



SUBMISSION BY SPAIN ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND ITS MEMBER STATES, AND BULGARIA, CROATIA, CYPRUS, CZECH REPUBLIC, ESTONIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, POLAND, ROMANIA, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA

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RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EFFORTS TO PROTECT THE STRATOSPHERIC OZONE LAYER AND EFFORTS TO SAFEGUARD THE GLOBAL CLIMATE SYSTEM: ISSUES RELATING TO HFCS AND PFCs. INFORMATION ASPECTS NOTED IN DECISION 17/CP.5

Spain, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, and Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia welcome the opportunity to submit their views on the information aspects noted in Decision 17/CP.5, as requested by SBSTA at its 15th session.

Introduction

At the 8th session of SBSTA, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Program underscored the need for close cooperation between institutions in the United Nations family and for a better scientific assessment of the linkages between Conventions and of possible synergies in their programmes, for example, with respect to the cross-cutting environmental demands posed by hydrofluorocarbon gases. At the 9th session of SBSTA, the issue of available technologies to limit and reduce emissions of HFCs and PFCs and the relationship between the Kyoto Protocol and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was also raised.

At its 4th session, the Conference of the Parties took note of the SBSTA work on this issue and adopted Decision 13/CP.4 entitled "Relationship between efforts to protect the stratospheric ozone layer and efforts to safeguard the global climate system: issues related to hydrofluorocarbons and perfluorocarbons". This decision invited Parties, international organizations and private institutions to provide information on available and potential ways and means of limiting emissions of HFCs and PFCs, and requests the Secretariat to compile such information. The decision also encouraged the convening of a workshop by the IPCC and the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel of the Montreal Protocol to assist the SBSTA in this issue.

At its 5th session, the Conference of the Parties took note of the report on the joint IPCC/TEAP meeting, held in Petten (the Netherlands) from 26 to 28 May 1999, and noted with appreciation the information provided under Decision 13/CP.4, that was available at the UNFCCC web site. The

COP, on the recommendation of the SBSTA, adopted decision 17/CP.5 entitled “Relationship between efforts to protect the stratospheric ozone layer and efforts to safeguard the global climate system”, that invited Parties to give consideration to the information on available and potential ways and means of limiting emissions of HFCs and PFCs, and requested the SBSTA to give further consideration to information aspects of this issue.

At the 15th session of the SBSTA, the EU recalled the need to implement decision 17/CP.5 and suggested that the “relationship between efforts to protect the stratospheric ozone layer and efforts to safeguard the global climate system” would become a substantive agenda item at the next SBSTA session.

Latest findings and EU views on this issue

Ozone depletion and global climate change are linked through physical and chemical processes in the atmosphere. CFCs, HCFCs and halons are ozone depleting substances, as well as anthropogenic greenhouse gases, and are controlled under the 1987 Montreal Protocol and its Adjustment and Amendments. While CFCs are largely banned in developed countries since 1996, HCFCs consumption is being subjected to a gradual phase-out until 2020 (2040 for developing countries). HFCs have no ozone depleting potential but produced and often promoted as replacements for CFCs and HCFCs. However, the fluorinated gases covered by the Kyoto Protocol (HFCs, PFCs and SF₆) are potent greenhouse gases with high global warming potentials. These are increasingly being used in many applications and emitted from a wide range of sources in markets with very different characteristics.

The IPCC states that “the abundances of the HCFCs and HFCs are increasing as a result of continuation of earlier uses and of their use as substitutes for the CFCs ... Because current concentrations are relatively low, the present contribution of HFCs to radiative forcing is relatively small”. Although future emissions of HFCs, in particular, strongly depend on the technologies involved in their production and use, all emission scenarios recently developed by IPCC predict that global emissions and atmospheric concentrations of most of the fluorinated gases will grow substantially in coming decades, increasing their contribution to radiative forcing and global warming. The IPCC also recognises that this assumption carries a substantial uncertainty.

The EU and other Parties mentioned above see that this likely future growth of fluorinated gas emissions, in particular HFCs, is a cause for concern and considers that additional policies and measures, such as regulatory instruments and voluntary agreements, are needed to avoid uncontrolled growth of emissions. Many studies clearly establish that there is a significant potential for the reduction of emissions of fluorinated gases from business as usual scenarios in most market segments. Consequently, the EU, as announced in the European Climate Change Programme, has begun to develop a Framework Directive on Fluorinated gases. This is expected to include containment of emissions from stationary and mobile sources, monitoring of quantities of fluorinated gases being placed on the market as well as marketing and use restrictions, where appropriate, for relevant applications where viable alternatives are available and if improvement of containment is not feasible. The directive would also take into account existing voluntary initiatives by some fluorinated gases industry sectors, where the development of alternatives is still ongoing.

