



Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting - DRAFT MINUTES

Date: 15th April 2021

Start time: 09:00

Venue: Video Conference Meeting

Present: Marie Donnelly, Professor Alan Barrett (ESRI), Professor Gerry Boyle (Teagasc), Laura Burke (EPA), Professor Ottmar Edenhofer, Professor John FitzGerald, Andrew Murphy, Julie Sinnamon, Professor Peter Thorne, William Walsh (SEAI).

Apologies: Patricia King.

Observer: Eoin Moran, Met Éireann

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

Presenters: Brendan Gleeson, Secretary General; Paul Savage, Assistant Secretary General and Bill Callanan, Chief Inspector, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

1. Opening of Meeting

The Chair welcomed new members of the Council, Andrew Murphy, Julie Sinnamon and Patricia King (absent). The Chair also acknowledged Eoin Moran, Director of Met Éireann as an invited observer.

1.1 Minutes for the Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting 05.03.2021

The minutes of the Council meeting held on the 5th March 2021 were signed electronically by the Chair.

1.2 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted by the Council.

Disclosure of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Draft Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill and Interim Actions

The Council discussed the Draft Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill and Interim Climate Actions 2021 that was published on the 23rd March. The Council discussed the role of the Council in advising on carbon budgets as outlined in the Amendment Bill. It was agreed that legal advice should be sought to provide clarity on some aspects of the Amendment Bill and to assist the Council in approaching its work. It was also agreed to invite a representative from the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications to the next meeting to provide an update on timelines and to also provide clarity on some aspects of the Amendment Bill.

3. Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Brendan Gleeson, Secretary General of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine updated the Council on the Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan, outlining the CAP reform timelines and Commission recommendations. The Council discussed the challenges of the CAP reform and the importance of community buy in in delivering change in the agricultural sector.

It was also highlighted that it is not just climate impacts, but whole of environmental impacts including air, water quality and biodiversity that need to be understood when discussing emissions reductions in the sector. The Council also discussed biogenic methane, forestry licensing, microgeneration, nitrates and other sectoral issues. The Council highlighted the work of the Carbon Budgeting Committee, and that it would be helpful to have a session on agriculture to explore some of these issues in further detail. The Department of Agriculture accepted the invitation to nominate a member to the Committee.

4. Carbon Budgets

The Council discussed the informal meetings on the Ad Hoc Committee on Carbon Budgets that were held on 23rd March and 6th April.

The Council agreed Terms of Reference for the Committee including the importance of the Committee's approach to its work in terms of credibility, the frequency of scheduled meetings to address the task and the implications of carbon budgets to guide national climate action. The Council agreed that going forward, it would be called the Committee on Carbon Budgets.

The membership of the Committee was discussed and agreed, including that membership be extended to any new appointed members of the Council. The Terms of Reference and the membership of the Committee will be published on the Council website. Minutes of the Committee meetings will also be published on the Council website.

5. Annual Review

The Council discussed a proposed approach to the Annual Review 2021 and agreed that it would become a more focused document meeting the mandated requirements under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 (as finally amended). It also agreed a draft table of contents and that the Secretariat may approach ex-officio organisations to provide policy briefings on developments in emissions trends and climate policies within sectors to inform the review.

The Council agreed a draft timeline for the preparation of the Annual Review 2021 to ensure delivery of the report, subject to requirements within the finalised Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill.

6. Memorandum of Understanding between the Irish Climate Change Advisory Council and all relevant Government Departments and Agencies

The Council discussed the Draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Climate Change Advisory Council and all relevant Government departments and agencies to coordinate access to data, modelling and analysis to allow the Council fulfil its role as established under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill.

The Council approved the draft Memorandum of Understanding, noting that the review process may be used to add further parties to the Memorandum of Understanding as required.

The Council welcomed this progress and thanked those involved to progress this Memorandum of Understanding.

7. European Climate Council

The Council discussed the recent developments of negotiations regarding the European Climate Law, including the proposal to establish a European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change. The Council noted that it was still unclear as to the role and purpose of the Board compared to other agencies, organisations and possible overlaps with national advisory bodies.

The Council discussed the importance of the Emissions Trading System (ETS) and the effort sharing regulation and the impacts of possible ETS reforms. It was noted that the timeline for completed negotiations of the EU Climate Law are expected in June, and that further Council discussions on the implications of the EU Climate Law are required and to track the progress of developments in this area.

8. Chair's Report of Council Activities

A list of Council activities, including by the Chair and the Secretariat, was included in the meeting papers.

9. Council administration

The Council were informed of the intention to update the Operational Guidance Document for the Climate Change Advisory Council subject to provisions laid out in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill.

The Council were also advised of the progress of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Environmental Protection Agency and the Climate Change Advisory Council to set out areas of mutual responsibility and shared interest, particularly in relation to both organisations' responsibilities under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, as amended. It was agreed that it would be circulated to Council and undertake a written procedure. Should the Council be happy with the draft, it would then progress to the EPA Board for approval. Once agreed and signed, it would then be published on both websites.

The Council were also updated by the Secretariat Manager on the progress of securing additional resources for the Secretariat. The Council were advised that a number of solutions were being explored to address the immediate and long term requirements of the Secretariat.

10. Agreed Outcomes, plans for next meeting and AOB

The Council were informed of Eirgrid's public and industry consultation on 'Shaping Our Electricity Future'. The Council agreed that a workshop on exploring some of the issues within the energy sector would be useful.

The next meeting of the Council will be held virtually on the 13th May.

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

13.05.2021