

5. Climate Change: Mid-term Goals [55]

Commitment:

“In this respect, we acknowledge our leadership role and each of us will implement ambitious economy-wide mid-term goals in order to achieve absolute emissions reductions and, where applicable, first stop the growth of emissions as soon as possible, reflecting comparable efforts among all developed economies, taking into account differences in their national circumstances.”

G8 Leaders Declaration on the Environment and Climate Change

Assessment:

Compliance Score

Country	Lack of Compliance -1	Work in Progress 0	Full Compliance +1
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Russia			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States	-1		
European Union			+1
Average Score			+0.77

Background:

In December 1997, parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) met in Kyoto. The principle objective of the UNFCCC is to accomplish “stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.”⁴⁰² All G8 members are signatory to the UNFCCC. In Kyoto, parties to the UNFCCC created an international accord on the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions: the Kyoto Protocol, an internationally binding agreement.⁴⁰³

The principal distinction between the Convention and the Protocol is that the UNFCCC only has the authority to encourage industrialized countries to stabilize GHG emissions, whereas the Protocol commits all signatory parties to a set of mandatory and legally

⁴⁰² Greenhouse Gas Inventory Data, UNFCCC. Date of Access: 22 January 2009.

http://unfccc.int/ghg_data/items/3800.php.

⁴⁰³ Kyoto Protocol, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Date of Access: December 17 2008. http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/items/2830.php.

binding targets.⁴⁰⁴ The Protocol operates under guidance of the United Nations, but is financially supported by national governments. Participating parties must meet the set commitments established by the Protocol and must submit to external review by United Nations-based bodies.⁴⁰⁵ The Protocol, however, expires in 2012.

Emissions reductions have been a regular focus for G8 commitments since 1989. In 1998, there was a particular focus on climate change, with G8 members promising to sign the Kyoto Protocol and reduce domestic GHG emissions.

At the 2005 Gleneagles Summit, G8 leaders reiterated their commitment to UNFCCC and its objectives.⁴⁰⁶ During the 2006 St Petersburg Summit, G8 members reaffirmed their commitment to UNFCCC and pledged to their “shared multiple objectives of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.”⁴⁰⁷ In 2007 at the Heiligendamm Summit, in an effort to set a global goal for emission cuts, G8 members decided to consider the decisions made by the European Union, Canada and Japan, which outline a 50 per cent reduction of global GHG emissions by 2050, but highlighted that their actions would be based on “the UNFCCC principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and capabilities.”⁴⁰⁸

During the Hokkaido-Toyako Summit, G8 leaders agreed to endorse a 50 per cent cut in global GHG emissions by 2050.⁴⁰⁹ This long-term goal has been widely discussed by international actors, notably the European Union, but has not yet been formally endorsed by the UNFCCC.⁴¹⁰ G8 leaders have promised to pursue a new UNFCCC agreement incorporating this long-term goal.⁴¹¹

Commitment Features:

The commitment calls for the implementation of mid-term emission reduction goals. We assume that the first step towards implementing goals is to set them. Because the act of setting a goal is not incremental, action taken before the Hokkaido-Toyako Summit can constitute compliance in this case.

A precise time frame for “mid-term” is not specified, but it can be assumed to be well ahead of 2050. The European Union’s mid-term goals are to be assessed in 2020, but

⁴⁰⁴ Kyoto Protocol, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Date of Access: December 17 2008. http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/items/2830.php.

⁴⁰⁵ International Regime on Greenhouse Gas Emissions, The Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change: History & Highlights. 1 February 2007. Date of Access: 19 December 2008. <http://www.mapleleafweb.com/features/kyoto-protocol-climate-change-history-highlights#what>.

⁴⁰⁶ The Gleneagles Communiqué, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2005. Date of Access: 15 January 2009. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2005gleneagles/communique.pdf>.

⁴⁰⁷ Global Energy Security, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 July 2006. Date of Access: 15 January 2009. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2006stpetersburg/energy.html>.

