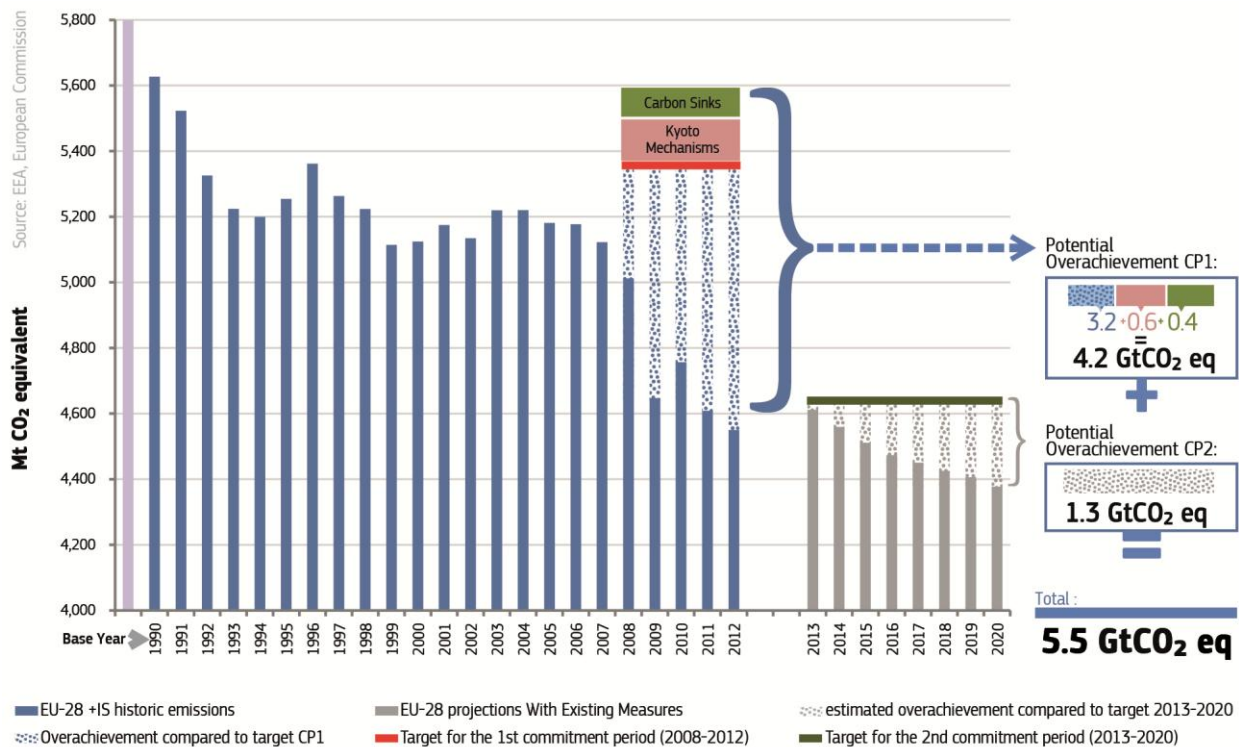


Closing the pre-2020 'ambition gap': the EU contribution

The EU is set to substantially over-achieve its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions targets, leading to an estimated additional reduction of 5.5 billion tonnes of CO₂-equivalent by 2020 over and above its Kyoto Protocol commitments. This is the result of more than a decade of determined and effective climate action at both EU and Member State level. The EU's over-achievement represents a significant contribution towards closing the gap between current global emission pledges for 2020 and the reductions needed to achieve the internationally agreed target of keeping global warming below 2°C.

Figure 1: Estimated total potential overachievement during the first Kyoto Protocol commitment period (2008-2012) and second commitment period (2013-2020) (EU-28 and Iceland)



- ✓ Over the first Kyoto Protocol commitment period (2008-2012), average annual emissions were 18.8% below base year levels (in most cases 1990¹).
- ✓ By 2020, total emissions are projected to be around 24.5% below base year levels, with average annual emissions for the second commitment period (2013-2020)² predicted to be 22.8% lower than base year levels.
- ✓ The EU is still prepared to increase its emissions reduction to 30% by 2020 if other major emitting countries in the developed and developing worlds commit to undertake their fair share of a global emissions reduction effort.

