage in 2012. In order to mention specific measures: An amendment of the fuel consumption based car registration tax, effective from March 2013, leads to higher tax rates for cars with higher specific CO₂ emissions. . Passenger cars with high CO₂ emissions (in g/km) are being taxed up to 32% of the sales price, compared to 16% before the reform. Tickets for the public transport, which are provided by the employer ("job ticket"), have been exempted from income tax as of 2013. Road toll for heavy duty vehicles on highways has been increased. An intensification of mobility management is part of the 2013/2014 package of measures for the implementation of the Climate Change Act. Measures for the improvement of the infrastructure according to the National Action Plan Danube Navigation are being implemented as planned. The Austrian Energy Efficiency Act has been adopted 2014. A national plan according to Art. 9 of Directive 2010/31/EU (Energy performance of buildings) has been established which defines new standards for the heating energy as well as primary energy demand and CO₂ emissions of buildings and a stepwise (2016/2018/2020) improvement of these standards. Some measures regarding agriculture have been implemented (promotion of eco-driving for tractors and replacement of fossil fuels), but most of the measures are part of the agri-environmental programme for the period up to 2020, which will start in 2015.

Austria would also like to note that preliminary inventory data show that emissions in 2013 are well below the target path.

Question from: Brazil at Tuesday, 30 September 2014

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Title: Pre 2020 Ambition

- Emissions in 1990: 78.16 Mt
- Emissions with measures in 2020: 82.76 Mt
- Emissions with extra measures in 2020: 78.06 Mt

According to IPCC AR4, Annex I Parties should promote a reduction of GHG emissions from 25% to 40% by 2020 compared to 1990. Please, explain the reasons for not complying with the need that has been pointed out by IPCC, taking in to account that for 2020, the emission levels are expected reach levels similar to those of 1990. Can you explain the reasons why even with additional measures you are not able to curb down the emissions?

Answered by: Austria at Friday, 28 November 2014

Austria would like to point to the fact that there is no Austrian quantified economy-wide emission reduction target as defined in para 4 of the “UNFCCC biennial reporting guidelines for developed country Parties” in Annex I to Decision 2/CP.17. The EU and its Member States communicated an independent quantified economy-wide emission reduction target, which will be fulfilled jointly by the EU and its Member States and which is the subject of the Multilateral Assessment. EU-internal provisions lay down targets for sectors (EU-ETS) and for member states (non-trading sectors), respectively, which contribute to the joint fulfilment of the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target communicated by the EU and its Member States.

The European Union (EU) and its 28 Member States, both individually and jointly, have been implementing domestic and international actions against climate change now for a considerable number of years, which resulted in significant emission reductions. EU GHG emissions have decreased by 18% between 1990 and 2012 while the EU GDP has grown by 45%. As a result of the decoupling between economic growth and GHG emissions, the GHG emission intensity was reduced by almost half over the period. Austrian GHG emission intensity is one of the lowest in the EU. Under the Convention, the EU and its Member States are committed to an independent quantified economy-wide emissions reduction target of 20% by 2020, compared to 1990 levels.

In addition to its 20% reduction commitment, the EU stands by its conditional offer to move to a 30% reduction by 2020 compared to 1990, as part of a global and comprehensive agreement for the period beyond 2012 and provided that other developed countries commit themselves to comparable emission reductions and that more advanced developing countries contribute adequately according to their responsibilities and respective capabilities. This offer remains on the table.

For the second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol, the European Union, its Member States and Iceland have inscribed a joint emission reduction commitment of 80 (reducing average annual emissions by 20% compared to base year emission levels

during the years 2013 – 2020) in an amended Annex B to the Kyoto Protocol based on the understanding that these commitments will be fulfilled jointly.

The 2009 'Climate and Energy package' forms the basis for the EU's international obligation in the second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol. Based on the Climate and Energy package, the EU and its Member States are already implementing a 20% emission reduction by 2020. This allowed them to implement their commitments under the Kyoto Protocol's second commitment period as of its start on 1 January 2013. The EU is on track to meet all its international obligations.