⁴⁰⁸ Chair’s Summary, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2007. Date of Access: 15 January 2009. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2007heiligendamm/g8-2007-summary.pdf>.

⁴⁰⁹ Environment and Climate Change, Hokkaido-Toyako Summit, G8 Information Centre, 8 July 2008. Date of Access: 22 January 2009. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-climate.html>.

⁴¹⁰ Factbox: Goals to cut greenhouse gases from US to China, Reuters, 23 January 2009. Date of Access: 23 January 2009. <http://uk.reuters.com/article/email/idUKTRE50M3X120090123>.

⁴¹¹ G8 Leaders Commit to 50% Cut in Greenhouse Gases by 2050, EERE Network News. 16 July 2008. Date of Access: 15 December 2008. http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/news_detail.cfm/news_id=11872.

other members’ mid-term deadline may differ. The commitment is to set “economy-wide” mid-term goals, so emission reduction goals that only cover single industries or sectors cannot be considered compliance.

Scoring:

-1	Member does not set an economy-wide mid-term goal to halt or reduce greenhouse gas emissions. No goals are set OR goals are set for particular industries but not the economy as a whole OR goals are set for the distant future, close to 2050 or beyond.
0	Member sets an economy-wide mid-term goal to halt greenhouse gas emissions. The goal does not call for an absolute reduction in greenhouse gas emissions AND the goal specifies a timeframe well ahead of 2050.
+1	Member sets an economy-wide mid-term goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions below 2008 levels AND the goal specifies a timeframe well ahead of 2050.

Lead Analyst: Ivana Jankovic

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to set an economy-wide mid-term goal for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

From 1-12 December 2008, Canada joined more than 190 countries in Poznań, Poland for the UNFCCC’s 14th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 14).⁴¹² Canada’s representative at the conference, Minister of the Environment Jim Prentice, stated that “Canada is committed to an economy-wide emissions reduction goal of 20 per cent by 2020.”⁴¹³ Further, Minister Prentice affirmed Canada’s long-term commitment to “reducing global greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50 percent by 2050.”⁴¹⁴ These goals constitute compliance with this commitment.

On 4 June 2009, Minister Prentice spoke in detail about his government’s climate change

⁴¹² Remarks for the Honourable Jim Prentice COP 14 National Statement, Ministry of the Environment (Ottawa) 11 December 2008. Date of Access: 1 December 2008.

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=714D9AAE-1&news=A59C4FA1-1776-4DC6-81BD-D64F8B59123C>.

⁴¹³ Ideas and proposals on paragraph 1 of the Bali Action Plan: Comments by Canada, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 6 December 2008. Date of Access: 13 December 2008.

http://unfccc.int/files/kyoto_protocol/application/pdf/canadabap061208.pdf.

⁴¹⁴ Remarks for the Honourable Jim Prentice COP 14 National Statement, Ministry of the Environment (Ottawa) 11 December 2008. Date of Access: 1 December 2008.

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=714D9AAE-1&news=A59C4FA1-1776-4DC6-81BD-D64F8B59123C>.

plan.⁴¹⁵ He laid out more ambitious long-term targets, and reaffirmed the mid-term target, noting that “Canadian objectives are to reduce our emissions by 20 per cent by 2020 and try to get to 60-70 per cent by 2050.”⁴¹⁶ Minister Prentice said that these targets will cover all sources of emissions, and be mandatory.⁴¹⁷ Specifics of the regulations are to be outlined in time for the Copenhagen Conference on climate change in December 2009.⁴¹⁸

Thus, Canada has been awarded a score of +1 for setting an economy-wide midterm goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Analyst: Christopher Cosack

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to set an economy-wide mid-term goal for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

On 6 December 2008, President Nicolas Sarkozy stated that Europe “must be an example for others” by considerably reducing its level of fossil fuel emissions.⁴¹⁹ During the European Summit of 11-12 December 2008, France, then holding the presidency of the European Council, played a leading role in the negotiations over the European Union’s new climate change plan.⁴²⁰

The plan, known as 20-20-20, had initially called for a 20 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions based on 1990 levels; a 20 per cent reduction in energy consumption; and a 20 per cent increase in the use of renewable energy by the year 2020.⁴²¹ In December, EU leaders approved part of 20-20-20.⁴²² They agreed to

⁴¹⁵ Notes for an address by the Honourable Jim Prentice, PC, QC, MP Minister of the Environment on Canada’s climate change plan, 4 June 2009. Date of Access: 9 June 2009.