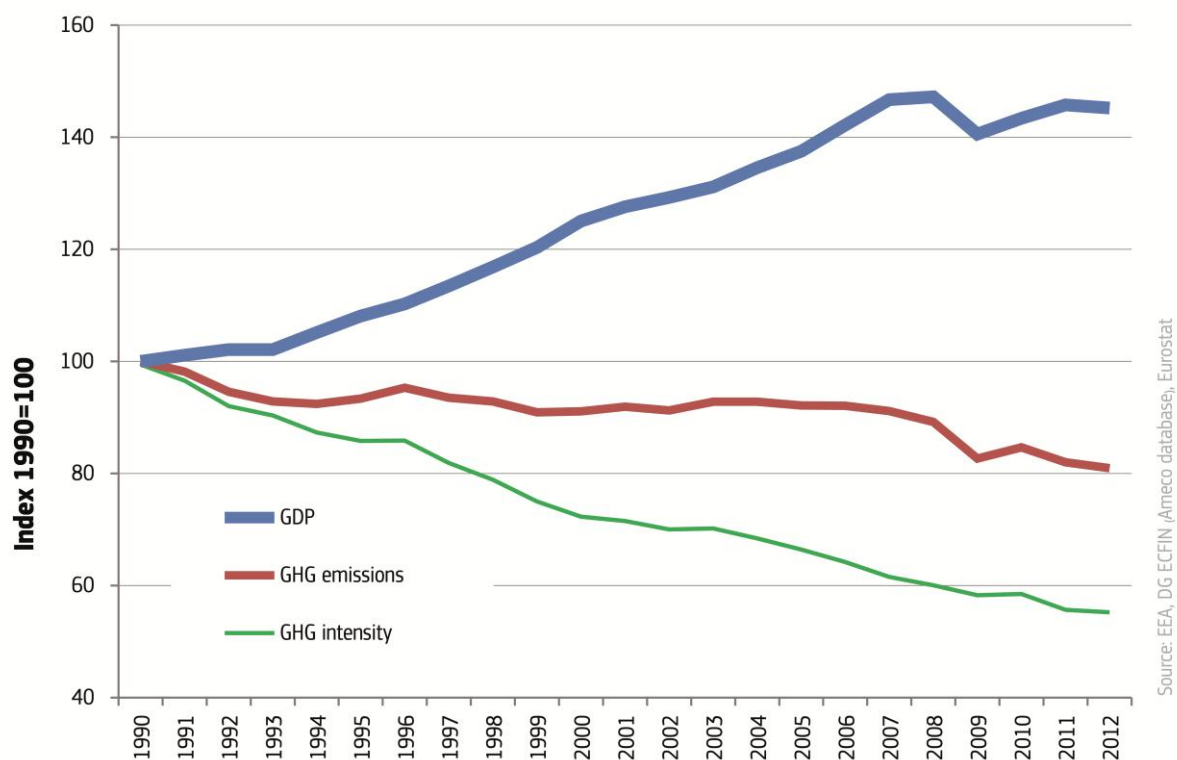
¹For more detail on base year levels, see http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/g-gas/kyoto/index_en.htm.

² The EU, its Member States and Iceland have committed to jointly achieve a 20% reduction in their combined greenhouse gas emissions over the second period compared to the level in 1990 or their other chosen base years. As a member of the European Economic Area, Iceland already participates in the EU Emissions Trading System.

EU policies are delivering emission reductions

- ✓ The successful delivery of reductions in GHG emissions is driven by robust climate and energy policies at EU and Member State level, leading to improved efficiency and a higher share of renewable energy (e.g. EU Emissions Trading System (ETS), energy efficiency measures, legislation promoting renewables).
- ✓ The economic crisis contributed to less than half of the emission reductions achieved between 2008 and 2012³.

Figure 2: Evolution of GDP (in real terms), GHG emissions and emissions intensity: Index (1990=100)



Successful decoupling of greenhouse gas emissions from economic growth

- ✓ The EU economy grew by more than 44% between 1990 and 2012, while emissions fell by 19%. As a result, GHG emissions intensity in the EU (ratio of emissions per unit of GDP) was reduced by almost half, making it one of the most energy-efficient economies in the world.
- ✓ Per capita GHG emissions in the EU have decreased by almost a quarter – from an average of 12 tonnes per citizen in 1990 to 9 tonnes in 2012.
- ✓ The EU's share of global GHG emissions fell from 15% in 1990 to less than 10%⁴ in 2010, the latest year for which global emissions data are available.

³ European Environment Agency analysis: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/why-are-greenhouse-gases-decreasing>

⁴ This estimate is based on the 49 (±4.5) GtCO₂eq/yr in total anthropogenic GHG emissions in 2010 published by IPCC Working Group III in its latest report. In 2010, EU emissions were 4,751 million tonnes CO₂-equivalent. This makes the EU share 9.8%. This share is likely to have shrunk even more by 2012.