



# NATIONAL REPORT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION – SEPTEMBER 2015

Enhanced Black Carbon and Methane Emissions  
Reductions– an Arctic Council Framework for Action



## Report to the Arctic Council Secretariat

### EU actions relevant to the Framework on Enhanced Black Carbon and Methane Reductions

#### 1. Summary of current black carbon emissions to CLRTAP

- The *European Environment Agency (EEA)* has compiled the emission inventory information on black carbon emissions voluntarily and reported for the first time in 2015 by EU Member States to the LRTAP Convention. Nineteen Member States reported data incl. the Arctic countries DEN, FIN and SWE as well as a number of other AC observer countries: FRA, ITA, NEL, and UK. A summary of this information may be found in the annual [European Union emission inventory report 1990-2013](#) submitted to the Convention and which was published in June 2015. Table 2.11 shows the summary of information reported – data from the report can be explored/downloaded in the [accompanying data viewer](#).

#### 2. Summary of current methane emissions to UNFCCC

- Due to delays in reporting of UNFCCC GHG data this year, official 2015 ghg inventory figures are not yet available. In the meantime, information on EU GHG emission of methane from last year are available in the [EU GHG inventory report \(1990-2012\)](#) and [data viewer](#) – projections are given in summary tables in the [Trends and projections report](#). The reports include the 3 Arctic MS as well as all of the European observer countries in the Arctic Council.

#### 3. Summary of National Actions, National Action Plans, or Mitigation Strategies by sector

*N/A (The EEA have an ongoing project which might at a later stage provide a summary of national action plans)*

#### 4. Highlights of best practices or lessons learned for key sectors

*N/A*

#### 5. EU Projects relevant for the Arctic

##### - PACAR - Policies and atmospheric change impacting the Arctic (2015-2017)

Managed by the EU *Joint Research Centre (JRC)*

- This project uses scientific cooperation through participation in bodies of the Arctic Council to strengthen the links between EU institutions and the Arctic Council and contributes to the development of an EU policy on the Arctic. PACAR focuses on how policies on air pollution and climate impact the Arctic by studying the atmospheric lifecycle of short-lived pollutants (such as black carbon) emitted in the Northern Hemisphere and transported to the Arctic and their potential impact on the regional climate.
- Deliverables

- The study will develop a novel mathematical methodology to combine the information from the circulation model outputs and atmospheric reanalysis in order to correlate weather patterns with transport and deposition of black carbon and other pollutants. (Dec. 2015)
- A study, in support to the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme, to estimate the hemispheric transport to and deposition of black carbon and other pollutants in the Arctic in the coming decades, and evaluate the relative impacts of ongoing and future policy options and of changing weather patterns arising from climate change. Both a statistical mathematical approach and a fully coupled global climate model will be applied. (Dec. 2016)
- Building on the study foreseen on trends in global CH<sub>4</sub> 1990-2012, which includes an analysis of methane in the Arctic, we will examine other pressures on the Arctic environment arising from climate impacts on the Arctic atmosphere, sea ice and ocean. By comparing processes in each of these compartments with the current trends in methane releases, we can infer both future trends in methane releases and the likelihood of potential tipping points. (Dec. 2017)

#### - EU Adaptation Strategy

- The **EU Adaptation Strategy**, adopted in April 2013, identifies the Arctic as particularly vulnerable to climate change. The Strategy provides the necessary framework and mechanisms to help Member States and regions to build their adaptive capacity.
- Information on adaptation strategies, plans and best practices are being collected and shared through the **Climate-ADAPT** web platform as part of the EU strategy on climate change adaptation. Climate-ADAPT has a specific section on transnational regions, where the European Arctic countries are represented as the 'Northern Periphery region'.
- As part of the EU Adaptation Strategy, a **Staff Working Document** was adopted on "climate change, environmental degradation and migration".
- **Planned relocation** is already occurring in some parts of the world (e.g. Fiji). In other parts (e.g. **Alaska**), affected populations are pressing authorities to assist them to relocate. In Alaska, indigenous communities have been documenting changes in their environmental and living conditions for decades and the government is assisting them to learn about what is projected to happen. The Newtok Traditional Council identified 6 potential relocation sites and evaluated habitability and acquired land for relocation in 2003. Since more and more people live in regions and locations highly vulnerable to disasters and other impacts of climate change, planned relocation, together with migration, has an important role to play in future strategies to respond and adapt to such impacts. Accordingly, States may use planned relocation as a potential policy option to protect affected populations. Such state relocation guidelines are being developed as part of a multi-partner project funded by the European Commission,

whose overall aim is to address a legal gap regarding cross-border displacement in the context of disasters. The project brings together UNHCR, NRC/IDMC and the **Nansen Initiative** (<http://www.unhcr.org/54082cc69.html>).

#### - Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme

- Investment opportunities for the 2014-2020 programming period are provided for the Arctic through the **Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme 2014-2020**. NPA 2014-2020 is part of the European Territorial Cooperation Objective, supported by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and ERDF equivalent funding from non EU partner countries:  
<http://www.northernperiphery.eu/en/content/show/&tid=232>
- NPA 2014-2020 aims to generate vibrant, competitive and sustainable communities through transnational cooperation. Four priority axes have been developed to achieve the programme vision: (1) Using Innovation to Maintain And Develop Robust And Competitive Communities; (2) Promoting Entrepreneurship to Realise the Potential of the Programme Area's Competitive Advantage; (3) Fostering Energy-Secure Communities through Promotion of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency and (4) Protecting, Promoting and Developing Cultural and Natural Heritage
- The Programme will allocate approximately €56 million to projects with a maximum total budget of €2 million. A precondition for funding is that projects provide at least 35-50% of the total project costs as match funding through own or national or regional sources. However, SMEs always have to provide a minimum of 50% of their costs in match funding.
- In the area of adaptation to climate change, a project called "**Clim-ATIC**" was funded by the previous **NPA 2007-2013** to establish a sustainable advice and training service for community on climate change adaptation across the whole of the Northern Periphery (<http://www.clim-atic.org/>).

#### - Other relevant projects

- Two research projects funded by the Commission, **ARCRISK** and **CLEAR** examined the health risks resulting for Arctic populations from climate change induced changes in the distribution of environmental pollutants.

#### 6. Other information if available (e.g., climate, health, environmental, economic effects of emissions and mitigation)"

N/A