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=6F2DE1CA-1&news=400A4566-DA85-4A0C-B9F4-BABE2DF555C7>.

⁴¹⁶ Notes for an address by the Honourable Jim Prentice, PC, QC, MP Minister of the Environment on Canada’s climate change plan, 4 June 2009. Date of Access: 9 June 2009.

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=6F2DE1CA-1&news=400A4566-DA85-4A0C-B9F4-BABE2DF555C7>.

⁴¹⁷ Notes for an address by the Honourable Jim Prentice, PC, QC, MP Minister of the Environment on Canada’s climate change plan, 4 June 2009. Date of Access: 9 June 2009.

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=6F2DE1CA-1&news=400A4566-DA85-4A0C-B9F4-BABE2DF555C7>.

⁴¹⁸ Notes for an address by the Honourable Jim Prentice, PC, QC, MP Minister of the Environment on Canada’s climate change plan, 4 June 2009. Date of Access: 9 June 2009.

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=6F2DE1CA-1&news=400A4566-DA85-4A0C-B9F4-BABE2DF555C7>.

⁴¹⁹ France, Eastern Europe Make Progress on Climate Pact, Bloomberg (London) 6 December 2008. Date of Access: 13 December 2008.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=ahslPkZAolvc&refer=home>.

⁴²⁰ EU Leaders Agree on Climate Change Deal, The Associated Press (Brussels) 12 December 2008. Date of Access: 13 December 2008. http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5h_fkxnBI3-FZ5aibVXlv01Dc9DPwD9516JP01.

⁴²¹ Climate Plan at Stake as EU Meets, BBC News UK Edition (London) 11 December 2008. Date of Access: 13 December 2008. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/7776727.stm>.

collectively adopt the 20 per cent emission cut.⁴²³ France is bound to this target, which constitutes compliance with this commitment.

Thus, France has been awarded a score of +1 for agreeing to be bound by the EU's economy-wide midterm goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Analyst: Chiara Magboo

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to set an economy-wide mid-term goal for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Germany is on track to meet its Kyoto Protocol 2012 emissions reduction target.⁴²⁴ Germany's emissions reductions, estimated at 22.4 per cent, reflect significant policy changes in support of renewable energy and conservation.⁴²⁵ Environment Minister Sigmar Gabriel stated, "Germany is at the forefront of international climate protection and has reached its Kyoto targets three years before the deadline. In order to achieve the necessary reductions up to 2020, we have to continue and consolidate our successful policy of expanding the use of renewable energies and increasing energy efficiency."⁴²⁶

In this compliance cycle, however, Germany's position on climate change has been unclear. On 8 December 2008, Chancellor Angela Merkel stated that she would not support any climate change measure "that endangers jobs or investments in Germany, in light of the current economic crisis."⁴²⁷

Nonetheless, as part of the European Union, Germany has agreed to reduce its emissions by 20 per cent by 2020.⁴²⁸ In December, EU leaders approved part of 20-20-20.⁴²⁹ They agreed to collectively adopt the 20 per cent emission cut.⁴³⁰ Germany is bound to this target, which constitutes compliance with this commitment.

⁴²² EU leaders agree on climate-change deal, CBC, 12 December 2008. Date of Access: 15 January 2009. <http://www.cbc.ca/world/story/2008/12/12/eu-climate.html>.

⁴²³ EU leaders agree on climate-change deal, CBC, 12 December 2008. Date of Access: 15 January 2009. <http://www.cbc.ca/world/story/2008/12/12/eu-climate.html>.

