



Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting - MINUTES

Date: 22.07.2021

Start time: 13:30

Venue: Video Conference Meeting

Present: Marie Donnelly, Professor Gerry Boyle (Teagasc), Laura Burke (EPA), Professor John FitzGerald, Patricia King, Andrew Murphy, Julie Sinnamon, Professor Peter Thorne,

Observers: Eoin Moran, Met Éireann; Dr. Cara Augustenborg, Sinéad O'Brien.

Apologies: Professor Alan Barrett (ESRI), Professor Ottmar Edenhofer, Prof. Morgan Bazilian, William Walsh (SEAI).

Secretariat: George Hussey, Phillip O'Brien, Gemma O'Reilly, Seán O'Leary, Claire Camilleri, and Ciara Hilliard

Presenters: Brian Carroll, Assistant Secretary General, Department of Environment, Climate and Communications and Dr. Tadhg O'Mahony, Tadhg O'Mahony Consulting.

1. Opening of Meeting

1.1 Minutes for the Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting 12.07.2021

The minutes for the meeting held on the 12th July were accepted.

1.2 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted by the Council.

1.3 Disclosure of Interests

No disclosures of interest.

2. Adaptation Committee update

The Council were provided with an update from the Adaptation Committee meeting held on the 25th June. The Council were updated on the Adaptation Committee's progress on developing an overview of adaptation sectoral progress to help inform the Annual Review 2021, and that following the meeting preliminary assessments issued to the National Adaptation Framework (NAF) sectors, the local government sector and the Department of Climate Action regarding the NAF itself. Further adaptation text will be developed for the Annual Review and will be presented to the Committee for recommendation to Council.

The Committee discussed its work programme, including three small-scale studies on household adaptation, decision making under uncertainty and nature based adaptation and the development of a coastal workshop for later in the year.

The Council approved that Mr Paddy Mahon, Chief Executive of Longford County Council and Chair of CCMA's Climate Action, Transport and Networks Committee replace Ciarán Hayes on the Adaptation Committee for its interim term.

The next Adaptation Committee meeting will be held on the 29th July.

3. Carbon budgets

The Council discussed the recent developments on the amendments to the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021, including the governments amendment to develop regulations for determining the accounting of greenhouse gas emissions (and removals) which have implications for the timelines and for the methodology of the work of the Council. The Council also discussed the ongoing development of its advice on a carbon budget programme, including the process and governance of providing robust advice to government. It was agreed that the Committee on Carbon Budgets and Council would continue its workover the summer. It was noted Council needs to comply with the regulations to be developed by government in order to fulfil its mandate.

The Council also agreed that it would be necessary to provide advice to the government on the development of regulations for determining the accounting of greenhouse gas emissions and removals, and that it would work on this over the coming weeks.

Brian Carroll, Assistant Secretary General, Department of Environment, Climate and Communications joined the meeting and discussed the amendment regarding the development of regulations and the work that the government will need to undertake to

develop these regulations. He stated that the Minister intends to consult with the Council on the development of the regulations, to which the Council agreed and that the regulations are hoping to be agreed in the early autumn. The Council informed Mr Carroll that its work relies on the development of the regulations, and cannot publish its advice until these regulations are finalised and can be incorporated into the process of calculating the advice on carbon budgets.

The Fit for 55 package was also discussed, with Mr Carroll noting the broad scope of the EU Commission proposals including significant revisions to treatment of Land Use and Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) area, and the extension of the ETS to road transport and buildings..

Following the discussion with Mr Carroll, the Council discussed the timelines for finalising its advice on carbon budgets and agreed that further meetings of the Committee on Carbon Budgets would be required and that an additional Council meeting in September may be required to further progress work. The potential implications of this additional work on resources and on the preparation of the Annual Review 2021 were discussed, The Council asked that the Secretariat plan for completion of work on carbon budgets in late September or October contingent on the timely publication of the new regulations.

4. Annual Review 2021

The Secretariat provided an update on the progress of work related to the Annual Review 2021, and discussed the approach going forward, associated timelines and required inputs for the 2021. Dr Tadhg O'Mahony presented a preliminary overview of some draft chapters for consideration by the Council. The Council provided feedback on the preliminary draft, with work to continue over the summer months on the development of the Annual Review 2021.

Council noted the new mandated timelines in the Climate Act for completion and publication of its Annual Review.

5. Work Programme and Budget 2021 Update

The Council were provided with an update on the 2021 work programme and budget expenditure for the remainder of the year, including savings due to the impact of COVID-19 and redistribution of budget to re-prioritised areas.

The Council approved a package of work regarding a proposal for the 'OECD Well Being Lens: Applied to the Irish Transport Sector' with a minor change to the proposal. It was also

agreed that possible co-funding opportunities with the EPA Research Call could be explored, representing value for money for research proposals in relevant areas.

The Council approved the approach to remaining expenditure for 2021 and that the Secretariat, subject to Chair approval, is able to apply flexibility for possible expenditure or savings for Budget Revision 2 within EPA reporting as appropriate, due to the uncertainties in Council expenditure in a number of areas and the Council strategy and work programme to be further developed throughout Q3 and Q4. The Council will be updated later in the year of the final status of expenditure for 2021.

6. AOB

The Council discussed the EU Climate Law, and that further work in exploring this package is required. It was agreed that further exploration and analysis would be provided in the over the Autumn meetings.



02.09.2021