

## 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:

#### Interim 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		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States	-1		
European Union			+1
<b>Average Score</b>			<b>+0.44</b>

### 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.”<sup>268</sup> 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.<sup>269</sup>

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

<sup>268</sup> Greenhouse Gas Inventory Data, UNFCCC. Date of Access: 22 January 2009. [http://unfccc.int/ghg\\_data/items/3800.php](http://unfccc.int/ghg_data/items/3800.php).

<sup>269</sup> Kyoto Protocol, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Date of Access: December 17 2008. [http://unfccc.int/kyoto\\_protocol/items/2830.php](http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/items/2830.php).

binding targets.<sup>270</sup> 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.<sup>271</sup> 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.<sup>272</sup> 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.”<sup>273</sup> 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.”<sup>274</sup>

During the Hokkaido-Toyako Summit, G8 leaders agreed to endorse a 50 per cent cut in global GHG emissions by 2050.<sup>275</sup> 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.<sup>276</sup> G8 leaders have promised to pursue a new UNFCCC agreement incorporating this long-term goal.<sup>277</sup>

### **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

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<sup>270</sup> Kyoto Protocol, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Date of Access: December 17 2008. [http://unfccc.int/kyoto\\_protocol/items/2830.php](http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/items/2830.php).

<sup>271</sup> 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>.

<sup>272</sup> 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>.

<sup>273</sup> 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>.

<sup>274</sup> 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>.

<sup>275</sup> 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>.

<sup>276</sup> 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>.

<sup>277</sup> 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](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 <b>OR</b> goals are set for particular industries but not the economy as a whole <b>OR</b> 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 <b>AND</b> 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 <b>AND</b> the goal specifies a timeframe well ahead of 2050.

**Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to set economy-wide mid-term goals for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. It has announced both mid-term goals due in 2020 and long-term commitments due in 2050.

From 1-12 December 2008, Canada joined more than 190 countries in Poznań, Poland for the UNFCCC's 14<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 14).<sup>278</sup> 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."<sup>279</sup> Further, Minister Prentice affirmed Canada's long-term commitment to "reducing global greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50 percent by 2050."<sup>280</sup> These goals constitute compliance with this commitment.

Minister Prentice also said that Canada's objective is to produce 90 per cent of its electricity from non-emitting sources, and highlighted Alberta's commitment to invest in excess of CAD2.2 billion in the development of carbon capture and storage

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<sup>278</sup> 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>.

<sup>279</sup> 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](http://unfccc.int/files/kyoto_protocol/application/pdf/canadabap061208.pdf).

<sup>280</sup> 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>.

technologies.<sup>281</sup> Minister Prentice stated that effective climate change global measures were only possible with the commitment of the major world economies and expressed Canada's commitment to developing a North American-wide cap-and-trade system for greenhouse gases.<sup>282</sup>

In addition to reaffirming its commitment to the previously released targets, the Government of Canada continues to announce further details of its 2007 Turning the Corner: An Action Plan to Reduce Greenhouse Gases and Air Pollution, specifically the Credit for Early Action Program and the Offset Program.<sup>283</sup> The government expects to finalize and implement the proposed emissions regulations by fall 2009.<sup>284</sup> These regulations are to come into full force on 1 January 2010.<sup>285</sup>

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

*Analyst: Christopher Cosack*

### **France: +1**

France has fully complied with its commitment to implement economy-wide mid-term goals for the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) 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.<sup>286</sup> 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.<sup>287</sup>

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<sup>281</sup> Remarks for the Honourable Jim Prentice COP 14 National Statement, Ministry of the Environment (Ottawa) 11 December 2008. Date of Access: 14 December 2008. <http://www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=714D9AAE-1&news=A59C4FA1-1776-4DC6-81BD-D64F8B59123C>.

<sup>282</sup> Remarks for the Honourable Jim Prentice COP 14 National Statement, Ministry of the Environment (Ottawa) 11 December 2008. Date of Access: 14 December 2008. <http://www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=714D9AAE-1&news=A59C4FA1-1776-4DC6-81BD-D64F8B59123C>.

<sup>283</sup> Canada's Credit for Early Action Program, Environment Canada (Ottawa) 8 August 2008. Date of Access: 13 December 2008. <http://www.ec.gc.ca/cmap-cea/default.asp?lang=En&n=B148443A-1>.

<sup>284</sup> Regulatory Framework for Industrial Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Next Steps, Environment Canada (Ottawa) 14 August 2008. Date Accessed: 13 December 2008. [http://www.ec.gc.ca/doc/virage-corner/2008-03/541\\_eng.htm#next](http://www.ec.gc.ca/doc/virage-corner/2008-03/541_eng.htm#next).

<sup>285</sup> Regulatory Framework for Industrial Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Next Steps, Environment Canada (Ottawa) 14 August 2008. Date Accessed: 13 December 2008. [http://www.ec.gc.ca/doc/virage-corner/2008-03/541\\_eng.htm#next](http://www.ec.gc.ca/doc/virage-corner/2008-03/541_eng.htm#next).

<sup>286</sup> 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>.

