

Final report of the 2012 technical
review of the greenhouse gas emission
inventory of Estonia
to support the determination of annual emission
allocations under Decision 406/2009/EC

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Introduction

Pursuant to Article 3.2 of Decision 406/2009/EC⁽¹⁾ (the 'Effort Sharing Decision' – ESD), the European Commission shall determine the annual emission allocations (maximum allowed greenhouse gas emissions) of Member States for the period from 2013 to 2020 in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂ eq.), using reviewed and verified emission data.

The review was conducted by the following experts: Kristien Aernouts & Tomas Gustafson for Stationary combustion (CRF categories 1.A.1, 1.A.2, 1.A.4, 1.A.5) + Reference approach; Maria Liden & Tinus Pulles for CRF categories 1.A.3 Transport + 1.C International bunkers; Ralph Harthan & John Watterson for CRF category 1.B Fugitive; Anke Herold & Ils Moorkens for CRF categories 2.A Mineral products + 2.B Chemical industry + CRF sector 3 Solvents; Kristina Saarinen & Dusan Vacha for CRF categories 2.C Metal production + 2.D Other production + 2.G Other; Maria Jose Lopez & Karin Kindbom for CRF categories 2.E Production of Halocarbons and SF₆ + 2.F Consumption of Halocarbons and SF₆; Michael Anderl & Steen Gyldenkaerne for CRF categories 4.A Enteric fermentation + 4.B Manure management; Sorin Deaconu & Etienne Mathias for CRF categories 4.C Rice cultivation + 4.D Agricultural soils, 4.E Prescribed burning of savannas, 4.F Field burning of agricultural residues; Juraj Farkas & Celine Gueguen for CRF sector 6 Waste. Ole-Kenneth Nielsen, Suvi Monni, Klaus Radunsky and Tatiana Tugui acted as lead reviewers. The review was coordinated by Bernd Gugele and Justin Goodwin. The TERT acknowledges the support of the EEA review secretariat Martin Adams, Francois Dejean and Melanie Sporer.

Complete sets of greenhouse gas (GHG) emission estimates for the reference years (2005, 2008, 2009 and 2010) were submitted by each Member State by the 15th of May, 2012 as part of the 2012 national inventory submission under Decision 280/2004/EC (the 'Monitoring Mechanism Decision' – MMD). These estimates must have been reviewed to allow the determination in 2012 of the annual emission allocations for the period from 2013 to 2020.

The 'Guidelines for the 2012 technical review of greenhouse gas emission inventories to support the determination of Member States' annual emission allocations under Decision 406/2009/EC' were endorsed by the Climate Change Committee on 19 May 2011 and published as a European Commission Staff Working Document on 26 April 2012⁽²⁾. The 2012 greenhouse gas emission inventory of Estonia was reviewed in accordance with these guidelines.

This report presents the findings of the 2012 technical review of the greenhouse gas emission inventory of Estonia to support the determination of annual emission allocations under Decision 406/2009/EC.

⁽¹⁾ Decision No 406/2009/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the effort of Member States to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to meet the Community's greenhouse gas emission reduction commitments up to 2020. OJ L 140, 5.06.2009, p. 136.

⁽²⁾ Commission Staff Working Document of 26 April 2012: Guidelines for the 2012 technical review of greenhouse gas emission inventories to support the determination of Member States' annual emission allocations under Decision 406/2009/EC. SWD(2012) 107 final.

Review Objectives

The purpose of the technical review of Member States' GHG inventories is to support the determination of the annual emission allocations by:

- a) ensuring that the European Commission has accurate, reliable and verified information on annual GHG emissions for the years 2005, 2008, 2009 and 2010 to determine the annual emission allocations under Decision 280/2004/EC;
- b) providing the European Commission and its Member States with a consistent, transparent, thorough and comprehensive technical assessment of GHG emissions, with a focus on data for the years 2005, 2008, 2009 and 2010 reported in 2012;
- c) examining, in a facilitative and open manner, the reported inventory information for consistency with the 'Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories', with the 2000 'Good Practice Guidance and Uncertainty Management in National Greenhouse Gas Inventories', and with the requirements of Decision 280/2004/EC (the 'Greenhouse Gas Monitoring Mechanism' Decision) ⁽³⁾;
- d) assisting Member States in improving the quality of their GHG inventories.

