



Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting - DRAFT MINUTES

Date: 23rd April 2020

Start time: 9:30am

Venue: Video Conference Meeting

Present: Professor John FitzGerald, Professor Gerry Boyle, Laura Burke, Professor Peter Clinch, Professor Frank Convery, Professor Anna Davies, Professor Alan Matthews, William Walsh,

Apologies: Dr Joseph Curtin, Professor Ottmar Edenhofer, Professor Alan Barrett.

Secretariat: Dr Margaret Desmond, Phillip O'Brien, Gemma O'Reilly, Seán O'Leary, Claire Camilleri, Dr Sabrina Dekker.

Presenters: Dr Brian Caulfield, Trinity College Dublin and Assistant Professor Páraic Carroll, University College Dublin.

1. Opening of Meeting

1.1 Minutes for the Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting 27.02.2020

The minutes of the Council meeting held on the 27th February 2020 were signed by the Chair.

1.2 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted by the Council.

1.3 Disclosure of Interests

No disclosure of interests declared.

1.4 Chair's Report of Activities

In late February, the Chair reported that he spoke at the Fiscal Advisory Council's Annual Conference on Path for the Public Finances 2020: Budgeting for Climate Change.

In March, the Chair also participated on a panel discussion at the Trinity Business + Technology Forum 2020 with Institute of International and European Affairs (IIEA) regarding A New Europe: Europe's Green Deal. The Chair also spoke at The Bray Heads event on Really Tackling Climate Change.

In March, the Chair met with Tom Ryan from the IFA to discuss climate change. The Chair also provided a lecture in DIT on Climate Change.

In April, the Chair spoke with the Secretary General of the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment regarding the draft legislation on climate change. The Chair also spoke with the Chief Executive of Eirgrid, Greenwire and also Prof. Brian Ó Gallachóir from MaREI about modelling.

The Council also discussed correspondence received from the European Court of Auditors regarding an upcoming audit on Climate Change and Agriculture and recommended that a member of the Secretariat be made available to assist.

The Council also discussed responding to the European Commission's proposal on a European climate law that aims to achieve climate neutrality by 2050 through the public consultation. It was agreed to incorporate Council's comments and recirculate before final approval from the Chair to submit the response.

The Council also discussed a proposal by the European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils (EEAC) and the National Economic and Social Council (NES) for the Council to organise a break out session on as part of their Annual Conference to be held in Dublin from the 28-30 October 2020. The Council agreed that the Secretariat should follow up on the proposal.

2. Adaptation Committee Update

The Council heard the key outcomes from the Adaptation Committee meeting held on the 2nd April, including presentations from the Planning Regulator and from the planning and built environment advisory units of the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

This item considered adaptation issues in spatial planning, building standards and the built environment

The Committee discussed the reform of the planning system and future guidance regarding climate change and development plans and how the building regulation system might address issues such as overheating. The Committee raised issues including the data and projections required to inform planning policy and building standards. The discussion will inform the Annual Review 2020 and the Committee's future work.

A first draft of the Adaptation Chapter of the Annual Review 2020 was presented to the Committee for discussion and will be revised based on the input from the Committee and Council.

A draft of the adaptation and cities research undertaken in line with the Committee's work programme was presented and discussed. The Committee recommended that the Council publish the final document as a working paper. Council agreed to this subject to the Committee reviewing a final draft revised in light of Council and Committee feedback.

The Council were also presented with a proposed outline of the next Committee meeting.

3. Access to Modelling Update

The Council were updated regarding a meeting with the Research and Modelling Sub-Group on the Environment regarding the Council's requirements for accessing modelling. The Council were informed that it is intended that a memorandum of understanding will be developed to assist this access. The Council were also informed that the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment has been in contact to initiate the sharing of the modelling resources at their disposal.

4. Carbon Budgets

As agreed at the previous meeting, the Council discussed a proposed communication to the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment regarding the Council's role in developing budgets under the proposed General Scheme for the Climate Action (Amendment) Bill. The communication was to reflect the Council's comments and be circulated for comment and subject to approval by the Chair would be issued to the Minister.

5. Just Transition

The Council were updated on the work undertaken to inform Council deliberations on a just transition. The Council discussed the importance of just transition principles influencing

climate policy and how this can be reflected throughout the Annual Review. The Council discussed the progression of this work and that it had facilitated a productive discussion that will help steer the work of the Annual Review.

6. Transport

The Council were updated on the Transport research to date by Dr. Brian Caulfield that is to inform the Special Focus Chapter of the Annual Review. The Council discussed refining the chapter and provided feedback on concentration points to assist with further development.

7. Annual Review 2020

The Council were presented with an updated draft of the technical section of the Annual Review and discussed the impact of the current pandemic on the publication timelines and deferred a decision on the timing until the next meeting. The Council provided feedback on the technical section and recommended areas of development. It was agreed that an additional short meeting focused solely on the Annual Review should be scheduled for May to assist with drafting.

8. Council Administration

Approval has been granted to spend 50% of requested additional budget. An updated work programme was presented to Council and was agreed in principle. Should the remaining 50% request be granted, additional plans will be developed and brought to Council for approval.

9. Agreed outcomes, plans for next meeting and AOB

The Council acknowledged the far-reaching impacts of COVID-19. The Council considered the OECD's policy brief regarding environmental responses to the pandemic as well as the EEAC's statement on Responding to Covid19: Building social, economic and environmental resilience with the European Green Deal. The Council will continue to monitor the situation.

The Council will be advised of a date for an additional meeting in May.

21.05.2020