Further examination of available options to reduce the emissions of fluorinated gases (alternative substances and technologies, containment, improved system or process design, and end of product life recovery for recycling or destruction) are required, avoiding developments which would make it more difficult for Parties in future to comply with the emission reduction targets.

Stratospheric ozone and climate protection efforts are also financially linked. Further more coordinated investment would often be highly cost-effective and could encourage conversion to alternatives to ozone depleting substances that demonstrate better Life Cycle Climate Performance, safeguarding both the ozone layer and the climate system. We believe that a careful assessment is needed of more explicit coordinated actions that might be taken by Parties to address the environmental problems of stratospheric ozone depletion and climate change, in pursuing the achievement of the Annex I Parties commitments under the Kyoto Protocol and developed and developing countries commitments under the Montreal Protocol.

Actions to be taken

Increasing the awareness with respect to climate change issues is required to lead to changes in behaviour and to support solutions responding to climate change. The exchange of knowledge and experiences would be beneficial for Parties in support of actions to reduce the emissions of fluorinated gases and in the achievement of their commitments under the Kyoto Protocol.

Therefore, the EU and other Parties mentioned above identify as priorities the following actions to be taken in implementing decision 17/CP.5:

1. Identify and update information on available and potential ways and means of limiting emissions of fluorinated gases, taking account of, inter alia, health, medical, environmental and safety considerations, energy and resource efficiency and associated emissions in carbon dioxide equivalent, and technical and economic considerations. This should be done by requesting IPCC, in close cooperation with TEAP, to:
 - (a) carry out integrated and independent assessments of relevant technologies in order to facilitate a comparison between the feasibility and environmental impact of using fluorinated gases and alternatives,
 - (b) develop an user guide or handbook on “best practices” for minimizing emissions of fluorinated gases, covering both technologies and system design, including the following:
 - (i) improvement of containment technologies during the life cycle of equipment (manufacturing, use and decommissioning),
 - (ii) use of alternative fluids with zero/low GWP,
 - (iii) use of not-in-kind (NIK) technologies,
 - (iv) process modifications to avoid or reduce by-product formation or emission.
2. Update information under both Protocols on the relationship between efforts to protect the stratospheric ozone layer and efforts to safeguard the global climate system by:
 - (a) Requesting Parties and international organizations to report on:
 - (i) regulations and other measures in place and/or under consideration,
 - (ii) coverage and accuracy of emissions’ monitoring and verification;
 - (b) Compiling relevant information from third National Communications.
3. Promotion of coordinated actions to address the environmental problems of stratospheric ozone depletion and climate change:
 - (a) examine the feasibility of establishing international voluntary and/or negotiated agreements with selected sectors and industries;
 - (b) request UNEP to consider how to improve the coordination of specialized financial institutions, such as the Global Environment Facility and the Multilateral Fund, with the view to improve the provided assistance under the Montreal Protocol and the Kyoto Protocol.
 - (c) request the UNFCCC COP and the MP MOP to consider the possibility of jointly financing projects from the Multilateral Fund and the Clean Development Mechanism,

enabling developing countries that wish to do so to replace ODS technologies by low or non GHG-emitting technologies in one step.

4. Raise awareness amongst Parties and stakeholders by convening meetings and side events at sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies, other relevant intergovernmental and international conferences, if possible in collaboration with relevant NGOs, using the re-sources of the UNFCCC Secretariat, the Montreal Protocol's Ozone Secretariat if appropriate, and/or interested Parties under the guidance of the Convention bodies and its Chairpersons.

These actions should be complemented by the UNFCCC Secretariat with regular reports on progress made.

The EU and other Parties mentioned above believe that Annex I Parties and interested international organizations, and non-Annex I Parties in a position to do so, should provide the necessary financial and/or technical support for selected activities identified above. Such support could also be in the form of hosting workshops, side events, databases and other web-based tools, and by funding the publication, translation and/or free distribution of relevant documents and reports.

Timing

The EU and other Parties mentioned above propose that the SBSTA, at its 16th session, should therefore consider this issue in order to elaborate a concrete proposal on the actions to be taken and report to the Conference of the Parties at its 8th session.