⁴²⁴ Germany Cuts Carbon-Dioxide Emissions to Below Kyoto Target, Bloomberg (New York) 28 November 2008. Date of Access: 11 January 2009.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601100&sid=ay9P5MmlBoa8&refer=germany>.

⁴²⁵ Germany Cuts Carbon-Dioxide Emissions to Below Kyoto Target, Bloomberg (New York) 28 November 2008. Date of Access: 11 January 2009.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601100&sid=ay9P5MmlBoa8&refer=germany>.

⁴²⁶ Climate Protection: Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2008 at their Lowest Since 1990 (Berlin) 29 March 2009. Date of Access: 8 May 2009. http://www.bmu.de/english/current_press_releases/pm/43723.php.

⁴²⁷ Merkel Backpedals on Climate, Spiegel Online (Berlin), 8 December 2008. Date of Access: 12 December 2008. <http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/0,1518,595114,00.html>.

⁴²⁸ EU Urges US to Take Lead by Setting Mid-Term Climate Goals, 4 March 2009. Date of Access: 8 May 2009. <http://www.energy-enviro.fi/index.php?PAGE=2470>.

⁴²⁹ EU leaders agree on climate-change deal, CBC, 12 December 2008. Date of Access: 15 January 2009. <http://www.cbc.ca/world/story/2008/12/12/eu-climate.html>.

⁴³⁰ EU leaders agree on climate-change deal, CBC, 12 December 2008. Date of Access: 15 January 2009. <http://www.cbc.ca/world/story/2008/12/12/eu-climate.html>.

Emissions cuts are to differ between member states based on capacity, and Germany has promised a 40 per cent cut in emissions by 2020.⁴³¹ Germany has also signed a report by the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change, which recommends reducing greenhouse gas emissions between 25 and 40 per cent by 2020.⁴³²

In April 2009, German representatives attended a summit of environment ministers in Italy, in order to discuss a post-Kyoto emissions reduction goal.⁴³³ The State Secretary of the German Environment Ministry said that “in the field of environmental protection there is massive potential for economic growth and a low carbon – and thus more environmentally friendly – future.”⁴³⁴ As part of the negotiations for a post-Kyoto agreement, the European Union is arguing in favour of reducing carbon dioxide emission to 30 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020.⁴³⁵ However, the meeting in Italy did not result in any new targets.⁴³⁶

Despite recent shifts in Germany’s position on emissions reduction, and ongoing negotiations about future reduction targets, Germany has fulfilled its commitment by setting an economy-wide, mid-term emissions reduction goal. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analysts: Natalie Antonowicz and Darya Frolova

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to set an economy-wide mid-term goal for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

In fall 2008, during negotiations over the new EU climate package, Italy opposed the proposed 20-20-20 goals on climate change because of concerns regarding the potential cost to Italian industry and consumers.⁴³⁷ The plan had initially called for a 20 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions based on 1990 levels; a 20 per cent reduction in energy consumption; and a 20 per cent increase in the use of renewable energy by the

⁴³¹ Factbox: Goals to cut greenhouse gases from US to China, Reuters, 23 January 2009. Date of Access: 23 January 2009. <http://uk.reuters.com/article/email/idUKTRE50M3X120090123>.

³¹ Major Powers Must Spearhead Climate Protection: Japan (Berlin) 6 May 2009. Date of Access: 8 May 2009. http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jd5x72p5zOVrDUFHxxG4ynv3h1_Q.

⁴³³ State Secretary Machig: G8 Countries Must use the Crisis for a Green Recovery of Their Economy (Berlin) 24 April 2009. Date of Access: 7 May 2009. http://www.bmu.de/english/current_press_releases/pm/43817.php.

⁴³⁴ State Secretary Machig: G8 Countries Must use the Crisis for a Green Recovery of Their Economy (Berlin) 24 April 2009. Date of Access: 7 May 2009. http://www.bmu.de/english/current_press_releases/pm/43817.php.

⁴³⁵ Can the EU Lead on Global Warming?, 29 January 2009. Date of Access: 7 May 2009. <http://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/0,1518,604297,00.html>.