Question from: Brazil at Tuesday, 30 September 2014

Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Title: Budget for support programmes in developing countries

How the budget for support programmes in developing countries is established?

Answered by: Austria at Friday, 28 November 2014

It is the understanding of Austria that the Multilateral Assessment is a focused approach that does not encompass all issues reported by Parties under the BR, the NC or that are in broader context related to climate change. The scope of the multilateral assessment is defined in para 5 of Annex II to Decision 2/CP.17 and covers the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target (emissions and removals related to the target; assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of the target, progress towards the achievement of the target). This question therefore does not fall in the scope of the Multilateral Assessment.

For information purposes, however, we would like to mention that in 2013 Austria adopted an international climate finance strategy (KFS; available upon request, in German only) and established a new inter-ministerial working group (AGIK) dedicated to climate finance. The KFS contains a matrix with an extensive work programme on issues pertaining to climate finance, which includes identification of sources and criteria for the selection of programmes and projects. For further information please see the chapter on Austria in the EU's 2014 submission on strategies and approaches for scaling up climate finance, available on the UNFCCC website.

Question from: Brazil at Tuesday, 30 September 2014

Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Title: Capacity building or technology development/transfer to developing countries

1. Which is the general guidance for Austria to elect capacity building or technology development/transfer support programmes to developing countries?

Answered by: Austria at Friday, 28 November 2014

It is the understanding of Austria that the Multilateral Assessment is a focused approach that does not encompass all issues reported by Parties under the BR, the NC or that are in broader context related to climate change. The scope of the multilateral assessment is defined in para 5 of Annex II to Decision 2/CP.17 and covers the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target (emissions and removals related to the target; assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of the target, progress towards the achievement of the target). This question therefore does not fall in the scope of the Multilateral Assessment.

For information purposes, however, we would like to mention that in 2013 Austria adopted an international climate finance strategy (KFS; available upon request, in German only) and established a new inter-ministerial working group (AGIK) dedicated to climate finance. The KFS contains a matrix with an extensive work programme on issues pertaining to climate finance, which includes identification of sources and criteria for the selection of programmes and projects. For further information please see the chapter on Austria in the EU's 2014 submission on strategies and approaches for scaling up climate finance, available on the UNFCCC website. Capacity building and technology development are part of some projects.

Question from: Brazil at Tuesday, 30 September 2014

Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Title: Unit for funds

1. Which is the unit for the funds presented in Table 7? Millions or billions of Euros/Dollars?

Answered by: Austria at Friday, 28 November 2014

It is the understanding of Austria that the Multilateral Assessment is a focused approach that does not encompass all issues reported by Parties under the BR, the NC or that are in broader context related to climate change. The scope of the multilateral assessment is defined in para 5 of Annex II to Decision 2/CP.17 and covers the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target (emissions and removals related to the target; assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of the target, progress towards the achievement of the target). This question therefore does not fall in the scope of the Multilateral Assessment.

For clarification, Austria would like to state that the unit is million EUR/USD.

Question from: Brazil at Tuesday, 30 September 2014

Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Title: Austria's reduction commitment

Has Austria not an own reduction commitment agreed by the European Union?

Answered by: Austria at Friday, 28 November 2014

According to para 4 of the “UNFCCC biennial reporting guidelines for developed country Parties” in Annex I to Decision 2/CP.17, each Annex I Party shall describe its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target as communicated to the secretariat and contained in document FCCC/SB/2011/INF.1/Rev.1 or any update to that document.

The EU and its Member States communicated an independent quantified economy-wide emission reduction target of a 20 per cent emission reduction by 2020 compared with 1990 levels in the above mentioned document. No individual quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets for Austria or other individual Member States of the EU are included in that document, as this 20 % reduction target will be fulfilled jointly by the EU and its Member States.

