

Session SBI45 (2016)

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Question by Switzerland at Wednesday, 31 August 2016

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

Type: Before 31 August

Title: Conditions related to implementation of reporting obligations

Reporting obligations accompanying the implementation of mitigation commitments – e.g. in the form of Biennial Reports – are an important part of the Convention obligations. For smaller countries with limited resources these obligations may represent a considerable challenge.

i) What are the most important experiences made and lessons learned from the existing reporting, review and multilateral assessment processes?

ii) What circumstances are of greatest importance for the successful fulfilment of reporting obligations?

Answer by Latvia, Friday, 28 October 2016

i) What are the most important experiences made and lessons learned from the existing reporting, review and multilateral assessment processes?

Existing reporting and review process is essential for developing policies and assessing progress in achieving the targets. A strong national system is main tool to track progress of GHG reduction and the effectiveness of GHG emission reduction measures.

The Multilateral Assessment from Latvia's point of view has been and continues to be a very useful process. It helps in improving our reporting, it strengthens the capacity of our experts and it is a very good learning exercise, where Parties can learn from each other and also improve themselves on the basis of the questions being asked by others. The Multilateral Assessment also has significant political importance; it brings wider attention to the policy makers on the implementation of Parties' targets. Latvia also sees that the facilitative and inclusive nature of the Multilateral Assessment has proved to be a success.

ii) What circumstances are of greatest importance for the successful fulfilment of reporting obligations?

The most important factor to successfully fulfil the reporting obligations is the development of a robust national system for reporting which for Latvia is established in a national legislation. The national system must determine distinct, clear roles for institutions involved in reporting process, preconditions to ensure institutional continuity and cooperation of the institutions.

Also it is important to continuously increase expert's knowledge (reviews, capacity building workshops etc.). With this regard international review process is an important tool for expert's knowledge improvement as it is possible to gather the knowledge from the experts of other

countries.

[Question by](#) Brazil at Tuesday, 30 August 2016

[Category:](#) Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

[Type:](#) Before 31 August

[Title:](#) CTF Table 3

Regarding mitigation actions referred to in “CTF Table 3 Progress in achievement of the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target: information on mitigation actions and their effects”, are there any current estimates of mitigation impacts since the respective years of implementation?

[Answer by](#) Latvia, Friday, 28 October 2016

As it is reported in the CTF Table 3 several mitigation actions has been implemented and given considerable impact regarding GHG emissions reduction. The impact of implemented and/or adopted measures on GHG emission balance is taken into account for the years after their implementation.

Figure 9 of BR2 Report shows that the implemented mitigation activities have reduced GHG emissions by 920 kt CO₂ eq in the period from the start of the implementation (mainly 2010) up to 2020.

[Question by](#) Brazil at Tuesday, 30 August 2016

[Category:](#) Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

[Type:](#) Before 31 August

[Title:](#) ETS emission quotas

Can Latvia inform if the limitation of emission quotas allocated by ETS operator is done through the retirement of units or through the restriction of the issuance of new units?

[Answer by](#) Latvia, Friday, 28 October 2016

Latvia is a Member State of the European Union and fulfils the climate change mitigation obligations under the UNFCCC (its Kyoto Protocol for 2nd commitment period 2013-2020) jointly with all EU Member States (and Iceland) together. The European Union has adopted wide range of legislative acts (and the relevant policies and measures) for the fulfilment of these obligations including the European Union Emission Trading System (EU ETS) established with the Directive No 2003/87/EC. Latvia does the allocation of allowances to EU ETS operators in accordance with the harmonised rules set for all EU Member States and all their EU ETS installations. The total cap of allowances each year decreases by 1,74%.

The EU ETS operators receive a decreasing amount of allowances each year with a view of reaching no free allocation in 2027 and only sectors exposed to a significant risk of carbon leakage should receive free allocation. Free allocation is reduced with a view of increasing the auctioning of allowances by member states and to stimulate and grow the carbon market.

Question by Brazil at Tuesday, 30 August 2016

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

Type: Before 31 August

Title: Biomass

What are the main sources of biomass that Latvia intends to promote through its investment program for biomass heating?

Answer by Latvia, Friday, 28 October 2016

The main source of biomass for heating in Latvia, including the investment support program reported in BR2 - Investment Support Programme for District Heating (DH) Systems, is wood biomass and wood products (wood chips and firewood).

According to the data of National Forest Inventory forests cover 3260 thousand ha - 92% from total forest land area (3575 thousand ha). For the forest management activities without significant restrictions (forbidden forest management or thinning and final felling) 3052 thousand ha of forests are available. The area of forests in Latvia has doubled in comparison to the first half of last century whereas the total wood stock in total has increased almost three times. In 2014 in Latvia the amount of harvested wood was 11.68 million m³.

Question by Brazil at Tuesday, 30 August 2016

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

Type: Before 31 August

Title: Quantification of emission reductions

Could Latvia point out the major technical barriers to quantify the emission reductions resulting from the implementation of energy efficiency policies?

Answer by Latvia, Friday, 28 October 2016

To quantify the impact of the implementation of energy efficiency policies to GHG emission reduction in Latvia we use top-down approach (MARKAL-Latvia model), but when relevant (e.g. Investment Support Programme in Renewable Technologies for Heat and Electricity Production to Reduce GHG emissions) we also use bottom-up approach (evaluation of separate particular projects or programmes). Acknowledging that a bottom-up approach might result in overestimation of emission reductions we always take into consideration any policy overlaps and interactions.

Question by China at Monday, 29 August 2016

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

Type: Before 31 August

Title: flexible mechanisms

The compliance assessment of flexible mechanisms under the ESD starts in year 2016 according to the BR2. Could Latvia share any updated information regarding the flexible mechanisms assessment?

Answer by Latvia, Friday, 28 October 2016

Latvia is a Member State of the European Union and fulfils the climate mitigation obligations under the UNFCCC (its Kyoto Protocol for 2nd commitment period 2013-2020) jointly with all EU Member States (and Iceland) together. The European Union has adopted wide range of legislative acts (and the relevant policies and measures) for the fulfilment of these obligations including the legislation on how the joint EU target is shared between the EU Member States according to the principles of fairness, solidarity and cost-effectiveness.

For the fulfilment of national targets set for all Member States in the Decision No 406/2009/EC there are several flexibilities—banking of unused units (units that remain for the Member State after the fulfilment of compliance obligations), 5% borrowing of units from the next year of compliance period (5% of units allocated for the next year) and trading mechanisms.

As the compliance checks for 2013 were finalised only in August 2016 (due to the impossibility to report the GHG inventory because CRF Software was not in operation) the final amount of units that Latvia has to retire to fulfil compliance obligations is not yet known (will be set by the decision of European Commission only in November – December of 2016). Therefore, Latvia hasn't used any of the above mentioned flexibilities.

Question by China at Monday, 29 August 2016

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

Type: Before 31 August

Title: transport emission

There has been an increase in GHGs emission of the transportation sector since 2000, and it is projected to continuously increase in the WEM scenario. Could Latvia elaborate on the drivers for this increase?

Answer by Latvia, Friday, 28 October 2016

According to the 2016 GHG inventory the GHG emissions from transport activities reached maximum in 2007. The increase of GHG emissions from transport in WEM scenario can be explained mainly by the growth of GDP and related improvement of wellbeing of citizens. Increase was related to the increase of such indicators as passenger km (the mileage of passenger cars) and transported freight ton km (the mileage of transit heavy duty vehicles and the in-country heavy duty vehicles). Emission increase was also fostered by lowering oil prices.

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