

## **Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting - DRAFT MINUTES**

**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019

**Start time:** 10:00

**Venue:** Radisson Blu Hotel, Golden Lane, Dublin 2

**Present:** Professor John FitzGerald, Professor Anna Davies, Professor Alan Matthews, Dr Joseph Curtin, Professor Peter Clinch, Professor Frank Convery, Professor Alan Barrett, Laura Burke, Professor Gerry Boyle, Jim Gannon.

**Apologies:** Professor Ottmar Edenhofer

**Secretariat:** Dr Margaret Desmond, Phillip O'Brien, Dr Tadhg O'Mahony, Sean O'Leary Harriet Walsh, Dr Sabrina Dekker; Jeremy Emmet-Booth.

### **1. Opening of Meeting**

#### **1.1 Minutes for the Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting 04.04.2019**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 were accepted and signed by the Chair.

#### **1.2 Adoption of Agenda**

The agenda was updated and adopted by the Council.

#### **1.3 Disclosure of Interests**

Peter Clinch disclosed his involvement with EnvEcon as Co-founder and Director.

#### **1.4 Chair's Report of Activities**

The Chair spoke to the Haddington Road Parish on climate change. The Chair also spoke with the staff of the Irish Farmers Journal on climate change. The Chair had a meeting at the Embassy of France. The Chair attended a meeting of the Civil Service Assistant Secretary Network. The Chair spoke to a Labour Party meeting in Blanchardstown. The Chair and members of the Secretariat attended the launch of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Climate Action's report "Climate Change: A Cross-Party Consensus for Action". The Chair spoke at a breakfast seminar for Energy Law Ireland in conjunction with McCann Fitzgerald. The Chair spoke at an event "Climate Action:

Leading at Local Level" organised by the County and City Management Association and the Local Authorities Environmental Services Training Network. The Chair had a meeting with members of the Irish Energy Storage Association to discuss the role of energy storage to facilitate high levels of non-synchronous renewable energy on the grid. The Chair spoke at a panel debate on macro-economics, the issue of climate change and carbon taxes, at the Department of Finance Sixth Annual Policy Conference on Globalisation and Taxation. The Chair and members of the Secretariat spoke to the Advisors to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Climate Change. The Chair also met with the CEO of Bord na Móna.

### **1.5 Outcomes from Adaptation Committee Meeting 30.05.2019**

The Council heard that the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government; and Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht spoke to the Adaptation Committee on their adaptation plans. The Council was informed that the Health and Flood Risk Management plans are still outstanding. The Council was also informed that the Committee intends to meet with a number of stakeholders including the Commission for Regulation of Utilities. The Council agreed that the Adaptation Committee should review a sample of the Local Authority strategies once adopted.

### **2. Budgetary Oversight Committee**

The Chair has been invited to present the Oireachtas Budgetary Oversight Committee on June 18, 2019. The Council discussed appropriate messages for the Chair to deliver to the Committee.

### **3. Annual Review Discussion: Key messages from Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 7**

The Council considered drafts of Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 7 of the forthcoming Annual Review Report.

It was agreed the Annual Review launch date will be moved to 24 July, 2019 to give sufficient time to reflect the relevant actions in the forthcoming All of Government Climate Action Plan.

#### **4. Emission Projections**

Stephen Treacy of the EPA gave a presentation to the Council on the 2019 national emissions projections.

#### **5. Annual Review Discussion: Key Messages Chapter 3 to Chapter 5**

The Council considered drafts of the key messages of Chapters 3-5 of the forthcoming Annual Review Report.

#### **6. Brian Carroll, Assistant Secretary General, Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment**

Brian Carroll, Assistant Secretary General of the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, discussed the All of Government Climate Action Plan which is due for release on 17 June 2019.

The Council gave provisional welcome to the actions outlined but noted the importance of implementation and appropriate governance structures:

The Council noted the Department's commitment in the All of Government plan to meet 2030 targets without use of ETS flexibilities.

The Council emphasised the importance of identifying priority risks and the resources required to address them in the next five years.

#### **7. Annual Review Discussion: Key Messages Chapter 6 to Chapter 8**

The Council considered the draft of these chapters.

The Council welcomed the Working Paper "Climate Change Mitigation and the Irish Agriculture and Land Use Sector" which informed their discussions on the Special Focus Chapter of the Annual Review.

The Council agreed to recommend that the carbon tax be increased from €20 to €35 in Budget 2020 and increasing to at least €80 by 2030.

#### **8. Annual Review Discussion: Executive Summary and Key Messages**

The Council considered drafts of the Executive Summary and Key Messages Chapters of the forthcoming Annual Review Report.

**9. AOB**

The Council agreed to undertake a review of the structure of the Annual Review based on learnings of the last three years.

The Council agreed to request a meeting with the Minister in Q3 2019.

A date was set for the Council's transport seminar which will be held on 19 September 2019.

The Council noted the publication of the annual report of the Climate Research Co-Ordination Group.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'M. Ziff', is located below the text.