EU-internal provisions lay down targets for sectors (EU-ETS) and for member states (non-trading sectors), respectively. These targets contribute to the joint fulfilment of the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target communicated by the EU and its Member States. Austria has a target of a 16% emission reduction from 2005 to 2020 in the sectors not included in the EU-ETS.

Question from: Brazil at Tuesday, 30 September 2014

Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Title: Metric

1. Austria has chosen GWP as reported in IPCC-SAR. Is this choice in line with the European Union commitment?

Answered by: Austria at Friday, 28 November 2014

In the EU submission to the UNFCCC from 20 March 2012, document FCCC/AWGLCA/2012/MISC.1, the EU target is explained further, including information on GWPs: “The Global Warming Potentials used to aggregate EU GHG emissions up to 2020 under existing EU legislation are those based on the 2nd Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change (IPCC AR2). The EU welcomes decision xx/CP.177, taken in Durban, which reflects recent scientific developments (IPCC AR4). The implications of this decision for EU legislation are currently under review.”

The EU pledge was based on the GWPs in AR2. The text, however, also points out that the EU would consider the change to AR4. The regulations of the EU Climate and Energy Package have in the meantime been adapted to the GWPs of AR4. That is why Austria will in future refer to the GWPs of the AR4.

Question from: Saudi Arabia at Tuesday, 30 September 2014

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Title: The assessment of the economic and social consequences of response measures – TRR

Could Austria provide more information on how it is executing its initiative to promote sustainable development through different activities (reported in the TRR) to adapt to the social and economic consequences of response measures?

Answered by: Austria at Friday, 28 November 2014

Austria takes the issue of the impact of the implementation of response measures (“RM”) seriously. The EU and its MS have provided detailed information on the assessment of RM under the forum established by decision 8/CP.17. As the forum consolidates all discussions on RM under the Convention, discussions on specific issues related to RM, including on best practices, regional and bilateral cooperation and the experienced benefits thereof, and available programmes and initiatives, should be taken within the forum, subject to a COP decision concerning its extension and an agreed work programme.

Question from: Saudi Arabia at Tuesday, 30 September 2014

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Title: The assessment of the economic and social consequences of response measures – NC6

Austria has reported in its NC6 information on its efforts to minimize the adverse social and economic effects of response measures and welcomed more information from developing parties on their experience with impacts. Would Austria consider assisting parties with low capacities in assessing and modeling such impacts under the Convention needed in generating such information?
Will Austria be providing information on its efforts to minimize the adverse social and economic effects of response measures in its next BR?

Answered by: Austria at Friday, 28 November 2014

Austria takes the issue of the impact of the implementation of response measures (“RM”) seriously. The EU and its MS have provided detailed information on the assessment of RM under the forum established by decision 8/CP.17. As the forum consolidates all discussions on RM under the Convention, discussions on specific issues related to RM, including on best practices, regional and bilateral cooperation and the experienced benefits thereof, and available programmes and initiatives, should be taken within the forum, subject to a COP decision concerning its extension and an agreed work programme.

In addition, we would like to point out that information on RM is reported by Austria on an annual basis according to para 23 of the Annex to Decision 15/CMP.1.

Question from: Egypt at Tuesday, 30 September 2014

Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Title: GHG inventory assumption

what are the normal assumptions in transport and agricultural sector related to GHG inventory related to ipcc 1996 guidelines or 2006 guidelines ?

Answered by: Austria at Friday, 28 November 2014

The methods for estimating emissions in Austria's submissions up to 2014 are in line with the 1996 IPCC Guidelines. All methods and assumptions are described in Austria's National Inventory Report 2014 (pages 119 to 145 for transport and pages 273 to 337 for agriculture). From the 2015 submission onwards, the 2006 IPCC guidelines will be applied.

In the agriculture sector, it is expected that implementation of the new guidelines will result in an emission decrease of approximately 3 %, mainly due to changes in the emission factors in category 3.D (agricultural soils) and in the global warming potential of nitrous acid. These changes are similar in the base year and in recent years.

