

Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting - DRAFT MINUTES

Date: 17th January 2019

Start time: 10:00

Venue: Hilton Charlemont, Charlemont Place, St Kevin's Dublin 2.

Present: Professor John FitzGerald, Laura Burke, Professor Alan Matthews, Professor Frank Convery, Professor Gerry Boyle, Joseph Curtin (video link), Professor Ottmar Edenhofer (video link).

Apologies: Professor Alan Barrett, Professor Anna Davies, Jim Gannon, Professor Peter Clinch

Secretariat: Dr Róisín Moriarty, Phillip O'Brien, Dr Tadhg O'Mahony, Caroline Donnellan, Harriet Walsh, Dr Margaret Desmond.

1. Opening of meeting

1.1 Minutes for the Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting 30.11.2018

The minutes of the Council meeting held on the 30th November 2018 were amended and signed by the Chair.

1.2 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was adopted by the Council.

1.3 Disclosure of Interests

Council member Frank Convery disclosed his involvement with Envecon.

1.4 Chair's Report of Activities

The Chair met with SEAI to discuss Heat. The Chair met with Devenish Nutrition to discuss their research on emissions mitigation within the agriculture sector. The Chair met with The Farmers Journal to discuss research and communication of mitigation options at a farm level. The Chair met with Static Hydro to discuss their research and development of energy solutions. The Chair also met with the Kilkenny Three Counties Energy Agency.

1.5 Outcomes from Adaptation Committee Meeting 13.12.2018

The Council heard of a presentation given to the Adaptation Committee on the vulnerability of Irish ports to adverse weather conditions and other circumstances.

The Council also heard that the Committee is expecting to receive sectoral adaptation plans for consultation in 2019 as mandated under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015. Communications from four lead Departments on development of these plans are due in the first half of the year. The Council agreed to communicate to the lead Departments the criteria by which they will assess the adaptation plans.

The Committee will consider any requests from Local Authorities for consultation on Adaptation Strategies based on available resources.

The Committee discussed the importance of the design of adaptation measures for a range of plausible future scenarios.

2. Annual Transition Statement 2018

The Annual Transition Statement included the 'Statement' itself, an 'Action' update on policy implementation and a 'Measures' update seeking to quantify emissions reductions and related exchequer costs. These documents noted some progress on specific measures while others are not on schedule. The overall impact on emissions remains insufficient either to meet 2030 targets or transition pathways to 2050. The Council was encouraged to see the forthcoming requirement for the development of scenarios on an at least 30-year time horizon.

The Council was encouraged by the proposal to develop of an 'All of Government Plan' to initiate actions across all sectors, with a focus on delivery and clear timelines.

The Council discussed the possibility of closure or conversion of Moneypoint in the timeframe outlined in the Annual Transition Statement.

3. Draft National Energy and Climate Plan

The Council welcomed the progress made in the draft National Energy and Climate Plan. The Plan has no new policies or measures but uses the most recent aligned projections from both the EPA and SEAI. The Council was encouraged to see detailed analysis of the impact of policy in the draft National Energy and Climate Plan. The Council discussed the potential usefulness of adding more behavioural insights to compliment the engineering approach in modelled scenarios to inform the next draft of

the National Energy and Climate Plan. The Council also noted that the draft Plan does not bridge the gap to targets and additional measures are required.

The Council discussed a communication with the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment in relation to the draft National Energy and Climate Plan.

4. Work Programme and Strategy to 2020

The Council discussed the hosting of a seminar on the topic of decarbonisation of the transport sector. The importance of aviation in global emissions was noted.

The Council decided to give additional consideration to Heat in the Work Programme for 2019/2020. The related issues of aggregation of building portfolios and innovative financing were noted.

The Council noted the potential importance of issues related to the impending purchase of emissions credits to meet target shortfalls.

The Council discussed updating their communication strategy and options for updating the Council's website.

5. Work Programme: Agriculture

The Council discussed what innovative policy instruments and incentives could be introduced to help farmers transition to more sustainable farming practices to ensure we meet our targets. Land use strategy was also considered by the Council with focus on containing the growth of ammonia and methane emissions.

The Council noted that future scenarios for agricultural land use could describe the economic, greenhouse gas emissions and environmental implications of different pathways.

They also noted the potential usefulness of a study of the assumed carbon leakage from reducing livestock production in Ireland.

6. Work Programme: Carbon Tax and Policy Design

The Council discussed carbon taxes and policy design. The Council agreed that a well-designed carbon tax can improve economic efficiency and address distributional concerns.

7. Annual Review 2019

The Council discussed structure and content of the Annual Review.

8. Agreed Outcomes, plans for next meeting and AOB

The Council discussed engaging with an expert at a future stage to discuss the outcomes of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties in Katowice, Poland.

The Council discussed inviting the Chair of the National Dialogue on Climate Action to speak to the Council.

The Chair noted that this was the last meeting of Dr Róisín Moriarty, who has been working with the Secretariat since its inception. He thanked Dr Moriarty for her contributions.



4/4/19