

II. Analysis and assessment of policies and measures.

4. In order to contribute to the analysis and assessment of policies and measures, France would firstly like to recall the main points of the energy policy it has pursued since the first oil crisis. This policy indeed allowed it to reduce very considerably its CO₂ emissions and therefore its contribution to the human induced greenhouse effect already before 1990¹. These results were obtained owing to the combination of a strict energy economy policy and a vast nuclear power programme. The development of the nuclear park has made it possible to divide by ten the CO₂ content of a kWh.

Among the energy-saving policies and measures adopted, mention can be made of the following, for example :

- definition of strict regulations aimed at encouraging energy conservation. Thermal regulations for housing are a good example in this respect ;
- fiscal policy. High fuel taxes, higher than in most developed countries, have in the past greatly helped hold down carbon dioxide emissions. At the same time many tax incentives designed to improve energy efficiency were instituted as early as 1974, particularly in the housing and industrial sectors ;
- a major energy conservation and energy efficiency programme. To implement these actions France has had an Energy Conservation Agency (Agence pour les économies d'énergie) since 1974 which has influenced final demand and been active in working with industry. This structure has developed over the years into a centre of specialized skills and expertise.

A thorough national assessment is currently being made of these energy-saving policies and measures.

5. In accordance with subparagraph 4.2.a), France has adopted policies and measures to limit further its net emissions of greenhouse gases. It also wishes to draw the attention of the Parties to the lessons it has learnt from the elaboration of its national communication:

¹The scope of this policy allowed France, between 1980 and 1990, to reduce its CO₂ emissions per capita more than any other European Union Member State (-26% as against a Community average of -19.3%) ; within the OECD, only Sweden (today a member of the E.U.) has witnessed a greater reduction of this ratio.