In the transport sector, emissions are expected to decrease by approximately 0.1 %, due to the update of various emission factors.

Austria's National Inventory Report 2014 can be found at

“http://unfccc.int/files/national_reports/annex_i_ghg_inventories/national_inventories_submissions/application/zip/aut-2014-nir-14apr.zip”.

Question from: Algeria at Monday, 29 September 2014

Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Title: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target.

Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target.

[1]. According to the TRR, Austria will not be able to achieve the emission reduction target for non-ETS sectors. Could Austria provide further information on this matter?

[2]. Although LULUCF is excluded in the target, the WM Scenario projection shows LULUCF sector will become emission source instead of sink. Could Austria provide further information on this matter?

Answered by: Austria at Friday, 28 November 2014

[1]

Austria would like to point to the fact that there is no Austrian quantified economy-wide emission reduction target as defined in para 4 of the “UNFCCC biennial

reporting guidelines for developed country Parties” in Annex I to Decision 2/CP.17. The EU and its Member States communicated an independent quantified economy-wide emission reduction target, which will be fulfilled jointly by the EU and its Member States. EU-internal provisions lay down targets for sectors (EU-ETS) and for member states (non-trading sectors), respectively, which contribute to the joint fulfilment of the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target communicated by the EU and its Member States. Austria’s policies and measures to achieve the EU internal target therefore contribute to the fulfilment of the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target communicated by the EU and its Member States.

Para 33 of the TRR states that according to the “with measures” scenario Austrian emissions will be some percent above the EU-internal non-ETS target in 2020; this scenario is based on measures that have been implemented up to early 2012. Para 33 of the TRR also states that Austria will reach its EU internal target according to the “with additional measures” scenario, which includes measures that were in the planning stage in 2012. Progress has already been made in implementing planned measures. A decision on measures for 2013/2014 has been taken by Federation and Federal Provinces; a programme for 2015–2020 is currently being developed.

In order to mention specific measures: An amendment of the fuel consumption based car registration tax, effective from March 2013, leads to higher tax rates for cars with higher specific CO₂ emissions. . Passenger cars with high CO₂ emissions (in g/km) are being taxed up to 32% of the sales price, compared to 16% before the reform. Tickets for the public transport, which are provided by the employer (“job ticket”), have been exempted from income tax as of 2013. Road toll for heavy duty vehicles on highways has been increased. An intensification of mobility management is part of the 2013/2014 package of measures for the implementation of the Climate Change Act. Measures for the improvement of the infrastructure according to the National Action Plan Danube Navigation are being implemented as planned. The Austrian Energy Efficiency Act has been adopted in 2014. A national plan according to Art. 9 of Directive 2010/31/EU (Energy performance of buildings) has been established which defines new standards for the heating energy as well as primary energy demand and CO₂ emissions of buildings and a stepwise (2016/2018/2020) improvement of these standards. Some measures regarding agriculture have been implemented (promotion of eco-driving for tractors and replacement of fossil fuels), but most of the measures are part of the agri-environmental programme for the period up to 2020, which will start in 2015.

Austria would also like to note that preliminary inventory data show that emissions in 2013 are well below the target path.

[2]

Austria would like to point to the fact that there is no Austrian quantified economy-wide emission reduction target as defined in para 4 of the “UNFCCC biennial reporting guidelines for developed country Parties” in Annex I to Decision 2/CP.17. The EU and its Member States communicated an independent quantified economy-wide emission reduction target, which will be fulfilled jointly by the EU and its Member States. EU-internal provisions lay down targets for sectors (EU-ETS) and for member states (non-trading sectors), respectively, which contribute to the joint fulfilment of the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target communicated by the EU and its Member States.