<sup>287</sup> 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](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5h_fkxnBI3-FZ5aibVXlv01Dc9DPwD9516JP01).

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.<sup>288</sup> In December, EU leaders approved part of 20-20-20.<sup>289</sup> They agreed to collectively adopt the 20 per cent emission cut.<sup>290</sup> 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 goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

*Analyst: Chiara Magboo*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to implement economy-wide mid-term goals for the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Germany is unusual among industrialized countries in that it is on track to meet its Kyoto Protocol 2012 emissions reduction target.<sup>291</sup> Germany's emissions reductions, recently estimated at 22.4 per cent, reflect significant policy changes in support of renewable energy and conservation.<sup>292</sup> In recent months, 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."<sup>293</sup>

Nonetheless, Germany has agreed to the European Union's plan to confront climate change. 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.<sup>294</sup>

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<sup>288</sup> 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>.

<sup>289</sup> 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>.

<sup>290</sup> 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>.

<sup>291</sup> 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>.

<sup>292</sup> 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>.

<sup>293</sup> 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>.

<sup>294</sup> 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>.

In December, EU leaders approved part of 20-20-20.<sup>295</sup> They agreed to collectively adopt the 20 per cent emission cut.<sup>296</sup> Germany is bound to this target, which constitutes compliance with this commitment. Emissions cuts are to differ between member states based on capacity, and Germany has promised a 40 per cent cut in emissions by 2020.<sup>297</sup>

Thus, Germany has been awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: Natalie Antonowicz*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to implement economy-wide mid-term goals for the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) 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.<sup>298</sup> 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 year 2020.<sup>299</sup> The government claimed that the plan would force the Italian economy to bear costs that are 40 per cent higher than the European average.<sup>300</sup>

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.<sup>301</sup>

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.<sup>302</sup> However, Environment Minister Stefania Prestigiacomo has admitted that Italy is not on track to

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<sup>295</sup> 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>.

<sup>296</sup> 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>.

<sup>297</sup> 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>.

<sup>298</sup> 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/ALeqM5gQqWTAIbUZ79XJ2mVHp11sYCMC0w>.

<sup>299</sup> 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>.

<sup>300</sup> 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](http://www.minambiente.it/index.php?id_doc=1234&id_oggetto=2).

<sup>301</sup> 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>.

<sup>302</sup> 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](http://www.minambiente.it/index.php?id_doc=1234&id_oggetto=2).

meet its Kyoto Protocol commitments, noting that the country is trending towards a 13 per cent growth in emissions, rather than a 6.5 per cent reduction.<sup>303</sup>

Nonetheless, in December, Italy approved part of the 20-20-20 plan alongside other EU members.<sup>304</sup> They agreed to collectively adopt the 20 per cent emission cut.<sup>305</sup> Italy is bound to this target, which constitutes compliance with this commitment.

Thus, Italy has been awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: Daniel Fusca*

## **Japan: -1**

Japan has not complied with its commitment to implement economy-wide mid-term goals for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

At the Hokkaido-Toyako Summit, then Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda stated, "It's impossible to realize (a long-term goal) without the contributions of major gas emitting countries."<sup>306</sup> According to Kenichi Kobayashi, a Japanese negotiator at the Poznań UNFCCC meeting, the Japanese government has set up a committee to decide on emissions targets.<sup>307</sup> The country plans to announce new emissions reduction goals in 2009.<sup>308</sup> Recent reports, however, suggest that the committee in charge of setting a mid-term goal is deadlocked, with proposed targets on the table from zero to 40 per cent.<sup>309</sup>

Japan attended a conference on 22 October 2008 in Paris, promoting the sectoral approach towards total emissions reduction.<sup>310</sup> Some of the country's companies have begun participating in a trial carbon trading system.<sup>311</sup> This scheme, since it is voluntary, could not be the basis of any economy-wide emissions reductions.

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<sup>303</sup> Tough talks on EU climate plans, BBC News International (London) 20 October 2008. Date of Access: 10 December 2008. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7679780.stm>.

<sup>304</sup> 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>.

<sup>305</sup> 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>.

<sup>306</sup> G8 offers halving of emissions by 2050: Burden-sharing offer puts ball in developing nations' court, The Japan Times (Toyako) 9 July 2008. Date of Access: 11 December 2008. <http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20080709a1.html>.

<sup>307</sup> Japan Plans New Climate Goal in 2009, Not at UN Talks, Bloomberg (Poznan) 2 December 2008. Date of Access: 12 December 2008. <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601101&sid=a4XWNYhNWEQw&refer=japan>.

<sup>308</sup> Japan Plans New Climate Goal in 2009, Not at UN Talks, Bloomberg (Poznan) 2 December 2008. Date of Access: 12 December 2008. <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601101&sid=a4XWNYhNWEQw&refer=japan>.

<sup>309</sup> 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>.

<sup>310</sup> Japan's View on Sectoral Approach, Japanese Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo), 22 October 2008. Date of Access: 10 December 2008. [http://www.env.go.jp/en/earth/cc/2nd\\_iwserp/01\\_japan.pdf](http://www.env.go.jp/en/earth/cc/2nd_iwserp/01_japan.pdf).

