

## WS.7 Treatment of Emission Trading Schemes

### Instructions

For each question, please provide the answer by clicking the relevant check box or by typing in the framed textboxes, which will automatically expand to fit the text.

Please note that the survey may reach one or more contacts in your agency; however, only one response is expected. A printable version of the questionnaire and the guidance note are available at the SNA Consultations webpage of the United Nations Statistics Division. If you have any questions, please contact:

**[jorrit.zwijnenburg@oecd.org](mailto:jorrit.zwijnenburg@oecd.org)** and **[sna@un.org](mailto:sna@un.org)**. We look forward to and highly appreciate your collaboration.

Sincerely,  
Wellbeing and Sustainability Task Team

Please provide your information below:

Country \_\_\_\_\_  
Institution/Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Position/Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

### 1. Your response concerns which area of statistics?

Please select all that apply

- National Accounts
- External Sector Statistics
- Environmental-Economic Accounts
- Government Finance Statistics

### 2A. Is this topic of relevance for your country?

- High relevance
- Medium relevance
- Low relevance
- Not relevant

**2B.** Please elaborate.

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## Summary

One of the research items on the SNA agenda is a re-examination of the treatment and recording of emissions trading schemes in the national accounts. Currently it is recommended to record all emissions trading schemes (ETS) as taxes on production, in part because the SNA notes that these permits do not involve the use of a natural asset. This note proposes alternative methods in which the atmosphere is viewed as a natural asset and therefore, proceeds from ETS permits sold by governments are not recorded as taxes but (1) as sales of non-produced assets or (2) as a rent payable for the right to use a non-produced asset, i.e. the atmosphere, for emitting CO<sub>2</sub>. The note also outlines two options (including the current SNA guidance) to record ETS as taxes on production.

## Significance of the issue

- 3.** Does a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission trading scheme exist in your country?
- Yes
  - No

This Question is Conditionally Hidden if: (3 = No)

- 4A.** If yes, in general terms and irrespective of any recording option, how would you qualify the data availability in your country to account for this scheme?
- Good
  - Reasonable
  - Bad

This Question is Conditionally Hidden if: (4A = Good OR 3 = No)

- 4B.** Please explain the main obstacles.

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## The atmosphere as an asset

**5A.** Do agree with the recognition of the atmosphere as an *implicit* asset (not to be recorded in the SNA balance sheet), as explained in the guidance note?

- Yes
- No

This Question is Conditionally Hidden if: (5A = Yes)

**5B.** If no, please motivate your objections:

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## The preferred option

**6A.** What would be your preferred option for recording emission trading schemes?

- Option 1: Emissions permits recorded as a non-produced non-financial asset – contracts, leases, and licenses
- Option 2: Emissions permits recorded as a resource lease (financial asset), with resource rent recorded at surrender
- Option 3: Emissions permits recorded as contract, leases, and licenses, with taxes on production recorded at auction
- Option 4a: Emission permits recorded as a financial asset, with taxes on production recorded at surrender (at issuance value)
- Option 4b: Emission Permits recorded as a financial asset with taxes on production at surrender (at surrender value)
- Option 5: Emission Permits recorded as split assets, with taxes on production recorded at surrender
- Other (please explain below)

This Question is Conditionally Hidden if: (6A ≠ Other (please explain below))

**6B.** If Other, please explain:

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## Feasibility

**7A.** How do you regard the feasibility of compiling your preferred option? (0 = Not feasible at all to 10 = Highly feasible)

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**7B.** Please explain where you see main strengths and challenges:

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**8.** Do you have any other comments in relation to the proposals in this Guidance Note?

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**9.** Would your institution be interested in participating in an experimental estimate exercise?

- Yes
- No

**10.** In order to maximize transparency, we would like to publish responses to global consultations.

Do you give consent that your response to this questionnaire can be published?

- Yes
- No

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