

Wallonia - Under2MoU appendix

I. Context

Wallonia is the south region of Belgium. It covers an area of 16 844km² and has a population of 3,589,477 inhabitants (2015). In Belgium, there are two other regions: the Flemish Region and the Brussels-Capital Region. The three regions have legislative and executive organs: the Regional Parliament and the Regional Government.

The main competencies are economy, employment, training, agriculture, environment, energy, climate, transport and mobility...

The GDP is 88.5 billion Euros. It represents 23% of Belgian GDP (2015).

II. Objectives of the Walloon territory in terms of emission reduction

In 2015, Wallonia emitted 36 million tonnes CO₂ equivalents (31% of Belgian emissions, without LULUCF). It represents a reduction of 35.6% compared to 1990. Industry (30%), transport (25%) and space heating (18%) are the most important sectors in the total GHG emissions in 2015.

In April 2016, the Walloon Government adopted the Air-Climate-Energy Plan. The 2016-2022 PACE contains 142 measures to reduce emissions of air pollutants, improve air quality, mitigate climate change and adapt to its impacts. Different sectors are concerned: agriculture, industry, transport, household...

The PACE is the main instrument to implement the Climate Decree adopted by the Walloon Parliament in February 2014. It should enable Wallonia to respect the emissions budgets fixed every 5 years by the Walloon Government.

The Climate Decree presents 2 objectives (short and long term goals):

- a reduction of 30% of greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 compared to 1990 ;
- a reduction of 80 to 95% of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 compared to 1990.

III. Measures of Wallonia for mitigation and adaptation to climate change

In the Air-Climate-Energy Plan, there are measures in different sectors. Here will be presented the most important of them.

In energy sector, the main instrument implemented to develop renewable energy sources and high efficiency CHP to produce electricity is market of green certificates.

To reduce emissions from space heating (residential and tertiary sectors), Wallonia promotes rational energy use and the use of renewable energy sources in buildings and improving energy efficiency.

Different instruments are used to achieve those goals. For example, there is the transposition in Walloon legislation of the European Directive on the energy performance of buildings which imposes timetable for the entry into force of increasingly stringent energy standards for new constructions and thorough renovations. Another example is the improvement of existing residential buildings with regional subsidies.

In industry, the European Emission Trading System (ETS) is a major tool for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the most cost-efficient way. A second crucial tool is the sectoral agreements drawn up between the regional Government of Wallonia and their industries to improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These agreements also notably contain requirements paving the way for opportunities to use RES and CHP sources and develop “CO₂ mapping” of the activity of industrial sites or commodity chains.

In the transport sector, the initiatives undertaken mainly focus on limiting road-traffic growth and incentivising the “modal shift” (towards rail or waterways) by improving public transport and upgrading infrastructure and on encouraging drivers to acquire and use low-energy vehicles (information, tax incentives) and to optimise their use (eco-driving, car-sharing, etc.). On April 1 2016, the Kilometre Charging System for heavy goods vehicles of more than 3.5 tonnes in the three Regions comes into effect.

Finally, the PACE contains a specific section on adaptation. This section summarises the impact and vulnerability assessments and sets out detailed adaptation actions in several sectors. Water management (through the PLUIES plan against floods and the flood portal), forest management and monitoring guidelines (through the Forest Code & the Observatory of forest health) and agricultural advice (by the scientific cell GISER working together with municipalities and farmers) are some examples of these actions.