



## Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting - MINUTES

**Date:** 31.03.2022

**Start time:** 13:30

**Venue:** Video Conference Meeting

Present: Marie Donnelly (Chair), Professor John Fitzgerald (to Item 9) Laura Burke (EPA) Patricia King, Andrew Murphy (to Item 10b), Prof. Peter Thorne, Eoin Moran (Met Éireann); Dr. Cara Augustenborg, Julie Sinnamon; Prof. Morgan D. Bazilian (from Item 3), Jillian Mahon to Item 4), Prof. Frank O' Mara (Teagasc) (from Item 2), Sineád O' Brien (to Item 4) Prof. Ottmar Edenhofer (to Item 4)

Item 3: Niall McLoughlin and Aoife Parker Hedderman from DECC joined for this item.

Item 8: Dera McLoughlin from Mazars joined for this item.

Apologies: William Walsh (Observer)

Secretariat: George Hussey, Phillip O'Brien, Gemma O'Reilly, Seán O'Leary, Meabh Gallagher, Gina Kelly, Laura Marenco, Thérèse Myslinski, Ciara Hilliard.

### 1. Opening of Meeting (13:30)

#### 1.1 Minutes for the Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting 17.02.2022

The minutes were accepted.

#### Matters arising from the minutes

No matters arising

#### 1.2 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted by the Council with a slight amendment to the running order to facilitate external speakers.

### **1.3 Disclosure of Interests**

No disclosures of interest.

### **Items for formal agreement (13:33)**

#### **Research Reports for publication on council website**

Council considered the 5 reports that had been previously circulated to Council and Adaptation Committee. Council approved the publication of all papers on the website subject to final proof reading.

### **2. Energy Security and the Ukraine crisis (13:35)**

Drawing on the briefing paper, the Secretariat gave a presentation highlighting the current issues relating to energy security, particularly in the context of the crisis in the Ukraine. The Secretariat summarised the previously circulated briefing paper on energy security and the draft letter to Government. It was agreed that the briefing paper would be maintained and updated for future meetings as required.

In the light of the changed circumstances of energy supply and cost, it was agreed that the Secretariat would circulate a revised version of the letter of advice to the Minister for comment via email. It was also agreed that this updated letter would be sent to the heads of government, Taoiseach Micheál Martin TD, Tánaiste Leo Varadkar TD and Minister Eamon Ryan TD.

### **3. EU Fit for 55 Report (14:35)**

Niall McLoughlin and Aoife Parker-Hedderman attended for this item and presented the 2030 Climate Targets under the European Green Deal. Council noted that the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications received Government approval on 8 March 2022 on the negotiating position to be adopted on the European Commission's proposals on the "Fit for 55" Package. They also noted that this approach is now being advanced in political and technical discussions at EU level and

through close cooperation with other Member States.

#### **4. Adaptation Committee (15:35)**

Prof. Peter Thorne, chair of the Adaptation Committee, updated on the Committee's last meeting and noted that the new membership—including the two new external members, Dr. Julie Clarke and David Joyce—was now in place. At this Committee meeting the reports of three small scale studies to be published on the Council website were discussed.

The Committee Chair proposed a work plan for 2022. The plan was accepted by Council.

Under the work plan, Council agreed that the Adaptation Scorecard 2022 questionnaire to the NAF sectors, the adaptation division of DECC and the local government sector, be finalised and issued by the Committee in the coming weeks. Council was informed that JBA Consulting have been appointed to provide support for the scorecard process following a request for quotations process.

It was noted that the annual adaptation workshop this year should ensure opportunities for more interaction and this is expected to be possible as it will be held in person this year. Council members were invited to suggest topics for the workshop which will be discussed by the Adaptation Committee at its next meeting on 4th May.

#### **5. Communications update (15:42)**

The Secretariat outlined the current workings of communications within the Secretariat and proposed that Council establish a subgroup on communications to assist with developing a communications strategy. The Council welcomed and approved the proposal. Marie Donnelly, Cara Augustenborg, Julie Sinnamon and Eoin Moran volunteered to be members of the subgroup and noted that Shane Finnegan, communications consultant with Aiken Communications and members of the Secretariat will also participate in the subgroup.

#### **6. Annual Review 2022 (16:00)**

Council discussed the draft template of the annual review and the Secretariat requested that Council members volunteer to mentor relevant chapters.

The Secretariat outlined the proposed structure for the Annual Review 2022 encompassing the legal requirements associated with it, the national and international context of the review and sectoral analysis which will include a set of inventories, indicators, projections, analysis and advice and recommendations.

First draft of chapters will be presented to Council in May with final drafts submitted to the July meeting for approval. Submission of the review to the Minister would be anticipated by late July 2022.

Council approved the proposed structure in principle, with amendments (including additional material in the area of climate impacts) and agreed that the Executive Summary at least should be translated into Irish.

#### **7. Common Agricultural Policy update (16:20)**

Frank O Mara provided an update on the progress of the Common Agricultural Policy and an overview of the national CAP Strategic Plan.

#### **8. Draft CCAC Strategy (17:00)**

The draft strategy was presented to Council for their consideration.

Dera McLoughlin from Mazars joined for this item.

Members will send their final comments to the Secretariat in writing with a view to approving the final strategy at the May Council meeting.

#### **9. Chair's Report of Council Activities (17:28)**

The Council noted the report of Council activities.

The Secretariat discussed the upcoming OECD workshops as part of the OECD Project 'The well-being lens applied to the Irish transport sector' and outlined the OECD request for an additional €4000 to facilitate the production of videos to disseminate the results of the project. Council agreed that this would be a valuable spend.

The Secretariat gave an update on sectoral engagement meetings with the Electricity and Built Environment sectors.

#### **10. AOB**

##### **a) Operational Guidance Document for the CCAC(17:40)**

It was noted that the Operational Guidance Document of the Council has been revised with the assistance of Fieldfisher legal advisers and will be presented to Council for agreement at next meeting.

Council requested that the original, the tracked changes, and the legal adviser's versions of the documents be circulated with the latest draft document ahead of the next meeting.

It was agreed that Council Members would submit comments, in writing, on this document to the Secretariat by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> of April.

**b) International Climate Council Network update (17:49)**

The Secretariat provided an update on recent activity of the ICCN.

Council advised that they would like to build on the engagement with this group. It was agreed that the survey as presented in the paper was accepted.

It was noted that the next Council meeting will be an in-person meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> of May 2022 in the Ashling Hotel, Dublin.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Marie R. Donnelly". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned on a light grey rectangular background.

signed electronically on 26.05.2022