Atmospheric pollution, CO_2 and greenhouse gas emissions: monitoring mechanism (amend. Decision 93/389/EEC)

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This is the third progress report under Council Decision 93/389/EEC as amended by Decision 99/296/EC for a monitoring mechanism of Community CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions. It assesses the actual and projected progress of Member States and the Community towards fulfilling their greenhouse gas emission commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol. The Convention was aimed at returning greenhouse gas emissions to their 1990 level by 2000, while the Kyoto Protocol requires the EC to reduce greenhouse gas emission by 8% 2008-2012. This report assesses the impacts of domestic policies and measures reducing emissions only. Any projected shortfall in emission reductions therefore does not take account of future EC and/or international emissions trading, nor does it include reductions that can be achieved by the use of the Flexible Mechanisms Joint Implementation (JI) and Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). The agreements on sinks may allow Member States to potentially benefit from measures providing approximately 1% reduction of greenhouse gases. This report does not include either emission absorption by sinks, a policy option explicitly incorporated in the Marrakech Accords. The report shows continued progress in Member States' reporting on emission inventories and domestic policies and measures under the EC monitoring mechanism. Data on emissions and removals from land use change and forestry (LUCF) is not included in this progress report yet, because the IPCC Good Practice Guidance for the LUCF sector is still under preparation. To be more specific, the report shows that total greenhouse gas emissions were down by 3.5% in 2000 compared to 1990. The report suggests, however, that with existing measures the EU will not reach its - 8% target under the Kyoto Protocol. The emission reductions achieved so far are mainly due to lower emissions in a few Member States (notable Germany and the UK), while several Member States are far off track in meeting their targets under the EU burden-sharing. The report also shows that the EU reduced its CO2 emissions by 0.5% between 1990 and 2000 thereby meeting its aim to stabilise these emissions in this period. Besides reporting on developments in the Member States, the report summarises progress on emission reduction measures by the Community that complement action taken by Member States. Under the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP) the Commission is working on the implementation of a package of measures representing a cost-effective emission reduction potential of some 122 178 Mt of CO2 equivalent. The report also shows continued progress in Member States' reporting on emission inventories and domestic policies and measures. However, further improvements are required with regard to the completeness of data on fluorinated gases, the quantification of individual policies and measures and information on methodologies used for projections.