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EU Kyoto targets

EU-15 target within reach, but only by a thin margin

The **report**, 'Greenhouse gas emission trends and projections in Europe 2006', **presents an evaluation of historic data between 1990 and 2004**. It also evaluates projections of European countries' progress towards their 2010 greenhouse gas emissions targets.

The EU-15 has a Kyoto target to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 8 % on 1990 levels by 2012. Within this overall target, each EU-15 member state has a differentiated emissions target, which can be achieved by a variety of means.
Between 1990 and 2004, EU-15 greenhouse gas emissions decreased from most sectors, the report says. However, **emissions from the transport sector increased by nearly 26 % and are projected to increase to 35 % above 1990 levels by 2010, if countries use only existing policies.** If additional policies are implemented, Member States project that transport emissions will, at best, stabilise at 2004 levels.

Despite the projection of overall compliance, seven of the EU-15 are projected to fall short of their individual targets under the EU's burden-sharing agreement, even if they implement all planned climate policies and use Kyoto mechanisms and carbon sinks to the extent they currently predict. **Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, Italy, Portugal and Spain could face EU infringement actions** if they fail to meet the target.

The **ten new EU Member States** are not part of the joint EU-15 target and all, except Cyprus and Malta, have individual targets under the Kyoto Protocol. They **are all on track to meet their targets**, but this is largely due to the collapse of economies in the 1990s and **emissions are now rising again in these countries.**

Overall the prediction is less rosy than the similar assessment last year: a fact that highlights the difficulties the member states have to fullfill their targets!

For the full report:
EEA GHG assessment

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