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

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This is the fourth progress report under Council Decision 93/389/EEC as amended by Decision 99/296/EC for a monitoring mechanism of Community carbon dioxide (CO2) and other greenhouse gas emissions. It assesses the actual and projected progress of Member States and the Community towards fulfilling their greenhouse gas (GHG) emission commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol. - In 2001, the emissions of GHG from the EU have increased for a second consecutive year. They are estimated to have been 1.0 % higher in 2001 than a year earlier. GHG emissions are now 2.1 percent points above the Kyoto target path, clearly showing how much more effort still is required for the implementation of more vigorous policies and measures. Member States have to effectively implement policies and measures. The EC and its Member States shall take the necessary measures as identified by the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP) to comply with its commitments under the Kyoto Protocol. Performance among Members States is highly variable. Luxembourg and Sweden have decreased their GHG emissions and are now in the group of Member States that are below their individual target paths in 2001. Most Member States have performed less well. More than half of the Member States are still above their target paths. All of these Member States except for Spain have even increased the distance from their target path between 2000 and 2001. - Aggregate Member States' projections suggest that existing policies and measures will not be sufficient to reach the EC's Kyoto target. The "with existing measures" projection suggests that in 2010 the emissions of the European Community (EC) will have decreased by only 0.5 % leaving a significant gap of 7.5 % from the Kyoto target. Germany presented updated projections in June 2003. According to these projections, Germany - the largest emitter of GHG within the EC - is even slightly off track of fulfilling its target, whereas Germany's projections in previous years had reported a large over-achievement. Member States have identified additional policies and measures to achieve their respective commitments according to the burden sharing agreement. The projections taking into account these additional measures reveal that six Member States would over-achieve their individual commitment, some of them to a considerable extent. At EC level the over-achievement by these Member States would result in reductions of GHG emissions for the EC as a whole by 7.2 % below base year emissions, still leaving a small gap of 0.8 % to the EC Kyoto target. - Seven Member States reported on their intention of using the Kyoto mechanisms to reach their respective reduction commitment. However, these intentions are preliminary and provide more qualitative than quantitative information. Various Member States have also reported on their estimations of net carbon stock changes for the first commitment period and some on their intention to account for activities of the Kyoto Protocol on land use, and land use change and forestry (LULUCF). The reported aggregated estimations from LULUCF from the Member States would represent a net sequestration of 13 Million tonnes CO2. However,these data are preliminary. The timely submission of the inventories is still a problem for Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal and Spain. Furthermore, the inventories from Greece and Luxembourg contain considerable gaps. However, there has been continued progress in Member States' reporting on emission inventories and domestic policies and measures under the EC monitoring mechanism. All Accession Countries except Slovenia were on track to meet their Kyoto target and forecast emissions in 2010 to reach or even be lower than their Kyoto commitments under a "with existing measures" scenario. Common and Co-ordinated Policies and Measures at EC level are integral parts of the EC's effort to achieve the Kyoto target. Progress has been made in developing and adopting measures in the field of energy, transport and industry, as agreed under the first phase of the European Climate Change Programme. The potential of these Common and Co-ordinated Policies and Measures for reducing GHG emissions had been evaluated by expert judgement within the different Working Groups of

the ECCP without using any model. The policies and measures currently adopted by the EC or those proposed by the European Commission would result - if adopted - in emission reductions of about 300 Million tonnes CO2-equivalent in the 15 existing Member States. This reduction could potentially cover the gap of 7.5% between the "with existing measures" projection and the EC Kyoto target. However, whether this potential can be realised during the first commitment period will depend on how swiftly Member States will implement Community legislation.