⁴³⁶ State Secretary Machig: G8 Countries Must use the Crisis for a Green Recovery of Their Economy (Berlin) 24 April 2009. Date of Access: 7 May 2009. http://www.bmu.de/english/current_press_releases/pm/43817.php.

⁴³⁷ Italy threatens to veto costly EU climate change package, AFP (Brussels) 1 December 2008. Date of Access: 10 December 2008. <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gQqWTAIbUZ79XJ2mVHp1IsYCMC0w>.

year 2020.⁴³⁸ The government claimed that the plan would force the Italian economy to bear costs 40 per cent higher than the European average.⁴³⁹ During negotiations, Italy pushed for its energy-intensive industrial sectors – including glass, paper, steel, and brick – to be exempted from the package due to fears of potential factory closures.⁴⁴⁰

Italy has pointed out that its emissions per-capita are already well below the European average and that its overall energy efficiency is above the European average.⁴⁴¹ However, Environment Minister Stefania Prestigiacomo has admitted that Italy is “doing very badly over Kyoto” noting that the country is trending towards a 13 per cent growth in emissions, rather than a 6.5 per cent reduction.⁴⁴²

Nonetheless, in December, Italy approved part of the 20-20-20 plan alongside other EU members.⁴⁴³ They agreed to collectively adopt the 20 per cent emission cut.⁴⁴⁴

In February 2009, Minister Prestigiacomo announced that Italy will work to achieve its Kyoto targets.⁴⁴⁵ Minister Prestigiacomo clarified that Italy will do this by encouraging the use of renewable energy, energy savings, and new technologies such as carbon capture and storage.⁴⁴⁶

Italy has fulfilled its commitment by setting an economy-wide, mid-term emissions reduction goal. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Daniel Fusca

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to set an economy-wide mid-term goal for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

⁴³⁸ Climate Plan at Stake as EU Meets, BBC News UK Edition (London) 11 December 2008. Date of Access: 13 December 2008. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/7776727.stm>.

⁴³⁹ Italian position on climate package clear: A call for clarity on costs and fairness, Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea (Rome) 19 November 2008. Date of Access: 10 December 2008. http://www.minambiente.it/index.php?id_doc=1234&id_oggetto=2.

⁴⁴⁰ Italy defies EU summit deal on climate change, EurActive (London) 9 December 2008. Date of Access: 10 December 2008. <http://www.euractiv.com/en/climate-change/italy-defies-eu-summit-deal-climate-change/article-177876>.

⁴⁴¹ On the climate energy package, the Italian position is clear: It calls for clarity on the costs and fairness in the distribution of rewards, Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea (Rome) 19 November 2008. Date of Access: 13 May 2009. http://www.minambiente.it/index.php?id_doc=1234&id_oggetto=2.

⁴⁴² Tough talks on EU climate plans, BBC News International Version (London) 20 October 2008. Date of Access: 13 May 2009. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7679780.stm>.

⁴⁴³ EU leaders agree on climate-change deal, CBC, 12 December 2008. Date of Access: 15 January 2009. <http://www.cbc.ca/world/story/2008/12/12/eu-climate.html>.

⁴⁴⁴ EU leaders agree on climate-change deal, CBC, 12 December 2008. Date of Access: 15 January 2009. <http://www.cbc.ca/world/story/2008/12/12/eu-climate.html>.

⁴⁴⁵ Climate, Kyoto goals for Italy onerous but it is committed, Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea (Rome) 16 February 2009. Date of Access: 13 May 2009. http://87.241.41.49/index.php?id_doc=1257&id_oggetto=2.

⁴⁴⁶ Climate, Kyoto goals for Italy onerous but it is committed, Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea (Rome) 16 February 2009. Date of Access: 13 May 2009. http://87.241.41.49/index.php?id_doc=1257&id_oggetto=2.

