

Are the Mediterranean countries controlling their CO₂ emissions and are they respecting their international commitments?

8. Greenhouse gas emissions

One of the objectives of the Kyoto Protocol, amended in Bonn in July 2001 and in force since 2005, is to reduce worldwide greenhouse gas emissions by 5.2% by 2012 compared to 1990 figures. The EU committed itself to reducing 8% of its CO₂ emissions by sharing out the efforts among the member states.

In the Mediterranean, 7 countries are officially committed to reducing or controlling their emissions: (-8 %) in Croatia, Monaco and Slovenia, Italy (-6.5%), France (stabilising), Spain (+15 %) and Greece (+25 %). The other countries have no obligation to reduce emissions.

The EU-27 committed itself in 2007 to reducing 20% of its CO₂ emissions by 2020, (compared to 1990 emissions)

CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion are still increasing in most Mediterranean countries.

The rise in CO₂ emissions between 1990 and 2005 was higher than the national objectives in all of the countries.

The CO₂ emissions from energy decreased in 3 countries (Serbia-Montenegro, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina). They increased of more than 100% in Morocco and Lebanon. Out of the Mediterranean European countries, only France stabilised the emissions growth (9%)

In 2006, a Mediterranean citizen emitted an average of 4.9 tonnes of CO₂ per year, i.e. a little more than the world average (4.3 tonnes), but almost two times less than a EU-27 inhabitant (9 tonnes) and almost four times less than a USA inhabitant (about 20 tonnes of CO₂ per annum).

In the North, the CO₂ emissions per inhabitant are extremely variable: from 1.5 tonne per inhabitant in Albania to 10 in Cyprus in 2005. The differences in CO₂ emissions per inhabitant are also striking in the southern and eastern Mediterranean countries: from 1.5 in Morocco to 8 tonnes in Libya.

These values can be compared to the ratio of CO₂ emissions per commercial energy consumption. The ratio in the Mediterranean countries ranges from 1.5 tCO₂/toe in France to 3.3 tCO₂ in Greece.

Definition

This indicator corresponds to a grouping together of the annual national emissions of human origin from the main greenhouse gases: CO₂, N₂O, CH₄, HFC, PFC and SF₆.

Precautions / Notes

In this fact sheet, only CO₂ emissions from solid combustibles, cement works and the burning of gas are taken into account. On average, they make up 80 % of the emissions of human origin from greenhouse gases.

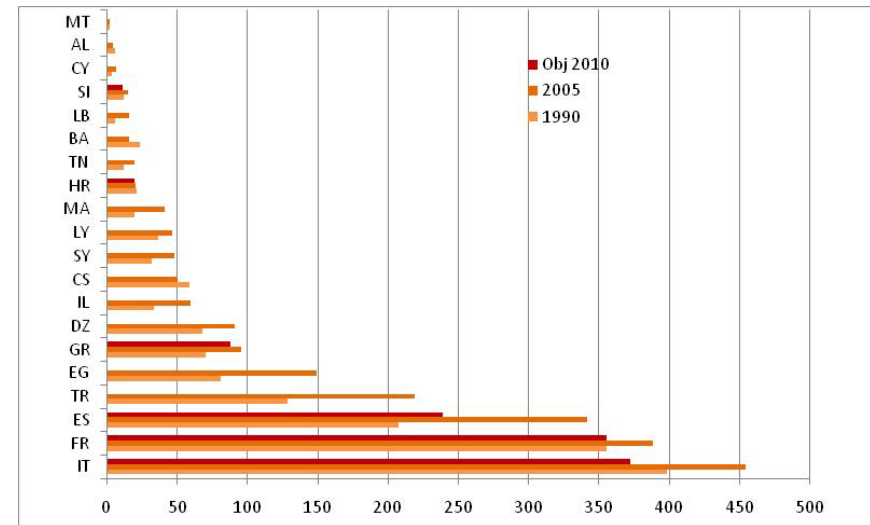
Sources / References

World Resources Institut – Climate Analysis Indicators Tools (WRI-CAIT)

Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center (CDIAC)

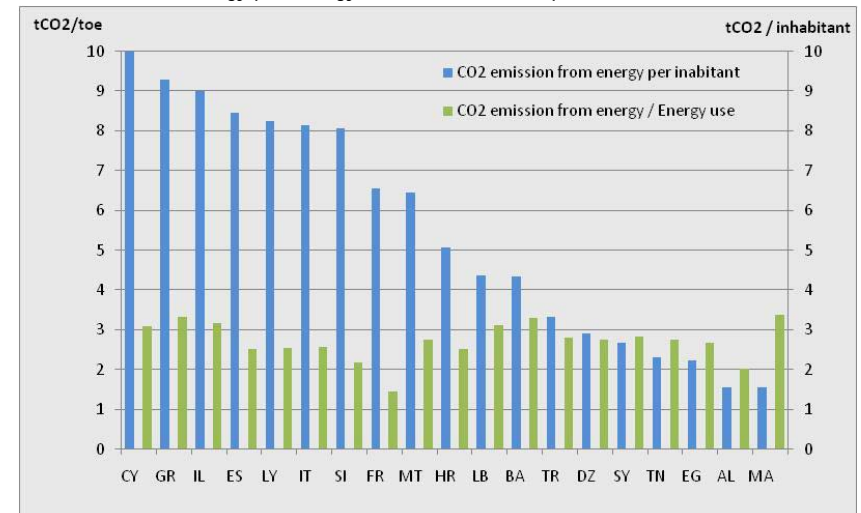
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

CO₂ emissions (from fossil fuels) in Mt of CO₂



Source : WRI - CAIT 6.0

CO₂ emissions from energy per energy use (tCO₂/toe) and per inhabitant (tCO₂/inhab) - 2005



Source : WRI - CAIT 6.0