

## **Minutes of joint meeting between the CCC and the Adaptation Committee, 17/05/2019**

Present were John Deben, Julia Brown, Keith Bell, Piers Forster, Rebecca Heaton, Corinne Le Quéré, Michael Davies, Richard Dawson, Georgina Mace, Ece Ozdemiroglu, Rosalyn Schofield, Chris Stark.

### Conflicts of interest

Committee members were reminded of the need to declare any conflicts of interest.

### **1. Reception of Net Zero advice**

The Committee discussed the positive response to the Net Zero advice on 2 May. There was general agreement for the need for the supportive politics to lead to legislation of the target and also the action necessary to get on track to meet it.

### **2. Progress report - latest emissions statistics**

The secretariat presented on the latest emissions statistics (for 2018 for CO<sub>2</sub> and 2017 for other greenhouse gases) and policy developments. The Committees had a broad discussion around global emissions trends and narratives on both climate mitigation and adaptation.

There was discussion of transport emissions, with a trend towards more efficient but larger cars and the need to talk about opportunities to reduce transport emissions beyond a switch to electric vehicles.

The Committee discussed the need to tackle the consumption emissions issue in the progress report, explaining why we need to use territorial emissions as the primary measure of emissions but that consumption emissions provide important supplementary information.

The Committee agreed to come back to sectoral trends in more detail at the next meeting and in discussions between the secretariat and Committee sector champions.

### **3. Adaptation and Mitigation progress report – outline and messaging**

The secretariat presented some possible key messages for the joint adaptation/mitigation progress report, to be published in July.

The Committees discussed framing and language, with the need to highlight actions, contributing to UN Sustainable Development Goals, resilience and co-benefits.

The Committees agreed that the lack of action on adaptation and most parts of mitigation justify a critical tone. Net Zero makes this it all the important to highlight shortcomings to date, as the UK is not on track to the existing targets and Net Zero would be a large step up in ambition.

#### 4. **Lookback on the second carbon budget**

The secretariat presented the findings of a consultancy project on how the second carbon budget had been met, which found that had economic and other conditions been as anticipated when the budget was recommended (in 2008), the level of policy action would have been insufficient to meet the budget.

This finding supported the Committee's advice to the Government in January 2019 that outperformance of the second carbon budget should not be carried over for meeting subsequent budgets, as the surplus did not derive from strong policy.

The Committee the committee had extensive and detailed discussion of the lookback on the second carbon budget in the progress report, as required by the Climate Change Act. The Committee emphasised a need to look beyond the story on emissions over this period to capture wider progress, for example on technology costs (especially renewables and batteries).

#### 5. **Power sector policy update**

The secretariat presented on the power sector, with a focus on future policy. This included potential need for policy reform in future, the role of nuclear in decarbonisation, opportunities for accelerated electrification and implications for the upgrade of distribution networks.

The Committee discussed and agreed a set of policy key messages on the power sector for the progress report.