

BELGIUM

1. Official Position

The Government Declaration of May 1988 on the environment showed that Belgium is sensitive to protection of the environment. However, Belgium has no precise objectives or strategies to address the specific question of GHG emissions.

The general policy on environment would consist of pursuing energy efficiency improvements, an energy pricing policy taking into account the environmental aspects, continued R&D, continued nuclear energy and the development of CHP.

Belgium considers that to deal with such an important and global problem as climate change a comprehensive approach in the EC framework and more generally in the international context (e.g. Toronto) is best.

2. Factors Influencing Decisions

The environment has become a priority in public opinion and in politics and each political party has developed an environmental plan.

The energy situation in Belgium is characterised by its important nuclear industry for electricity generation. Nuclear energy represented 61.7 per cent of the fuel inputs in 1989 in electricity generation. The development of nuclear energy for electricity production has greatly contributed to the reduction of CO₂ emissions.

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