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A compilation of questions to - and answers by - Denmark
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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: Denmark at Friday, 28 November 2014

”Denmark do not plan to use CERs in the 2013-2019 pre-2020 period. In the period 2008-2012 host countries for CDM-projects generating CERs to be used by Denmark towards Denmark’s target under the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol have not had emission reduction targets of their own, so there is no risk of double counting in this regard. If the question is, if the same reduction from a particular CDM-project can be sold twice, the rules for the CDM mechanism under the Kyoto protocol – including the functioning of the registries (CDM-registry and ITL), are set up to prevent such cases.”

Question from: Brazil at Tuesday, 30 September 2014
Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target
Title: Emissions reductions in agriculture

The main part of the Denmark’s plan to reduce greenhouse gases emissions is focused in Energy Sector, that is the main Sector of the country. By the other hand, Agriculture Sector were responsible for 17,63% of the emissions in 2011 and the actions to reduce emissions in this Sector are very shy. Why Denmark does not enhance the actions in developing low carbon agriculture practices?

Answered by: Denmark at Friday, 28 November 2014

”It is important to the government that Danish climate policies are designed and implemented in a cost effective way. Due to cost-effectiveness concerns there have in the past been a particular focus on the energy sector, i.e. the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources and more efficient use of energy. However, as

described in Denmark's Sixth National Communication, several measures that have affected or will affect Denmark's greenhouse gas emissions in the agricultural sector have been implemented in the past. These include

- Ban on burning of straw on fields
- Action Plans for the Aquatic Environment I and II and Action Plan for Sustainable Agriculture
- Action Plan for the Aquatic Environment III
- Ammonia Action Plan
- Action Plan for Joint Biogas Plants and subsequent follow-up programmes
- Environmental Approval Act for Livestock Holdings
- New Energy Policy Agreement, supporting biogas
- Agreement on Green Growth 2009: Reduction of the agricultural sector's emissions of greenhouse gasses by an anticipated 800,000 tonnes of CO2 eq. annually as a consequence of the energy, nature and environment initiatives.

The effects of these measures have contributed to the 23% decrease from 1990 to 2012 seen the in sector's CH4 and N2O emissions.

In addition to the already implemented policies and measures, the government, in 2013, launched the Danish Climate Policy Plan. One of the important messages from this plan was that future policies – across all relevant sectors - should optimize climate synergies, e.g. future agricultural regulation to reduce nitrogen run-off should also take greenhouse gas emissions and carbon sequestration into account. By planning for synergies policies will per se be more cost-effective. Recently the government found broad political support agreement behind a subsidy scheme to restore organic soils and thereby reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the agricultural sector and from land use. Additionally this policy will reduce nitrogen run-off and generate nature benefits. This policy is a good example of how the government wants to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the future in a cost-effective way and where policies generate multiple benefits.

Denmark has a long history of agricultural production. The Danish agricultural sector has developed efficient management practices that are shared through a professional and highly trained extension service. In Denmark around 6-7 percent of all public research is spend on agricultural research. In addition to this the private sector invests heavily in agricultural research that can improve efficiency of agricultural production and thereby reduce greenhouse gas emissions."

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 Denmark

The ERT report on the BR of Denmark states that while Denmark is part of the 20% reduction target of the EU, that Greenland and the Faroe Islands are not part of the EU, and do not participate in that target. Do Greenland and the Faroe Islands have their own quantified economy-wide emissions reduction targets, and have these been communicated officially to the UNFCCC Secretariat?

Answered by: Denmark at Friday, 28 November 2014

”It is correct that Greenland and the Faroe Islands are not part of the EU, and therefore do not participate in the joint EU target. The Government of the Faroe Islands has set a target to reduce GHG emissions in existing domestic sectors by at least 20 per cent below 2005 levels in the period from 2010 to 2020. The Government of Greenland has set a target to reduce GHG emissions from civil society in the period 2013-2020, where civil society includes all private and public activities found in Greenland by 2010, and the commitment therefore applies to emissions from these activities. Excluded from the 2013-2020 commitment period are energy intensive industries based on hydropower energy supply as well as mineral and hydrocarbon activities. This was communicated to the UNFCCC Secretariat on 7 April 2010 with a request for its publication on the UNFCCC website, where it can be found (http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/cop_15/copenhagen_accord/application/pdf/denmarkcphaccord_app1.pdf).”

Question from: Saudi Arabia at Tuesday, 30 September 2014
Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target
Title: Assessment of the economic and social consequences of response measures– Marginal Abatement

Does the *Marginal Abatement Cost Curve* method used by Denmark to analyze policies and measures take into account the social and economic impacts on developing Countries? If so, Could Denmark provide information on progress made on support programs to meet the specific needs and circumstances of developing country Parties, with less capacity/ capabilities, arising from the impact of those measures?

Answered by: Denmark at Friday, 28 November 2014

”No, the social and economic impacts on developing countries are not taken into account in the socio economic cost estimates for potential additional policies and measures included in the Marginal Abatement Cost Curve.”

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: Denmark at Friday, 28 November 2014

"In Denmark's latest GHG inventory submission from April 2014, the GHG inventories for transport and agriculture are made in accordance with the Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (1996 IPCC Guidelines), as elaborated by the IPCC Good Practice Guidance and Uncertainty Management in National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (IPCC good practice guidance). As of April 2015, Denmark's GHG inventories for transport and agriculture will be made in accordance with the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories."

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: clarification on national target

As an EU member, Denmark has not pledged a national mitigation target under the UNFCCC. However, according to the BR1, the Danish government has set an interim quantified economy-wide emission reduction target of 40 % reduction by 2020 in Denmark's total greenhouse gas emissions compared with its base year under the Kyoto Protocol. And according to the TRR, for sectors not covered by the EU-ETS, the emission reduction target for Denmark is 20% decrease compared with 2005. It is not clear how much effort Denmark is going to make on sectors covered by the EU-ETS, nor the relationship between the 40% target, 20% non-ETS target and EU-ETS target. Additional information is needed in order to make its effort transparent.

Answered by: Denmark at Friday, 28 November 2014

"Denmark would like to point to the fact that there is no quantified economy-wide emission reduction target in Denmark 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, 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.

As for the EU-internal member state targets, the Danish reduction target is a 20% decrease compared with 2005 in the non-ETS sectors. Denmark is expecting to reach the target with domestic reductions and thus contributing to the EU wide emission reduction target.

The 40 % reduction target for Denmark is an individual adopted target, and as such has nothing to do with the EU target. The target is set in relation to the 1990 emission level, and covers all greenhouse gas emissions, i.e. both the sectors covered by the EU ETS and those covered by the individual member states reduction target (the non-ETS emissions). Achieving the member state specific 20 % reduction target for the non-ETS emissions under the EU wide reduction target will contribute to fulfilling this goal. In relation to the emissions from the EU ETS-covered sectors, only the actual emissions will be taken into account, and not an amount based on the Danish share of auctioned allowances or similar accounting method related to the EU ETS. In the assessment of the achievement of the domestic goal, credits from the CO2-sink activities under articles 3.3 and 3.4 of the Kyoto Protocol, as well as adjustment for electricity trade in 2020 will be taken into account."