It is the understanding of Austria that the Multilateral Assessment is a focused approach that does not encompass all issues reported by Parties under the BR, the NC

or that are in broader context related to climate change. LULUCF is not included in the joint target of the EU and its Member States, that is why Austria has not included LULUCF in the projections chapter of the BR and why this question does not fall in the scope of the multilateral assessment.

For information purposes Austria would like to point to the fact that projections for the LULUCF sector have been included in the 6th National Communication. This data is based on the projections provided by Austria in its submission of the Austrian Forest Management Reference Level (FMRL), which is used to account for Forest Management during the 2nd commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. This information has been subject to a technical assessment in 2011. The report of this assessment (FCCC/TAR/2011/AUT) concluded that Austria has submitted a transparent FMRL suitable for consideration by the CMP. It also recommended a technical correction to include information which has not been available at the time. This additional information has been provided by Austria in its NIR 2014 (chapter 7.2.4.1.5).

Question from: Algeria at Monday, 29 September 2014

Category: All emissions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Title: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified econ

Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

[1]. As a member of EU bubble, Austria doesn't pledge a national mitigation target under the UNFCCC. According to the TRR, for those sectors not covered by EU-ETS, the emission reduction target for Austria is 16% decrease compared to the verified emissions from the 2005. However, it is not clear how much effort Austria is going to make on sectors covered by EU-ETS, nor the effort as a whole, compared with its base year level. What additional information would Austria provide in order to make its effort transparent?

[2]. It is not clear what the base year is for NF3. Could Austria provide further information on that?

[3]. Since the tables related to MBMs in the BR1 of Austria is not filled, it is difficult to see whether or not Austria intends to use MBMs to achieve its emission reduction target, especially for those units generated outside the EU bubble boundary. What additional information could Austria provide to make this issue more transparent?

Answered by: Austria at Friday, 28 November 2014

[1]

Austria would like to point to the fact that there is no Austrian quantified economy-wide emission reduction target as defined in para 4 of the "UNFCCC biennial reporting guidelines for developed country Parties" in Annex I to Decision 2/CP.17. The EU and its Member States communicated an independent quantified economy-wide emission reduction target, which will be fulfilled jointly by the EU and its Member States. EU-internal provisions lay down targets for sectors (EU-ETS) and for member states (non-trading sectors), respectively, which contribute to the joint

fulfilment of the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target communicated by the EU and its Member States.

The EU-wide cap under the EU ETS is determined for all EU Member States and the three EEA EFTA States (Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein) without reflecting a specific share for each Member State.

The allocation of allowances takes place through auctions and free allocation. The share of allowances auctioned on behalf of each Member State in each year is public and can be obtained from the relevant auction platforms.

However, free allocation is provided on the basis of EU-wide rules to installation operators within a certain limit. For each of the nearly 12.000 installations in the EU ETS, the allocation has been calculated based on the common rules. A breakdown of the amounts per Member State is not available.

[2]

In the EU submission to the UNFCCC from 20 March 2012, document FCCC/AWGLCA/2012/MISC.1, the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target of the EU and its Member States is explained further, including information on the greenhouse gases covered. The pledge does not cover NF3.

[3]

Austria would like to point to the fact that there is no Austrian quantified economy-wide emission reduction target as defined in para 4 of the “UNFCCC biennial reporting guidelines for developed country Parties” in Annex I to Decision 2/CP.17. The EU and its Member States communicated an independent quantified economy-wide emission reduction target, which will be fulfilled jointly by the EU and its Member States. EU-internal provisions lay down targets for sectors (EU-ETS) and for member states (non-trading sectors), respectively, which contribute to the joint fulfilment of the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target communicated by the EU and its Member States.

Use of market based mechanisms in the years shown in the BR1, i.e. 2011 and 2012, is relevant for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol only and not for Austria’s achievement of its EU-internal target for 2020. That is why Table 4(b) in the BR1 has been left blank.

From the current perspective Austria intends to achieve its EU-internal emission reduction target by domestic measures only.

Question from: Egypt at Monday, 29 September 2014

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Title: green growth targets

what are the major targets taken to achieve green growth ?

