

Please find our attached press release, with new analysis showing that flaws in the way the European Environment Agency and EU Member States have forecast emissions mean near-future cuts have been dramatically underestimated.

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Inflated CO2 Forecasts hide the fact that the EU is on track for 30% cuts by 2020

[Sandbag's new analysis](#) reveals that Member State forecasts for both 2014 and 2015 are significantly above actual emission levels. If real emissions are used, the trajectory of European emissions changes significantly. The EU is not on track for emission cuts of 25% by 2020, as the EEA estimates. Instead, EU emissions will be 30% below 1990 levels by the end of this decade. In 2014 EU emissions already reached minus 23% compared to 1990.

Sandbag's new data only covers emissions in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). If emissions in the non-traded sector are equally miscalculated (as seems likely, given the modelling is equivalent) the EU is on track for an emissions fall even greater than 30% by 2020.

In the attached briefing, Sandbag shows:

- 1. The Member State forecasts are structurally flawed.** Even 2014 is over-estimated by 5.1%, and it is likely that 2015 will be over-estimated by a similar magnitude.
- 2. Forecasts to 2020 do not mirror reality.** Member States in aggregate forecast that ETS emissions will fall only 0.8% per year, from 2014 actual emissions. This seems highly implausible, given the tightening restrictions on coal, increase in renewable electricity and fall in electricity consumption.

Dave Jones, Energy Analyst at Sandbag, commented:

"With the Paris UNFCCC talks starting imminently it is important that the EU is aware of the degree to which current emissions projections in the EU are out of step with reality. Member State modellers have shown a consistent inability to correctly forecast falling emissions. The fall in electricity consumption in advanced economies, coupled with tightening restrictions on coal and the growth in renewables, has surprised many analysts, but corrections to the models have been slow coming."

"The knowledge that the EU will likely go past 30% emissions reductions by 2020 creates room for negotiators to take on a more realistic target for 2020 and 2030. This could help to close the gap that exists between the INDCs being discussed in Paris and the emissions reductions needed to stay within the 2 degree global goal."

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Sandbag is a UK-based not-for-profit think tank conducting research and campaigning for environmentally effective climate policies.

Our research focus includes the phase-out of old coal in Europe; deep decarbonisation of industry through technologies including Carbon Capture Utilisation & Storage; reform of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme; and increasing ambition in the EU 2020 and 2030 climate & energy packages.

For more information visit www.sandbag.org.uk