



## Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting - MINUTES

**Date:** 15.12.2022

**Start time:** 09:30

**Venue:** The Holly Room, 3 Park Place, Hatch Street, D02 FX65 & MS Teams

**In person:** Marie Donnelly (Chair), Professor John Fitzgerald, Laura Burke (EPA) to (9:30 to 15:00), Patricia King (absent from 15:20 to 16:00), Jillian Mahon, Prof. Frank O' Mara (Teagasc) (from 09:45), Prof Peter Thorne, William Walsh (Observer).

**On MS Teams:** Andrew Murphy, Dr. Cara Augustenborg, Julie Sinnamon, Sineád O'Brien, Prof. Morgan D. Bazilian, Prof. Ottmar Edenhofer (10:35 to 13:20).

**Item 4:** Brendan Gleeson, Paul Savage, Bill Callanan, Barry Delaney & Fergus Moore, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, joined in person for this item.

**Item 10:** Shane Finnegan and Seamus Donnelly, Aiken Communications, joined in person for this item.

**Apologies:** Eoin Moran (Met Éireann)

**Secretariat:** George Hussey; Phillip O'Brien; Gemma O'Reilly; Meabh Gallagher; Claire Camilleri; Gina Kelly; Ciara Hilliard; Stephen Flood; Syed Faiz ul Islam & Eleanor Matthews joined in person. Jodie Colgan (virtual).

### 1. Opening of Meeting (09:30)

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

#### 1.1 Minutes for the Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting 27.10.2022

The minutes were accepted.

#### Matters arising from the minutes

No matters arising from the minutes

#### 1.2 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted by the Council with one amendment. It was noted that the publication of the National Climate Action Plan 2023 was delayed and this agenda item would be deferred to the February 2023 council meeting.

A decision was taken during the meeting to defer Agenda Item 7 - International Developments, to the February meeting in the interest of time.

### **Disclosure of Interests**

Andrew Murphy declared a change of employer and has started as Head of Sustainability at Eurostar Group.

## **2. Items for formal agreement (09:40)**

### **Review and extension of Public Relations and Communications Services contract**

The Secretariat presented a review of the extension of the Public Relations and Communications Services contract which had been in place with Aiken Communications since January 2022. Council accepted the recommendation to approve the extension of the contract with Aiken Communications for a further year as per the terms of the contract.

## **3. Adaptation Committee update (09:45)**

The Secretariat briefed Council members on the Resilience Team activities and events since the last Council meeting including the outcomes of the Adaptation Committee meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> of November 2023 and other notable events including recent meetings with the New Zealand Climate Change Commission. The Council also noted that the European Conference on Climate Change Adaptation will be held in Dublin on 19-21 of June 2023 and agreed the Adaptation Committee's support of the event.

## **4. Chair's Report of Council Activities (09:50)**

The Council noted the report of Council activities. The Chair thanked all Secretariat and Council members for support in attending various meetings. Council noted the significant increase in engagements in 2022.

## **5. Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan 2023-2027 (09:55)**

Secretary General Brendan Gleeson, Paul Savage, Bill Callanan, Colm Hayes and Barry Delaney from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) attended for this item and presented on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Strategic Plan 2023-2027. They outlined the 9 main objectives of CAP under the broad common goals of social, environmental and economic sustainability in agriculture and rural areas. They also outlined

how the CAP Strategic Plan aligns with the Programme for Government commitments and the challenges posed by implementing a new policy. They also outlined the interactions between agriculture and mitigation options associated with land use, supported under the CAP and other incentive schemes.

Council thanked DAFM for their attendance.

## **6. Carbon Budgets (12:15)**

The Secretariat presented a proposed methodological approach for the 2nd programme of Carbon Budgets for discussion. It was noted that this document would develop further based on Council input and as part of the initial meetings of the Carbon Budgets Working Group.

The potential for revision of carbon budgets was also discussed and it was agreed that clarification would be requested from the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications on the review mechanism provided for under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021. It was noted that scope for further consideration of Carbon Budget 2 (2025 – 2030) in this context should be included in both the Terms of Reference and Methodology.

Council also discussed the draft Carbon Budgets Working Group Terms of Reference. Council approved the Terms of Reference and agreed that the Secretariat should formally invite members to the Carbon Budgets Working Group (as proposed in Appendix 3).