Answered by: Austria at Friday, 28 November 2014

It is the understanding of Austria that the Multilateral Assessment is a focused approach that does not encompass all issues reported by Parties under the BR, the NC or that are in broader context related to climate change. The scope of the multilateral assessment is defined in para 5 of Annex II to Decision 2/CP.17 and covers the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target (emissions and removals related

to the target; assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of the target, progress towards the achievement of the target). This question therefore does not fall in the scope of the Multilateral Assessment.

For information purposes Austria would like to mention that green growth is understood as the transformation of economic activities towards sustainability and conservation of energy and resources in the long-term. Quantitative short and medium term targets have been laid down for some sectors, e. g. by law for the share of renewable energy sources in electricity generation or in programs for the development of environmentally friendly transport. In general qualitative targets like the growth of green jobs and propagation of environmental technology are regarded as important for green growth. However, no formal overarching “green growth strategy” has been adopted by the Austrian Government until now.

Question from: China at Monday, 29 September 2014

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Title: emission/sink related to LULUCF

Although LULUCF is excluded in the target, the WM Scenario projection shows LULUCF sector will become an emission source instead of carbon sink. Can Austria provide further information on this matter?

Answered by: Austria at Friday, 28 November 2014

Austria would like to point to the fact that there is no Austrian quantified economy-wide emission reduction target as defined in para 4 of the “UNFCCC biennial reporting guidelines for developed country Parties” in Annex I to Decision 2/CP.17. The EU and its Member States communicated an independent quantified economy-wide emission reduction target, which will be fulfilled jointly by the EU and its Member States. EU-internal provisions lay down targets for sectors (EU-ETS) and for member states (non-trading sectors), respectively, which contribute to the joint fulfilment of the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target communicated by the EU and its Member States.

It is the understanding of Austria that the Multilateral Assessment is a focused approach that does not encompass all issues reported by Parties under the BR, the NC or that are in broader context related to climate change. LULUCF is not included in the joint target of the EU and its Member States, that is why Austria has not included LULUCF in the projections chapter of the BR and why this question does not fall in the scope of the multilateral assessment.

For information purposes Austria would like to point to the fact that projections for the LULUCF sector have been included in the 6th National Communication. This data is based on the projections provided by Austria in its submission of the Austrian Forest Management Reference Level (FMRL), which is used to account for Forest Management during the 2nd commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. This information has been subject to a technical assessment in 2011. The report of this assessment (FCCC/TAR/2011/AUT) concluded that Austria has submitted a transparent FMRL suitable for consideration by the CMP. It also recommended a technical correction to include information which has not been available at the time.

This additional information has been provided by Austria in its NIR 2014 (chapter 7.2.4.1.5).

Question from: China at Monday, 29 September 2014

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Title: non-ETS target

According to the TRR, Austria will not be able to achieve its emission reduction target for non-ETS sectors. Can Austria provide further information on this matter?

Answered by: Austria at Friday, 28 November 2014

Austria would like to point to the fact that there is no Austrian quantified economy-wide emission reduction target as defined in para 4 of the “UNFCCC biennial reporting guidelines for developed country Parties” in Annex I to Decision 2/CP.17. The EU and its Member States communicated an independent quantified economy-wide emission reduction target, which will be fulfilled jointly by the EU and its Member States. EU-internal provisions lay down targets for sectors (EU-ETS) and for member states (non-trading sectors), respectively, which contribute to the joint fulfilment of the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target communicated by the EU and its Member States. Austria’s policies and measures to achieve the EU internal target therefore contribute to the fulfilment of the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target communicated by the EU and its Member States.