Review approach and scope

The technical review of the 2012 GHG inventory estimates of Estonia for the years 2005, 2008, 2009 and 2010 was performed by a Technical Expert Review Team (TERT) under service contract 2011/S 234-378130 to the Directorate General for Climate Action of the European Commission.

This technical review was performed on the basis of GHG emission data and the national inventory report (NIR) officially reported by Member States by the 15th of April, 2012 under the MMD. Resubmissions reported by Member States were taken into account until the 15th of May, consistent with the reporting practice for resubmissions under Decision 280/2004/EC. Emissions from international transport and land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) were not reviewed. The review was performed with a focus on data for the years 2005, 2008, 2009 and 2010, reported in 2012.

The technical review process for GHG inventories comprised three stages, each of which considered different aspects of the inventories in such a way that the purposes described above were achieved by the end of the process. The three stages were:

- Stage 1, completed by 15 April 2012 – initial completeness checks of each Member State GHG inventory (submitted by 15 January and by 15 March);
- Stage 2, completed by 15 April 2012 – initial consistency and comparability checks of each Member State GHG inventory (submitted by 15 January and by 15 March);
- Stage 3, to be completed by the end of August 2012 – detailed *technical review* of each Member State GHG inventory (submitted by 15 May).

The detailed timeline of the review, including a summary of the correspondence with Estonia, is presented in Annex 4.

⁽³⁾ Decision No 280/2004/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 February 2004 concerning a mechanism for monitoring Community greenhouse gas emissions and for implementing the Kyoto protocol. OJ L 140, 5.06.2009, p. 136.

ESD 2012 technical review conclusions

Table 1. Main conclusions from the TERT

Findings
1. The TERT considers that the GHG emission inventory estimates of Estonia for the years 2005, 2008, 2009 and 2010 submitted in 2012 under the MMD included emission overestimates .
2. The TERT did not identify inconsistency issues between the reported GHG emission inventory estimates and verified emission data under the EU ETS.
3. During the course of the technical review, the TERT received revised GHG emission inventory estimates from Estonia in response to its initial findings (see Table 2).
4. The TERT considers that the aggregated revised GHG emission inventory estimates from Estonia for the years 2005, 2008, 2009 and 2010 do not include emission overestimates .
5. The TERT therefore suggests that it is not necessary to implement technical corrections to the GHG emission inventory estimates and to amend the reported GHG total (see Table 2).
6. As stated beneath Table 1, Estonia accepts the aggregated GHG emission inventory estimates presented in Table 2 including any revised estimate received from Estonia and accepted by the TERT.
7. The TERT identified non-binding recommendations for improvements of Estonia's GHG inventory (see Table 3 in Annex 1).
8. The TERT considers that it received a response from Estonia that was sufficient in order to undertake the review appropriately.

Statement from Estonia on the conclusions of the TERT

Estonia agrees with the conclusions of the TERT, including aggregated GHG emission inventory estimates presented in Table 2 and recommendations presented in Table 3 in Annex 1.

Table 2. Summary of national totals, including any revised estimates or technical corrections identified during the review

Data / Category	Reference	Status of GHG emission revision or correction	2005 Gg CO ₂ eq.	2008 Gg CO ₂ eq.	2009 Gg CO ₂ eq.	2010 Gg CO ₂ eq.
Total GHG emissions as reported in the 2012 submission under the MMD	16 April 2012, EST-2012-v1.3		18 564.776	19 705.015	16 391.072	20 516.762
Revised estimates provided by Estonia (⁴)						
Crop residue, N ₂ O	9.08.2012, 08-08-2012-ESD-2012-Draft_Review_Report-Estonia - comments revised.docx and Emissions from Crop residues.xls, EE-4C-4F-4	Accepted by the TERT	-32.077	-37.393	-31.255	-31.980
Sewage sludge (IPCC category 4.D.1.6), N ₂ O	14.06.2012, EE additional info_14.06.2012.xls-calculation sheets Sludge, Sludge_90_95 and Atm_Leac_05, EE-4C-4F-3	Accepted by the TERT	-2.787	-1.980	-1.426	-1.950
Atmospheric deposition (IPCC category 4.D.3.1), N ₂ O	14.06.2012, EE additional info_14.06.2012.xls-calculation sheets Sludge, Sludge_90_95 and Atm_Leac_05, EE-4C-4F-3; 3.08.2012, 07-31-2012-Recalculated emissions_EE.docx and 07-31-2012-Recalculated emissions_EE.xls, EE-4C-4F-3	Accepted by the TERT	-0.231	-0.130	-0.090	-0.123
Nitrogen leaching and run-off (IPCC category 4.D.3.2)	14.06.2012, EE additional info_14.06.2012.xls-calculation sheets	Accepted by the TERT	-11.336	-1.320	-0.951	-1.300