On 10 June 2009, Japan announced that it would aim to reduce emissions 15 per cent by 2020, using 2005 as a baseline.⁴⁴⁷ This goal was the result of long months of negotiation, and prior to the announcement reports suggested that the committee in charge of setting the target was deadlocked.⁴⁴⁸

It seems that this relatively modest goal was something of a compromise: In February 2009, Environment Minister Tetsuo Saito said: “although the government has not reached its consensus, the reduction of GHG emissions by 25 per cent to 40 per cent is the only option that Japan should choose.”⁴⁴⁹

Japan has committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 60 to 80 per cent by 2050.⁴⁵⁰ Japan has also signed a report by the IPCC, which recommends reducing greenhouse gas emissions between 25 and 40 per cent by 2020.⁴⁵¹

Thus, Japan has been awarded a score of +1 for announcing a mid-term goal, though its goal is substantially smaller than those announced by most other G8 members.

Analyst: Natalie Antonowicz

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with its commitment to set an economy-wide mid-term goal for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

On 18 June 2009, President D. Medvedev announced, and on 23 June 2009 presidential aide A. Dvorkovich defined more exactly, Russian mid-term goals on greenhouse gas emissions reduction.⁴⁵² Russia will decrease greenhouse gases emissions by 10 to 15 per cent by 2020, based on 1990 levels.⁴⁵³ This will amount to reduction of 30 billion tons of

⁴⁴⁷ Japan sets new emission targets, The New York Times (Tokyo) 10 June 2009. Date of Access: 14 June 2009. http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/11/business/energy-environment/11emit.html?_r=2&hpw.

⁴⁴⁸ CO2 emissions-cut goal under debate, Daily Yomiuri Online (Tokyo) 8 January 2009. Date of Access: 15 January 2009. <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/20090108TDY03002.htm>.

⁴⁴⁹ Japan Has Six Plans for its Mid-term Climate Goal (2020), 15 February 2009. Date of Access: 7 May 2009. <http://www.climaticoanalysis.org/blog/japan-has-six-plans-for-its-mid-term-climate-goal/>.

⁴⁵⁰ Japan Should Set Mid-term Emissions Targets (Tokyo), 16 February 2009. Date of Access: 7 May 2009. http://knowledge.allianz.com/en/news/viewdetail/japan_emission_targets.html.

⁴⁵¹ Major Powers Must Spearhead Climate Protection: Japan (Berlin) 6 May 2009. Date of Access: 8 May 2009. http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jd5x72p5zOVrDUFHxxG4ynv3h1_Q.

⁴⁵² From the interview with the reporter of news program of the First Channel Kirill Kleimenov, Official website of the President of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 18 June 2009. Date of access: 23 June 2009. http://www.kremlin.ru/appears/2009/06/18/1043_type63379_218120.shtml.

Dvorkovich: Russia will reduce CO2 emissions due to energy efficiency of the economy, RIANOVOSTI (Moscow) 23 June 2009. Date of access: 23 June 2009. <http://eco.rian.ru/business/20090623/175135164.html>.

⁴⁵³ From the interview with the reporter of news program of the First Channel Kirill Kleimenov, Official website of the President of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 18 June 2009. Date of access: 23 June 2009. http://www.kremlin.ru/appears/2009/06/18/1043_type63379_218120.shtml.

Dvorkovich: Russia will reduce CO2 emissions due to energy efficiency of the economy, RIANOVOSTI (Moscow) 23 June 2009. Date of access: 23 June 2009. <http://eco.rian.ru/business/20090623/175135164.html>.

greenhouse gases between 1990 and 2020.⁴⁵⁴ This reduction will be provided mainly through increasing energy efficiency.

Before the Hokkaido-Toyako Summit, Russia set a mid-term goal to reduce the energy intensity of the economy. On 4 June 2008, a Decree of the President of the Russian Federation set a goal of energy consumption reduction of 40 per cent by 2020 from 2007 levels.⁴⁵⁵ According to the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation, this goal taps into all of Russia's energy saving potential.⁴⁵⁶

On 23 April 2009, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology introduced a new climate strategy.⁴⁵⁷ According to this strategy, to address climate change Russia should change its economic structure, implement resources saving technologies, develop renewable energy and decrease carbon and energy intensity of economy by 2030 and 2050 in a wide range of industries. Moreover, the government should support more research on climate change.⁴⁵⁸

Thus, Russia has been awarded a score of +1 for setting an economy-wide midterm goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Analyst: Natalya Churkina

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to set an economy-wide mid-term goal for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Its mid-term goals were laid out in legislation and came into force during the current G8 compliance cycle.

