



## Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting – DRAFT MINUTES

**Date:** 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016

**Start time:** 09:00

**Venue:** McCumiskey House, Environmental Protection Agency,  
Richview.  
Clonskeagh Road, Dublin 14.

**Present:** Prof. John FitzGerald (JF)(Chair), Prof. Alan Matthews (AM),  
Joseph Curtin (JC), Laura Burke (LB), Jim Gannon (JG), Prof.  
Peter Clinch (PC), Prof. Alan Barrett (AB), Prof. Gerry Boyle  
(GB)

**Apologies:** Prof. Ottmar Edenhofer (OE), Prof. Frank Convery (FC), Prof.  
Anna Davies (AD)

**Secretariat:** Dr. Frank McGovern (FMcG), Dr. Niall Farrell (NF), Dr.  
Róisín Moriarty (RM), Claire Camilleri (CC)

**Presenters:** Minister Denis Naughten, Department of Communications,  
Climate Action and Environment  
Brian Carroll, Department of Communications, Climate Action  
and Environment  
George Hussey, Department of Communications, Climate  
Action and Environment  
John O'Neill, Department of Communications, Climate Action  
and Environment.

### 1. Opening of Meeting

#### 1.1 Minutes for the Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016

The minutes of the Council meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016 were adopted with minor changes and signed by the chair.

#### 1.2 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was adopted without changes.

#### 1.3 Disclosure of Interests

There were no disclosures of interest for this meeting.

#### 1.4 Chairman's Report of Activities



The Chair provided an outline of activities undertaken since the previous meeting and previewed upcoming activities ahead of the next meeting. The Chair stated that following a request from Minister Denis Naughten, he and Frank McGovern had held an introductory meeting with the Minister and his officials on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June during which the Minister expressed his interest in the work of the Council and how he valued its independent role.

## **2. Minister Denis Naughten, Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment**

Minister Denis Naughten and officials from the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, met with Council to outline priorities for the new department. Minister Naughten thanked the Council members for their work so far and for their advice on reform of the EU ETS. He outlined the nature of the climate challenge and its complexities and highlighted the importance of the Council in its independent role in providing advice to government on climate change issues.

Minister Naughten exchanged views with the Council on a range of climate issues, including the importance of communication of climate change issues and the need for better understanding of the scope of issues that Ireland faces in addressing the causes and consequences of climate change. Further discussion between the Council and the Minister focused on sectoral matters and ownership of climate change issues. The Minister was informed that the Council is planning to provide its First Report in Q4 of 2016.

George Hussey provided a short presentation on the EU Commission's proposals for 2030 emission targets for Ireland under the Effort Sharing Regulation. The figures for all MS were officially realised at 11 am.

The Council thanked the Minister and representatives from the Department for taking the time to attend the meeting and looked forward to working with them further.

The Council then discussed with Mr Hussey and Mr O'Neill the details of the Commission proposals and the next steps in this process.

## **3. Adaptation**

The Secretariat provided an update on the first meeting of the Adaptation Committee held on the 20<sup>th</sup> June. A summary of the meeting was presented, along with the terms of reference for the meeting which were adopted by the Council. Content for the first report regarding adaptation issues and measures were also discussed, with specific feedback to be provided to the Secretariat following on from the meeting.





The Council then discussed their response to the National Adaptation Framework and provided feedback on the proposed letter.

The membership of the Adaptation Committee was discussed by the Council. National membership was agreed but further clarity on potential international membership options is required.

#### **4. First Report**

The Secretariat provided an overview of the updated first order draft of the First Report along with a timeline for completion of the report. The Council considered the structure of the First report, along with key content and recommendations. The Secretariat thanked the Council for the input which will be used in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Order Draft to be provided to the Council at its meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> August. The Council members were requested to provide any further specific feedback on the first order draft by the end of July.

#### **5. Agriculture Seminar Update**

The Secretariat provided a verbal summary on the seminar on agriculture that was held on the afternoon prior to the Council meeting. The seminar informed the Council of the latest domestic and international research on agriculture, land use and climate change. This included presentations on the background, socio-economic context for the agriculture sector, analysis of greenhouse gas emissions and removals links to wider issues such as air-pollution (e.g. ammonia), along with mitigation options and associated costs. The Council were also informed of Teagasc's annual reporting process based on farm survey and other data and their extensive modelling capacity.

The Council thanked Teagasc for taking the time to prepare and present the latest information on climate change issues in agriculture.

#### **6. Periodic Review and Report**

Further discussion took place on the content of the Periodic Review Report with discussion focused on identifying information gaps for the content for the Periodic Review Report. The specific mandate of the first Periodic Review Report was highlighted, along with the importance of the style of language to be used in the Report. The Council highlighted the need to identify and progress any additional analysis required for the periodic report as soon as possible.

The secretariat will continue to work on the report with the aim of providing a zero order draft to the Council at its December meeting.

#### **7. Analytical Framework**



The Council discussed the purpose of the Analytical Framework and its importance to the work of the Council. It was agreed that the Analytical Framework will need to be applied to a policy as a worked example to assess its applicability. The Council will be updated on any significant developments of the Framework at its next meeting.

**8. Council Administration**

A verbal update was provided by the Secretariat on the development of the Council website and on FOI procedures that are to be established by the Council. Further updates will be provided at the next meeting.

**9. Agreed Outcomes, plans for next meeting and AOB**

The next meetings of the Climate Change Advisory Council will be held on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Paul Zupka".

31/8/2016