

Paper no. 5: Norway

Submission to the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol of information on the quantified emission limitation or reduction objective (QELRO) for Norway

1. INTRODUCTION

Norway welcomes the decision in Durban stating that the second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol shall begin on 1 January 2013, and the invitation to Parties to submit information on their quantified emission limitation or reduction objective (QELRO) for that period. This submission contains information on possible QELROs for Norway, on the basis of decisions made in Durban. Following decision 1/CMP.7, we expect further negotiations on the QELROs to be concluded in Doha. The information contained in this submission is therefore provisional. Norway looks forward to discussing QELROs for Parties that want to take commitments in the second period at the 17th session of the AWG-KP.

2. NORWAY'S EMISSION TARGET FOR 2020

In 2007, Norway put forward a target of 30% reduction of emissions by 2020, compared to 1990. Furthermore, as stated in our letter of association with the Copenhagen Accord, Norway will move to a level of 40% reduction for 2020 as part of a global and comprehensive agreement for the period beyond 2012 where major emitting Parties agree on emission reductions in line with the 2 degree Celsius target. In the Kyoto context, these conditions are not fulfilled. In this submission, information is therefore given relative to an emission reduction of 30% by 2020, compared to 1990.

3. DETERMINING THE QELRO

3.1 Relevant changes to applicable rules and relevant assumptions

3.1.1 Changed GWP-values

Compared to previous projections, the use of GWP values from IPCCs Fourth Assessment Report is estimated to give an emission trajectory for Norway from 1990 to 2020 that ends 0.7 per cent lower than previous estimates.

3.1.2 Inclusion of NF₃

Norway does not have any emissions of NF₃ today, and there is no indication that Norway will have such emissions in 2020.

3.1.3 New reporting guidelines

Norway has not undertaken a full review of the consequences of applying the IPCC 2006 Guidelines for our inventory estimates, but they are expected to be limited. This is because the changes from previous guidelines related to emission factors and activity data apply to the simplest calculation methods (tier 1), while Norway already applies more advanced calculation methods (tier 2 and 3) for many of the emission sources. Norway is also already reporting some of the new emission sources. The effect of including new emission sources will depend on how the emissions from these sources have changed since the base year 1990.

3.1.4 LULUCF

As previously communicated Norway's contribution from LULUCF was assumed to be about 3 Mt CO₂ in 2020, equivalent to six percent of Norway's greenhouse gas emissions in 1990, in accordance with the rules for Article 3

paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Kyoto Protocol.¹ Taking the most recent projections and the net effect of changes in rules into account, the total expected contribution from LULUCF is reduced to about 2 Mt CO₂ as an annual average in the period 2013-2020

Article 3.3

In Norway's pledge under The Copenhagen Accord, the contribution from Land Use Changes under Article 3.3 was estimated to be a net removal of about 1.5 million tonne CO₂ in 2020. Based on updated projections for afforestation, reforestation and deforestation the present estimate is now a removal of about 0.2 million tonne CO₂ in 2015 and 0.6 million tonne CO₂ in 2020.

Article 3.4

In Durban it was decided that the additions to the assigned amount of a Party resulting from Forest Management (and project activities under article 6) shall not exceed 3.5 % of the base year greenhouse gas emissions of that Party. Norway has chosen 1990 as its historic reference level for Forest Management under article 3.4. As shown in the submission from Norway on our Forest Management reference level, the projected removal from Forest Management in 2020 was estimated to be 23.2 million tonnes of CO₂.

For Norway, the 3,5 % cap means that only a small part of the yearly increase in removals from Forest Management will be accounted for in the second commitment period. With the Durban decision, Norway is expected to account for 1.75 million tonne of CO₂ per year in the next commitment period from Forest Management, compared to 1.47 million tonne in the first period. This difference is equivalent to 0.55 percent of Norway's 1990 emissions in the second commitment period.

For Norway, the inclusion of new accounting rules on Harvested Wood Products in the Durban Decision is expected to result in higher estimates for removals in both the reference year 1990 and in the second commitment period after 2012. The difference between the average removal in the second commitment period and the 1990 removal is, however, still expected to far exceed the Durban cap on Forest Management. The inclusion of new accounting rules for Harvested Wood Products is therefore not expected to influence the accounting for Forest Management under Article 3.4 in the second commitment period.

The possibility for Parties to exclude emissions from natural disturbances from afforestation and reforestation under Article 3.3 is expected to have impacts on the amount of credits Norway can issue from land use changes, but the effects are expected to be limited since the relevant areas are limited and the biomass intensity is low. With respect to forest management under Article 3.4, natural disturbances are not expected to affect the level of removals that can be credited.

3.2 The length of a 2nd commitment period

According to Decision 1/CMP.7 the second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol shall begin 1 January 2013 and end either on 31 December 2017 or 31 December 2020, to be decided by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol at its seventeenth session.

Norway's view is that an eight year commitment period is preferable, in order to secure that there is no gap between the second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol and the new comprehensive agreement under the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action, that shall come into effect and be implemented from 2020.

¹ FCCC/KP/AWG/2010/INF.2/Rev.1: "Compilation of pledges for emission reductions and related assumptions provided by Parties to date and the associated emission reductions: update July 2010."

3.3 Provisional information on the QELRO for the second commitment period

The Norwegian base year is 1990. Thus, the Norwegian quantified emission limitation objective (QELRO) will be presented as the average emissions in the period 2013-2020 that result in a 30 % reduction in emissions in 2020 compared to 1990.

A linear emission trajectory approach to the estimation of a QELRO for Norway could be based on the data from the following alternatives:

- i. The QELRO in the first commitment period. The starting point could be the mid-term (2010) of the first commitment period or the end-point of the first commitment period (2012).
- ii. Current level of emissions for 2009² and 2010³.

On this basis, we have estimated that a range of QELRO's from 81-84 is consistent with the Norwegian target of 30% reduction of emissions by 2020, compared to 1990, including the effect of changes in rules decided in Durban, and changes in relevant assumptions.

² The review under the UNFCCC of the National Inventory Report for Norway for the years 1990-2009 submitted in 2011 has not yet been finalized, but is expected to be finalized during 2012.

³ The National Inventory Report for Norway for the years 1990-2010 was submitted in April 2012, and the review is expected to commence in 2012.