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In order to mention specific measures: An amendment of the fuel consumption based car registration tax, effective from March 2013, leads to higher tax rates for cars with higher specific CO₂ emissions. Passenger cars with high CO₂ emissions (in g/km) are being taxed up to 32% of the sales price, compared to 16% before the reform. Tickets for the public transport, which are provided by the employer (“job ticket”), have been exempted from income tax as of 2013. Road toll for heavy duty vehicles on highways has been increased. An intensification of mobility management is part of the 2013/2014 package of measures for the implementation of the Climate Change Act. Measures for the improvement of the infrastructure according to the National Action Plan Danube Navigation are being implemented as planned. The Austrian Energy Efficiency Act has been adopted in 2014. A national plan according to Art. 9 of Directive 2010/31/EU (Energy performance of buildings) has been established which defines new standards for the heating energy as well as primary energy demand and CO₂ emissions of buildings and a stepwise (2016/2018/2020) improvement of these standards. Some measures regarding agriculture have been implemented (promotion of eco-driving for tractors and replacement of fossil fuels), but most of the

measures are part of the agri-environmental programme for the period up to 2020, which will start in 2015.

Austria would also like to note that preliminary inventory data show that emissions in 2013 are well below the target path.

Question from: China at Monday, 29 September 2014

Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Title: use of market-based mechanisms

Since the tables related to MBMs in the BR1 of Austria are blank, it is difficult to see whether or not Austria intends to use MBMs to achieve its emission reduction target, especially for those units generated outside the EU. Additional information is needed from Austria to make this issue more transparent.

Answered by: Austria at Friday, 28 November 2014

Austria would like to point to the fact that there is no Austrian quantified economy-wide emission reduction target as defined in para 4 of the “UNFCCC biennial reporting guidelines for developed country Parties” in Annex I to Decision 2/CP.17. The EU and its Member States communicated an independent quantified economy-wide emission reduction target, which will be fulfilled jointly by the EU and its Member States. EU-internal provisions lay down targets for sectors (EU-ETS) and for member states (non-trading sectors), respectively, which contribute to the joint fulfilment of the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target communicated by the EU and its Member States.

Use of market based mechanisms in the years shown in the BR1, i.e. 2011 and 2012, is relevant for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol only and not for Austria’s achievement of its EU-internal target for 2020. That is why Table 4(b) in the BR1 has been left blank.

From the current perspective Austria intends to achieve its EU-internal emission reduction target by domestic measures only.

Question from: China at Monday, 29 September 2014

Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Title: NF3

It is not clear what the base year is for NF3. Further information is needed from Austria on that.

Answered by: Austria at Friday, 28 November 2014

In the EU submission to the UNFCCC from 20 March 2012, document FCCC/AWGLCA/2012/MISC.1, the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target of the EU and its Member States is explained further, including information on the greenhouse gases covered. The pledge does not cover NF3.

Question from: China at Monday, 29 September 2014

Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Title: emission reduction target for the sectors covered by EU-ETS

As an EU member, Austria has not pledged a national mitigation target under the UNFCCC. According to the TRR, for sectors not covered by the EU-ETS, the emission reduction target for Austria is 16% decrease compared with the verified emissions from 2005. However, it is not clear how much effort Austria is going to make on sectors covered by the EU-ETS, nor the efforts as a whole, compared with its base year level. Additional information is needed from Austria in order to make its efforts transparent.

Answered by: Austria at Friday, 28 November 2014

Austria would like to point to the fact that there is no Austrian quantified economy-wide emission reduction target as defined in para 4 of the “UNFCCC biennial reporting guidelines for developed country Parties” in Annex I to Decision 2/CP.17. The EU and its Member States communicated an independent quantified economy-wide emission reduction target, which will be fulfilled jointly by the EU and its Member States. EU-internal provisions lay down targets for sectors (EU-ETS) and for member states (non-trading sectors), respectively, which contribute to the joint fulfilment of the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target communicated by the EU and its Member States.

The EU-wide cap under the EU ETS is determined for all EU Member States and the three EEA EFTA States (Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein) without reflecting a specific share for each Member State.

The allocation of allowances takes place through auctions and free allocation. The share of allowances auctioned on behalf of each Member State in each year is public and can be obtained from the relevant auction platforms.

