

Climate Change Committee Meeting

Present: Lord Deben, Corinne Le Quéré, Keith Bell, Michael Davies, Piers Forster, Paul Johnson

Member interests: www.theccc.org.uk/about/transparency

Date: 6th May 2022, 09:30 – 15:00

Held: Hybrid – CCC Offices at 1 Victoria Street SW1H 0ET and online

Climate Change Committee

1 Victoria Street,
Westminster, London,
SW1H 0ET

w theccc.org.uk

1. Conflicts of interest and minutes from the previous meeting

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

No comments were received on the draft minutes for the meeting on 8th April circulated for approval. Committee members were asked to share any further comments by email.

2. Update on the International Climate Councils Network

The secretariat provided an update on the International Climate Councils Network, reporting back on the meeting that took place on 27th and 28th April. The Committee agreed that the CCC should continue to support the development of the network including through participation in topical working groups.

3. Progress report: overview

a. Trade, carbon leakage and consumption emissions

The secretariat presented about consumption and imported emissions in the progress report, including recommendations in the report and the CCC's workplans on the topic. The secretariat also set out proposed recommendations on trade and consumption emissions. The Committee were supportive of proposed work in this area, highlighting its importance, noting that we should consider faster pace for import policy and highlighting considerations around biomass.

b. Executive summary: charts and key messages

The secretariat presented the charts and key messages to include in the progress report executive summary. The secretariat also outlined the timeline for finalising input from the Committee for the progress report. The Committee agreed the charts gave a clear visual summary of progress and agreed on the key messaging. They were keen to highlight more the lack of progress in agriculture and land use. The Committee wanted to emphasise that a lack of delivery from the Government would mean losing credibility.

4. Progress report: Power

The secretariat took the Committee through an update on power sector emissions in 2021, implications of the Government's Energy Security Strategy, and key risks and recommendations for the progress report. The Committee agreed to a proposal to publish a standalone report later in the year covering the Energy Security Strategy, indicators pathways (particularly for low-carbon flexibility), and the wider changes required to deliver a more resilient, flexible electricity system (including electricity market design). For the recommendations, the Committee wanted to place emphasis on the resilience of the future electricity system and networks, given the growing reliance on this as the economy electrifies.

5. Progress report: Agriculture and Land Use

The secretariat presented the draft assessment of policy, risks, recommendations and key messages for the agriculture and land use chapter of the progress report. The Committee provided a steer on the chapter content, policy scores, recommendations and the key messages.

6. Progress report: Buildings

The secretariat presented the buildings section of the progress report, covering the latest assessment of the policy gap to delivery of emissions reductions in the Net Zero Strategy, the key indicators for tracking progress going forwards, and proposed priority recommendations. The Committee approved the proposed approach to updating the policy gap chart from the version published in the CCC's March 2022 Heat and Buildings Strategy Response. They expressed a preference to include indicators in the top ten for which we had some data, and raised the need to highlight data gaps in the buildings sector in the report chapter. The Committee supported the proposed recommendations and the top five priorities within those.

7. Progress report: smaller sectors

a. Aviation

The secretariat presented the key messages for the aviation sector in the progress report, covering the emissions context, the key indicators used for tracking progress, and the suggested priority recommendations. The Committee agreed their preferred approach to covering demand management and the Sustainable Aviation Fuels mandate in the progress report.

b. Shipping

The secretariat presented the key messages for the shipping sector in the progress report, covering the emissions context, policy assessment, and the suggested priority recommendations. The Committee agreed these recommendations for inclusion in the progress report and highlighted the focus in the UK on innovation in supporting international action on shipping as well as the role of wider Government policies, such as in relation to freeports in supporting domestic efforts.

c. F-gases

The secretariat presented about the F-gases sector section in the progress report, covering the policy gap assessment and suggested priority recommendations. The Committee agreed that the date for the Report recommendation of cutting inhaler emissions should be brought forward to the mid-2020s. They also agreed that the recommendation on the review of the F-gas Regulation should be to increase its ambition, rather than to increase it or retain the existing ambition.

d. Waste

The secretariat presented about the waste sector section in the progress report, covering the emissions context, and assessment of ambition and policy. The Committee agreed with overall policy assessment and the decision to focus on policy implementation whilst highlighting the implications of any shortcomings on ambition. The question of whether the Committee could take a stronger position on continued expansion of incineration was raised for consideration.

e. Removals

The secretariat presented about the greenhouse gas removals section of the progress report, covering the policy context, priority recommendations and new indicators. The Committee expressed support for recommendations around coordination with the Devolved Administrations, both on engineered removals and more widely. The Committee also emphasised the importance of a consistency of approach throughout the report on biomass and of reiterating calls from previous reports for the Government to proactively address issues around public acceptability of engineered removals. The Committee agreed that an indicator tracking global deployment of Direct Air Carbon Capture and Storage (DACCS) should be included in this year's report.