Finland's Fifth
National Communication
under the United Nations
Framework Convention on

Climate Change

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Foreword

Climate change is among the most critical challenges of our time. As a response to this challenge, one of Finland's top environmental policy priorities is mitigation of climate change. Finland is active in implementing climate change policies in order to work towards this objective and reduce its greenhouse gas emissions further in the future.

Finland signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in June 1992 and the respective legislation entered into force in 1994. In 2002, Finland ratified the Kyoto Protocol of the UNFCCC. Finland is working actively towards fulfilling its commitments under these treaties. In this report, Finland's Fifth National Communication under the UNFCCC, Finland describes its efforts towards fulfilling its obligations as a member of the European Union and within international cooperation.

The European Union is committed to a legally binding commitment to reduce its emissions by eight per cent on average during the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol 2008–2012. Under the burden sharing agreement, Finland as a Member State of the European Union is committed to bringing its average annual emissions down to the 1990 level in this first commitment period. Finland is meeting this goal and is fulfilling its commitment.

The European Union is also committed to reducing its greenhouse gases by at least 20 per cent by 2020. In addition, the European Union has set for itself a mandatory target of 20 per cent renewable energy use and a 10 per cent biofuels target by 2020. To enhance these efforts in combating climate change, the European Union adopted a legislative Climate and Energy package in 2008. The package includes e.g. an amendment of the EU Emission Trading Directive and a decision concerning burden sharing in the sectors outside the emissions trading scheme (transport, buildings, services, smaller industrial installations, agriculture and waste). Finland's obligation for the sectors outside the emissions trading scheme is a 16 per cent reduction of emissions by 2020 compared to the 2005 emissions. The European Union has also agreed to further reductions of its emissions, that is, 30 per cent by 2020, if a new global climate change agreement is reached.

Finland has prepared a new, comprehensive Long-term Climate and Energy Strategy in 2008. The previous strategy was adopted in 2005. The new Strategy outlines the policies and measures that Finland is pursuing to achieve its emission reduction goals. In addition, the Government prepared in 2009 a Foresight Report on Climate and Energy Policy which focuses on long-term development of climate policy up to 2050. The objective is an 80 per cent reduction in the emissions by 2050 compared to the 1990 level.

In Finland greenhouse gas emissions exhibit typically large fluctuations between years. The main reason for this is changes in the energy related emissions. These emissions make up around 80 per cent of the total greenhouse gas emissions. Most of the energy sector emissions are included in the EU Emission Trading Scheme (ETS). Finland is also participating in the Kyoto Mechanisms and purchasing emission allowances through the Clean Development Mechanism and Joint Implementation. Finland be-

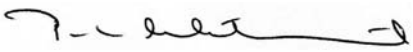
came eligible for international emissions trading and Track I joint implementation on 22 April 2008.

In 2005 Finland established the National System for estimating greenhouse gas emissions and removals in accordance with Article 5.1 of the Kyoto Protocol. Statistics Finland functions as the National Authority with overall responsibility for compiling the greenhouse gas inventory. Several organizations participate in preparing the inventory. The national registry system under the Kyoto Protocol and the EU Emission Trading Scheme was connected to the international transaction log (ITL) of the UNFCCC secretariat in October 2008.

The Fifth National Communication of Finland was prepared through wide cooperation between various governmental bodies and organizations. The preparation committee was composed of the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Ministry of Employment and the Economy, the Finnish Environment Institute, the Finnish Forest Research Institute, the Finnish Meteorological Institute, MTT Agrifood Research Finland, VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland and Motiva. Statistics Finland had the responsibility for coordinating the work. Finland hopes that the report will also prove useful to the public at large and help to increase the general awareness of climate change among interested readers.

This report describes Finland's efforts in implementing policies and measures aimed at responding to the challenge of climate change. Moreover, it shows that Finland is achieving its obligations under the Kyoto Protocol. It also shows that Finland has the long-term goal of further reducing its emissions in the future. Finland will work actively to achieve this goal.

Helsinki, December 2009



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