⁴ Difference: revised estimates – original estimates. A positive difference indicates an increase compared to reported emissions. A negative difference indicates a decrease compared to reported emissions. For more information on revised estimates, see Annex 1.

	Sludge, Sludge_90_95 and Atm_Leac_05, EE-4C-4F-3					
Total GHG emissions including any accepted revised estimate received from Estonia and/or technical correction as proposed by the TERT			18 518.346	19 664.191	16 357.351	20 481.409
CO₂ emissions from 1.A.3.a Civil aviation	16 April 2012, EST-2012-v1.3		1.749	2.307	1.762	1.804

Note: National totals exclude emissions from LULUCF and emissions reported under memo items (e.g. international aviation and maritime transport).

Annex 1 – Recommendations, revised estimates and technical corrections

Table 3. Recommendations of the TERT

Key category	Gas, fuel, activity	Observation	Recommendation	Technical correction	
				Revised estimate ⁽⁵⁾	correction ⁽⁶⁾
Yes	4.D.1.4. Crop residue N ₂ O 1990–2010	The TERT noted that Estonia had inappropriately combined the tier 1a and tier 1b methods presented in the 2000 IPCC Good Practice Guidance (GPG) (equations 4.28 and 4.29) for category 4.D.1.4. Crop residues. Furthermore, Estonia used a value of 0.45 for the fraction of total aboveground biomass that is removed from field as crop (FracR) from the Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines. In response to the draft review report, Estonia provided a revised estimate which resolved the issue raised. The revised estimate was accepted by the TERT.	The TERT recommends that Estonia revises its GHG inventory following the revision submitted to TERT during the review.	Yes	No
Yes	4.D. Agricultural soils N ₂ O 1990–2010	During the review, Estonia provided the calculation sheet used to estimate N ₂ O emissions from agricultural soils. The TERT noted that in the calculation of emissions from atmospheric deposition of nitrogen in sewage sludge, Estonia used the default 2000 IPCC	The TERT recommends that Estonia revise its GHG inventory following the revision submitted to TERT during the review.	Yes	No

⁵ The GHG emission estimate for this category was revised by Estonia during the technical review.

⁶ The GHG emission estimate for this category is subject to a technical correction proposal by the TERT.

Key category	Gas, fuel, activity	Observation	Recommendation	Revised estimate ⁽⁵⁾	Technical correction ⁽⁶⁾
		<p>Good Practice Guidance (GPG) value for the fraction of N that volatilises as NH₃ and NO_x from synthetic fertilisers (0.1; Frac_{GASF}) instead of the default value for the fraction of nitrogen that volatilises as NH₃ and NO_x from animal manure (0.2; Frac_{GASM}). The use of Frac_{GASF} instead of Frac_{GASM} is not in line with the provisions on page 4.70 of the 2000 IPCC GPG, and leads to underestimation of emissions. In response to the draft review report, Estonia provided a revised estimate which resolved the issue raised. The TERT accepted the revised estimate.</p>			
Yes	4.D. Agricultural soils N ₂ O 1990–2010	<p>In the estimation of direct and indirect N₂O emission from sewage sludge application to soils (categories sewage sludge, atmospheric deposition and N leaching and run-off), Estonia included sewage sludge both from ‘Recycling/reclamation of organic substances which are not used as solvents (including composting and other biological transformation process)’ (category R-3 in the European Waste Catalogue) and ‘Land treatment resulting in benefit to agriculture or ecological improvement’ (R10). The N₂O emissions from the R3 category were also included in the waste sector, which lead to double-counting of emissions. During the review, Estonia provided revised N₂O emissions estimates for the sewage sludge, atmospheric deposition and N leaching and run-off categories based only on sewage sludge in the R10</p>	The TERT recommends that Estonia revises its GHG inventory following the revision submitted to TERT during the review.	Yes	No

Key category	Gas, fuel, activity	Observation	Recommendation	Revised estimate ⁽⁵⁾	Technical correction ⁽⁶⁾
		category. The TERT accepted the revised estimate.			