The Climate Change Act, introduced in November 2007, came into force on 26 November 2008.⁴⁵⁹ The Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs has

⁴⁵⁴ From the interview with the reporter of news program of the First Channel Kirill Kleimenov, Official website of the President of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 18 June 2009. Date of access: 23 June 2009. http://www.kremlin.ru/appears/2009/06/18/1043_type63379_218120.shtml.

Dvorkovich: Russia will reduce CO2 emissions due to energy efficiency of the economy, RIANOVOSTI (Moscow) 23 June 2009. Date of access: 23 June 2009. <http://eco.rian.ru/business/20090623/175135164.html>.

⁴⁵⁵ Decree of the President of the RF "On some measures on energy and ecology efficiency of the Russian economy improvement", Official website of the President of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 4 June 2008. Date of access: 13 May 2009. <http://document.kremlin.ru/doc.asp?ID=046255>

⁴⁵⁶ Russia presented its position on the GHG emissions reduction potential after 2012, Russian Regional Environmental Centre, (Moscow) 4 December 2008. Date of access: 13 May 2009. <http://www.rusrec.ru/ru/news/1529>

⁴⁵⁷ On Project of Climate Strategy, Official website of the Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 23 April 2009. Date of access: 13 May 2009. <http://www.government.ru/content/governmentactivity/rfgovernmentsession/2009/pp230409/materials230409/6120264.htm>.

⁴⁵⁸ On Project of Climate Strategy, Official website of the Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 23 April 2009. Date of access: 13 May 2009. <http://www.government.ru/content/0a725dc3-4027-4f16-8e1d-0b4cda3231d5.htm>

⁴⁵⁹ Climate Change Act 2008, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 2 December 2008. Date of Access: 13 December 2008. <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/legislation>.

described the legislation as “the world’s first long-term legally binding framework to tackle the dangers of climate change.”⁴⁶⁰ The bill outlines several key targets that would impact carbon emissions domestically and internationally. Among the provisions is a legally binding 26 per cent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2020, measured against a 1990 baseline.⁴⁶¹

This mid-term goal has since been strengthened. On 22 April 2009, the UK announced it would provide GBP1.4 billion in additional funding for climate projects, in the effort to decrease greenhouse gases by at least 34 per cent from 1990 levels by 2020.⁴⁶²

Chancellor Alistair Darling also announced a long-term target: “to cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050.”⁴⁶³ The British government has further introduced three “carbon budgets” for the following five year periods: 2008-2012, 2013-2017 and 2018-2022.⁴⁶⁴

Thus, the United Kingdom has been awarded a score of +1 for setting economy-wide midterm goals and specifying a detailed timeline to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Analyst: Chiara Magboo

United States: -1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to set an economy-wide mid-term goal for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

During the 2008 presidential election, President Barack Obama promised to establish emissions targets.⁴⁶⁵ A bill with the President’s support, currently before Congress, would set a target of 17 per cent emission reductions by 2020, using 2005 as a baseline.⁴⁶⁶ On 27 June 2009, the bill passed the House of Representatives, but it is not yet clear that it will be approved by the Senate.⁴⁶⁷ Since this bill’s future is uncertain, it does not yet constitute compliance.

⁴⁶⁰ Climate Change Act 2008, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 2 December 2008. Date of Access: 13 December 2008.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/legislation>.

⁴⁶¹ Climate Change Act 2008 – Key Provisions/Milestones, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 1 December 2008. Date of Access: 13 December 2008.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/legislation/provisions.htm>.

