

Minutes of the Climate Change Committee Meeting

Present: Lord Deben (Chair), Keith Bell, Michael Davies, Piers Forster, Paul Johnson, Corinne Le Quéré, Nigel Topping

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

Climate Change Committee

1 Victoria Street,
Westminster, London,
SW1H 0ET

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Date: 12th May 2023, 09:30-15:30

Held: Virtual, Zoom

1. Mitigation Committee: Minutes of the previous meetings and conflicts of interest

No new conflicts of interest were declared.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

The Committee welcomed new Committee member Nigel Topping to the meeting.

2. UK Progress Report: updates to the overall progress chapter

The secretariat presented an update on the overall progress chapter in the 2023 UK Progress Report. The committee agreed on the importance of ensuring strong messaging in the charts showing the required change in pace of emissions reduction and the gap between the UK's Nationally Determined Contribution towards the Paris Agreement and credible plans.

3. UK Progress Report: fossil fuel exploration and production

The secretariat presented some context on fossil fuel exploration and extraction. The Committee supported recommending tighter provisions against the planning and permitting of coal mines, subject to some additional analysis. The Committee agreed with the draft recommendations on oil and gas subject to wording refinements.

4. UK Progress Report: aviation

The secretariat presented on aviation emissions and trends, indicators, policy assessment, airport expansion recommendations and key messages. The Committee raised clarification points on indicators. The Committee agreed on the policy assessment and to alter recommendations on airport expansion. The Committee requested inclusion of information on international tax policy and low carbon alternative forms of transport.

5. UK Progress Report: agriculture and land use

The secretariat presented on the agriculture and land use emissions, trends, indicators and policy assessment. The Committee agreed with the key messages and key priority recommendations.

6. UK Progress Report: people and business

The secretariat presented on various sections of the people and business assessment. The Committee agreed with the score categories assigned, and the key recommendation approach, highlighting the need for careful wording when addressing both job opportunities and job losses. The Committee requested a recommendation which captures the need for a more substantive UK response to recent US and EU green industrial support packages.

7. UK Progress Report: governance

The secretariat presented on the policy scorecard assessment for governance. The Committee approved the scoring and proposed areas of focus, but was keen to push more on more clearly endorsing the recommendation from the Skidmore Review of a central coordinating unit for Net Zero, and emphasising the need to get institutional governance right for the energy system.

8. UK Progress Report: Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) and engineered removals

The secretariat presented on CCS and engineered removals. The Committee approved the policy gap chart, a simplified version of the policy scorecard and the priority recommendations. It was agreed the use of the word 'contingency' would be revisited to ensure the urgency of the required actions was properly conveyed.

9. UK Progress Report: decisions on low-carbon heat for buildings

The secretariat presented on the strategic decisions relating to the decarbonisation of heat in buildings. The Committee broadly supported this analysis, querying some of the specific criteria for assessments. The secretariat agreed to provide specific adjustments to criteria assessments and findings in the draft text.

10. UK Progress Report: electricity supply

The secretariat presented on power sector emissions, assessments of policy and technology, and key messages and recommendations for the report. The Committee request the overall assessment be downgraded from 'credible plans' to 'some risks', to reflect the continuing absence of a delivery plan or strategy and increasing delivery risks including on network capacity.

11. UK Progress Report: waste

The secretariat presented an overview of the waste chapter, focusing on the increase in energy from waste emissions. The Committee recommended strengthening recommendations, including capacity requirements, but advised any reference to moratoriums on energy from waste should be carefully worded.

12. UK Progress Report: shipping

The secretariat presented an overview of the shipping chapter, focused on key messages, emissions and indicators, policy assessment and new recommendations. The Committee agreed with downgrading several sections of

the policy scorecard, relating to the lack of updated plans for decarbonising the sector.

13. AOB and close of meeting

No other items were raised for discussion. It was agreed that the F-gases slides would be reviewed online.