Annex 2 – Detailed technical corrections

There are no technical corrections applied to Estonia's estimates of emissions.

Annex 3 – Checks and tests completed

The initial checks (stage 1 and 2 checks), which cover the national inventory submissions, informed the stage 3 technical review with a view to:

- a) assess whether all emission source categories and gases are reported as required under Decision 280/2004/EC;
- b) assess whether sub-category sums are consistent with sectoral and national totals;
- c) assess whether emission data time series are consistent;
- d) assess whether implied emission factors across Member States are comparable;
- e) assess the use of 'Not Estimated' notation keys where IPCC Tier 1 methodologies exist;
- f) compare with the previous year's inventory submission of the Member State;
- g) limited sector-specific checks performed by ETC/ACM sector experts.

The EU initial checks were extended in 2012 to address additional elements needed for the 2012 technical review. The extended checks included:

- a) a detailed analysis of recalculations performed for the 2012 inventory submissions, in particular if recalculations are based on methodological changes.
- b) a comparison of the verified emissions reported under the EU ETS with the greenhouse gas emissions reported in GHG inventories. The verified emissions under the EU ETS are not fully comparable with the emissions reported in the GHG inventories. This comparison may only highlight areas where some Member States' data and trends deviate considerably from those of other Member States.
- c) a comparison of the results from Eurostat's reference and sectoral approach, based on energy data reported under Regulation (EC) No 1099/2008, with the Member States' reference and sectoral approach.

The specific activities of the 2012 technical review included:

- a) an analysis of the Member States' implementation of recommendations related to improving inventory estimates in accordance with the Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines and the 2000 IPCC good practice guidance (GPG) as listed in the UNFCCC Annual Review Reports from the 2010 and 2011 UNFCCC review processes. Where UNFCCC recommendations have not been implemented, the analysis included an assessment as to whether the Member State provided adequate justification for this;
- b) an assessment of the time series consistency of the greenhouse gas emissions estimates, with a particular focus on the 2005 and 2008-2010 estimates;
- c) checking whether problems identified for one Member State in UNFCCC reviews might also have been a problem for other Member States (whether identified by the UNFCCC expert review team or not);
- d) an assessment of any recalculations made by a Member State in its inventory since the previous submission, and an assessment as to whether these were transparently reported and were in accordance with IPCC good practice guidance;
- e) a follow-up on any outstanding findings from existing and extended stage 1 and 2 checks;
- f) the inclusion of revised estimates as provided by Member States in response to the review, and as accepted by the TERT during the review;
- g) the provision of an estimate for any 'technical correction' to emission estimates reported by a Member State where it is believed that emissions reported by the Member State are

overestimated, and a statement of the significance of these 'technical corrections' in comparison to the overall reported inventory estimates;

- h) the provision of recommendations where problems have been identified that do not require technical corrections.

Material from previous UNFCCC inventory reviews was used to inform the technical review, including the previous years' Annual Review Reports, which provide an indication of the overall quality of the inventory.

The TERT used additional technical information in the review process, such as EU ETS data, information from Eurostat, and F-gas data from the 'Preparatory study for a review of Regulation (EC) No 842/2006 on certain fluorinated greenhouse gases (⁷), as well as data from other international organisations.

⁷ Service contract 070307/2009/548866/SER/C4 to the European Commission

Annex 4 – Correspondence references

Date	Reference
16 April 2012	Final CRF and NIR submission under the MMD, version EST-2012-v1.3
21, 23 May 2012	Initial questions raised by the TERT during the desk review
5, 7, 8, 13 June 2012	Additional questions raised by the TERT during the centralised review
31 May, 5, 7, 8, 12, 14 June 2012	Responses from Estonia to TERT questions
21 June 2012	Draft technical corrections from TERT to Estonia
4 July 2012	Response from Estonia to TERT draft technical corrections
13 July 2012	Draft review report from TERT to Estonia
31 July, 8 August 2012	Response and additional information from Estonia to draft review report
13 August 2012	Draft final review report from TERT to Estonia
14 August 2012	Response and additional information from Estonia to final review report
17 August 2012	Final review report to European Commission