⁴⁶² U.K. Boosts Funding for Projects to Curb Emissions (Update 1), Bloomberg (New York) 22 April 2009. Date of Access: 9 May 2009.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601102&sid=aAizp6yn7xmw&refer=uk>.

⁴⁶³ Britain is First to Budget Emissions, United Press International (London) 23 April 2009. Date of Access: 9 May 2009. http://www.upi.com/Energy_Resources/2009/04/23/Britain-is-first-to-budget-emissions/UPI-71291240493827/.

⁴⁶⁴ Britain is First to Budget Emissions, United Press International (London) 23 April 2009. Date of Access: 9 May 2009. http://www.upi.com/Energy_Resources/2009/04/23/Britain-is-first-to-budget-emissions/UPI-71291240493827/.

⁴⁶⁵ New Energy For America, Organizing For America, Democratic National Committee, 6 May 2009. Date of Access: 14 June 2009. <http://my.barackobama.com/page/content/newenergy>.

⁴⁶⁶ Rich countries failing in climate pledges: India, AFP (Bonn) 10 June 2009. Date of Access: 14 June 2009. http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jfrWoU5eNd_J9No8PG-xwGJBBzfQ.

⁴⁶⁷ House passes historic climate and energy bill, Red Orbit, 27 June 2009. Date of Access: 28 June 2009. http://www.redorbit.com/news/science/1712527/house_passes_historic_climate_and_energy_bill/.

Various non-state actors have proposed regulations that would satisfy the American commitment to establish mid-term goals. An initiative by 32 corporations and environmental groups has called for a 42 per cent cut in emissions by 2030, based on 2005 levels. Sponsors of the cap-and-trade plan include General Electric, DuPont, General Motors, the Environmental Defense Fund and the World Resources Institute. If implemented, this target would constitute full compliance.

Despite progress, the United States has yet to act on its commitment to set an economy-wide mid-term goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Thus, it has been awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Chris Cosack

European Union +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to set an economy-wide mid-term goal for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The EU has taken concrete steps to implement its goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent by 2020.

The EU's proposed climate change plan, known as 20-20-20, had initially called for a 20 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions based on 1990 levels; a 20 per cent reduction in energy consumption; and a 20 percent increase in the use of renewable energy by the year 2020.⁴⁶⁸ In December, EU leaders approved part of 20-20-20.⁴⁶⁹ They agreed to collectively adopt the 20 per cent emission cut.⁴⁷⁰

On 4 April 2009, the European Parliament recommended that further measures should be taken to develop an integrated policy on climate change. The European Parliament called for a 25-40 per cent reduction in greenhouse gases to be achieved by 2020 and a reduction of at least 80 per cent to be achieved by 2050.⁴⁷¹ The recommendations follow the findings of a report from the Temporary Committee on Climate Change set of by Parliament on 25 April 2007.⁴⁷²

Thus, the EU has been awarded a score of +1 for setting an economy-wide mid-term goal.

Analyst: Nicole Cargill

⁴⁶⁸ Climate Plan at Stake as EU Meets, BBC News UK Edition (London) 11 December 2008. Date of Access: 13 December 2008. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/7776727.stm>.

⁴⁶⁹ EU leaders agree on climate-change deal, CBC, 12 December 2008. Date of Access: 15 January 2009. <http://www.cbc.ca/world/story/2008/12/12/eu-climate.html>.

⁴⁷⁰ EU leaders agree on climate-change deal, CBC, 12 December 2008. Date of Access: 15 January 2009. <http://www.cbc.ca/world/story/2008/12/12/eu-climate.html>.

⁴⁷¹ Climate Change 2050 – the future begins today: MEPs adopt key report, European Parliament, 4 February 2009. Date of Access: 1 May 2009 http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/064-48340-033-02-06-911-20090204IPR48324-02-02-2009-2009-false/default_en.htm.

⁴⁷² Climate Change 2050 – the future begins today: MEPs adopt key report, European Parliament, 4 February 2009. Date of Access: 1 May 2009 http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/064-48340-033-02-06-911-20090204IPR48324-02-02-2009-2009-false/default_en.htm.