However, free allocation is provided on the basis of EU-wide rules to installation operators within a certain limit. For each of the nearly 12.000 installations in the EU ETS, the allocation has been calculated based on the common rules. A breakdown of the amounts per Member State is not available.

Question from: Bosnia and Herzegovina at Thursday, 25 September 2014

Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Title: missing data issues

1. Which estimation methods have proven as most suitable in your case, if data for a specific calculation period are missing, i.e. data on emissions, production levels, heat and electric output, etc?

Answered by: Austria at Friday, 28 November 2014

The choice of estimation method depends on the specific situation. As far as greenhouse gas inventory calculation is concerned, techniques are described in the IPCC Guidelines. Among these techniques, interpolation has proven suitable in cases of small data gaps. Where data were missing for a longer time period, surrogate data were used and emphasis was put on a consistent relationship in the period when both types of data were available. However, for or key sources a complete time series of production data is available in Austria.

The analysis of the uncertainty of total GHG Emission of Austria (see Austria's National Inventory Report 2014, page 44) demonstrates that the overall uncertainty is mainly determined by the large uncertainty of some key categories (e.g. N₂O emissions from agriculture) but not by the many small additional uncertainties from minor sources where such approaches are applied consistent with IPCC 1996 and 2006 Guidelines.

Austria's National Inventory Report 2014:

http://unfccc.int/files/national_reports/annex_i_ghg_inventories/national_inventories_submissions/application/zip/aut-2014-nir-14apr.zip

Question from: Bosnia and Herzegovina at Thursday, 25 September 2014

Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Title: emission reduction goals

1. How do you set your emission reduction goals (do you use some type of software of expert judgment etc.) and how do you follow up on these goals?

Answered by: Austria at Friday, 28 November 2014

Austria would like to point to the fact that there is no Austrian quantified economy-wide emission reduction target as defined in para 4 of the “UNFCCC biennial reporting guidelines for developed country Parties” in Annex I to Decision 2/CP.17. The EU and its Member States communicated an independent quantified economy-wide emission reduction target, which will be fulfilled jointly by the EU and its Member States. EU-internal provisions lay down targets for sectors (EU-ETS) and for member states (non-trading sectors), respectively, which contribute to the joint fulfilment of the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target communicated by the EU and its Member States.

Domestic measures in Austria contribute to the achievement of the independent quantified economy-wide emission reduction target which will be fulfilled jointly by the EU and its Member States. Targets are the result of political decisions; decisions are based on various information like cost estimates, modelling tools for measures and scenarios, ex-post evaluation of past developments etc.

Modelling tools used for GHG emission scenarios are described in Chapter 5.4 of Austria's 6th National Communication (for detailed information please see the

corresponding references). Decomposition analysis has to be mentioned which is used as a tool for the analysis of underlying drivers of past and projected emission trends.

Question from: Bosnia and Herzegovina at Thursday, 25 September 2014

Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Title: reducing emissions from agriculture

1. Do you have a plan, based on specific studies, for reducing emissions from agriculture? If such plan exists, please provide some examples of proposed mitigation measures.

Answered by: Austria at Friday, 28 November 2014

Domestic measures in Austria contribute to the achievement of the independent quantified economy-wide emission reduction target which will be fulfilled jointly by the EU and its Member States.

Measures in the Agriculture sector are an integral part of Austria's Climate Strategy (see pages 46 and 67-68 in Austria's 6th National Communication). In an action plan for the years 2013/2014, developed by the Federation and the Federal Provinces, the following measures have been included: promotion of organic farming, mulch and direct seed, coverage of manure storage sites and efficient nitrogen management.

These measures are also covered in the new Programme for Rural Development LE14-20, which will start in 2015.

Austria's 6th National Communication is available at

"http://unfccc.int/files/national_reports/annex_i_natcom/submitted_natcom/application/pdf/aut_nc6.pdf".