Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 92

Hearing: Additional Estimates

Outcome: Outcome 2

Programme: Climate Change and Renewable Energy

Topic: International shipping and aviation

Hansard Page: N/A

Question Date: 16 February 2016

Question Type: Written

Senator Abetz asked:

Is it correct that taken together international shipping and aviation would make the list of the top 10 emitting countries in the world if allocated in that particular way?

Answer:

In 2012, total emissions from international shipping and aviation (international bunkers emissions) were reported by the International Energy Agency[1] as 1095.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (Mt CO_2).

As shown in the table below, when compared with national greenhouse gas emissions in 2012 (excluding the land sector)[2] in million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO_2-e), international bunkers emissions would rank in the top 10 emitting countries. International bunkers emissions would be the 7th largest emitter if the European Union (EU) was counted as a country (the EU has a single, joint emissions reduction target under the Kyoto Protocol second commitment period). International bunkers emissions would be the 6th largest emitter if the EU was not counted as a country.

Country/Party	**2012 emissions (Mt CO_2-e)[3]**
China	10975.5
United States	6235.1
European Union (28)	4399.15
India	3013.77
Russian Federation	2322.22
Japan	1344.58
International Bunkers	**1095.8**
Brazil	1012.55
Germany	887.22
Indonesia	760.81

[1] *CO2 Emissions From Fuel Combustion Highlights 2015* report, http://www.iea.org/publications/freepublications/publication/co2-emissions-from-fuel-combustion-highlights-2015.html

[2] *World Resources Institute (WRI), Climate Analysis Indicators Tool, accessed 24 February 2016*

[3] With the exception of the international bunkers emissions data, this table contains data in CO_2-e from footnote 2. Data was not readily available in CO_2-e for international bunkers, only CO_2. As, however, CO_2 accounts for approximately 99 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions from international bunkers the CO_2-e figure would not be markedly different from the figure above.