<sup>311</sup> Eco-friendly economies, The Asahi Shimbun (Tokyo) 26 November 2008. Date of Access: 11 December 2008. <http://www.asahi.com/english/Herald-asahi/TKY200811260062.html>.

Thus, Japan has been awarded a score of -1 for failing to establish mid-term economy-wide goals for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

*Analyst: Natalie Antonowicz*

### **Russia: 0**

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to implement economy-wide mid-term goals for the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Russia has set a mid-term target for energy use reduction, but has not set a broader goal on economy-wide emissions reductions.

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.<sup>312</sup> According to the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation, this goal taps into all of Russia's energy saving potential.<sup>313</sup>

Russia is on track to meet its existing emissions reductions targets. In February 2007, the Russian Fourth National Communication submitted forecasts for GHG emissions to the UNFCCC. Russian GHG emissions were predicted to be 91 per cent of the 1990 levels in 2020.<sup>314</sup> At the time, Russia's actual emissions were 70 per cent of the 1990 level.<sup>315</sup>

Thus, Russia has been awarded a score of 0 for setting a mid-term goal for energy use, which should lead to GHG emission reductions in some sectors of the economy.

*Analyst: Natalya Churkina*

### **United Kingdom: +1**

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to implement economy-wide mid-term goals for the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) 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.<sup>316</sup> The Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs has described the legislation as “the world's first long-term legally binding framework to

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<sup>312</sup> 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: 7 December 2008. <http://document.kremlin.ru/doc.asp?ID=046255>.

<sup>313</sup> Russia presented its position on the GHG emissions reduction potential after 2012, Russian Regional Environmental Centre, (Moscow) 4 December 2008. Date of access: 7 December 2008. <http://www.rusrec.ru/ru/news/1529>.

<sup>314</sup> Russian Progress Report for the Fourth National Communication, UNFCCC (Moscow) 13 February 2007. Date of access: 7 December 2008. <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/dpr/rus1.pdf>.

<sup>315</sup> Russian Progress Report for the Fourth National Communication, UNFCCC (Moscow) 13 February 2007. Date of access: 7 December 2008. <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/dpr/rus1.pdf>.

<sup>316</sup> 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>.



tackle the dangers of climate change.”<sup>317</sup> The bill outlines several key targets that would impact carbon emissions domestically and internationally. Among the provisions is a legally binding objective of a 26 per cent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2020 (measured against a 1990 baseline).<sup>318</sup> This provision constitutes full compliance with the G8 commitment to implement economy-wide mid-term GHG reduction goals.

In a speech made on 9 December 2008, the Secretary of Energy and Climate Change Ed Miliband argued for a shift in UK energy policy that would cut carbon emissions and set higher carbon prices.<sup>319</sup> He emphasized the need for the British government to intervene in the market and take a more active role in the fight against climate change. Miliband stated that “the costs of not acting are greater than the costs of acting.”<sup>320</sup>

Thus, the United Kingdom has been awarded a score of +1 for targets codified in the Climate Change Act.

*Analyst: Chiara Magboo*

### **United States: -1**

The United States has failed to comply with its commitment to implement economy-wide mid-term goals for the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) EMISSIONS. The United States has yet to set any mid-term goal to reduce emissions.

Mid-term goals are still on the American political agenda. 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.

The United States has yet to act on its commitment to implement economy-wide mid-term goals to reduce GHGs. Thus, it has been awarded a score of -1.

*Analyst: Christopher Cosack*

### **European Union: +1**

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to implement economy-wide mid-term goals for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The EU has taken

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<sup>317</sup> 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>.

<sup>318</sup> 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>.

<sup>319</sup> Ed Miliband Seeks More Power for State in UK Energy Industry, The Times (London) 10 December 2008. Date of Access: 13 December 2008.

[http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/industry\\_sectors/utilities/article5315428.ece](http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/industry_sectors/utilities/article5315428.ece).

<sup>320</sup> Address by Secretary of Energy and Climate Change Ed Miliband at Imperial College, Department of Energy and Climate Change (London) 9 December 2008. Date of Access: 13 December 2008.

<http://www.decc.gov.uk/pdfs/miliband-speech-imperial-091208.pdf>.

concrete steps to implement its goal of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) 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 per cent increase in the use of renewable energy by the year 2020.<sup>321</sup>

In December, EU leaders approved part of 20-20-20.<sup>322</sup> They agreed to collectively adopt the 20 per cent emission cut.<sup>323</sup>

The EU plans to achieve its emissions cuts by reducing the number of CO<sub>2</sub> permits issued under its Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS).<sup>324</sup> About 40 per cent of the EU's emissions are currently covered by ETS.<sup>325</sup> Eventually, all major industrial emitters should be covered by ETS, but in the meantime, they will be held to a binding 10 per cent emissions cut.<sup>326</sup>

Thus, the EU has been awarded a score of +1 for implementing its economy-wide mid-term goals.

*Analyst: Nicole Cargill*

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