It was suggested that options for a potential international member for the Carbon Budgets Working Group should be explored.

It was also noted that Prof. John Fitzgerald would not be a member of the Climate Change Advisory Council for the next Carbon Budget period and recommended that a member with macroeconomic expertise should be invited to the Carbon Budgets Working Group.

The Secretariat also sought approval from Council Members on letters to be issued to Government Departments and Agencies inviting experts to join the Carbon Budgets Working Group and seeking support for carbon budgets modelling capacity under the MoU.

Council agreed that the Secretariat would:

- Incorporate feedback and issue the letters of invitation requesting experts to join the Carbon Budgets Working Group

- Issue letters requesting modelling capacity to support the development of carbon budgets.
- Draft a letter on modelling capacity for approval in early 2023 as necessary, following conclusion of relevant contracts.

Council also agreed a number of areas for research identified under item 8, relevant to carbon budgets, that were highlighted as important to progress.

### **7. Update on the Building and Roads ETS (12:40)**

Prof. Ottmar Edenhofer presented to Council on the provisionally agreed Buildings and Roads ETS of the EU. Council discussed the developments in EU policy and regulation and noted the potential associated implications for Ireland.

### **8. Work Programme 2023 (14:00)**

The Secretariat presented the Council Work Programme 2023 for approval and a breakdown of proposed budget spend for 2023. Council acknowledged the value of the annual calendar of events that could be amended as appropriate.

Council discussed and approved research and consultancy budget proposals and noted the importance of small scale studies as a research mechanism. Council approved the Work Programme 2023 and associated spend.

Council noted the schedule of sectoral engagement meetings arranged by the Secretariat.

### **9. Communications (14:15)**

Shane Finnegan and Seamus Donnelly, Aiken Communications joined for this agenda item and presented the final Communication Strategy for adoption with no significant changes since the October meeting. The Council approved the Communications Strategy.

An Implementation Plan for the Communications Strategy was also presented and adopted, noting that any further public opinion research should be pushed out to 2024.

The Council also concluded the current Communications Subgroup as its Terms of Reference was completed on adoption of the Communications Strategy. Council agreed to establish a new Communications Subgroup and draft a new Terms of Reference for its operations to be presented at the February meeting. Dr. Cara Augustenborg agreed to

Chair the new subgroup and it was agreed that volunteers would be sought to sit on this group.

## **9. Teagasc Climate Action Strategy (2022-2030) (15:05)**

Professor Frank O'Mara briefed Council on the recently launched Teagasc Climate Action Strategy (2022-2030) - Making it Happen – Supporting Farmers for Climate Action.

## **9. Thematic session (15:45)**

### **9.1 Hydrogen**

The Secretariat presented a paper outlining recent research, key issues and challenges in relation to green hydrogen in Ireland and its potential role in decarbonisation.

Council agreed with all the recommendations in the report presented by the Secretariat, noting an additional recommendation, and this position will inform the Annual Review 2023.

It was agreed that this Secretariat paper would be further developed as appropriate and an abridged version without recommendations should be published on the website as a Council Working Paper.

### **9.2 Preview of session on planning policy and decarbonisation in February**

The Secretariat presented a short paper on the potential scope of the February thematic session on planning policy and decarbonisation. The legislative complexity of the area was noted.

Council agreed that the approach was acceptable and should be further developed. It was noted that Niall Cussen and the Head of Research from the Office of the Planning Regulator would also present at the February meeting.

## **13. AOB (16:20)**

The Secretariat discussed the Fossil Fuel Subsidy paper and gave details on the recent webinar. It was noted that Council have the opportunity to provide written comments on the paper and that there would be a chance to engage on the paper for Council members and Secretariat at a webinar on 8th February 2023.

The Secretariat noted the plans for other webinars to be held in 2023 under the horizon scanning work programme of the Secretariat. These include potential webinars on negative emissions and the ETS; the Paris Agreement and the ETS and road space reallocation.

### **Next meeting**

The Council thanked the SEAI for hosting this meeting.

It was noted that the next Council meeting will be on 16th of February 2023 and will be held virtually on MS Teams.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Marie C. Donnelly".

Signed electronically on 16.02.2023