

# Account of Meeting No. 7 of the Climate Risk and Sustainable Finance Forum (the Climate Forum)

14 May 2025

In attendance:

- Members ([here](#))<sup>1</sup>

- Central Bank:

Deputy Governor, Vasileios Madouros (Monetary and Financial Stability), Chair;

Mark Cassidy (Director of Financial Stability); and

Rory McElligott (Head of Climate Change Unit (CCU)).

## 1. Introduction by Chair

Deputy Governor of Monetary and Financial Stability, Vasileios Madouros, welcomed members and expressed his enthusiasm in taking over as the new Chair for the Forum. He noted other changes in the Forum since December, including the addition of new members and working group co-chairs.

The Chair then acknowledged recent international developments that have accumulated in a slowing pace of climate action and a concern over the dilution of climate reporting standards. Noting that these developments present growing challenges in the climate space, he reaffirmed the importance of the actions and effectiveness of climate-related groups, such as this Forum. The Chair concluded his remarks by welcoming the first speaker, Ms. Marie Donnelly, Chair of the Climate Change Advisory Council.

## 2. Presentation by Marie Donnelly, Chair, Climate Change Advisory Council

Marie Donnelly provided an overview of the progress and challenges ahead in meeting Ireland's carbon budgets. Setting out the importance of the carbon budgets in their ability to break down broad climate targets into achievable and timely targets on a sector-by-sector basis.

Noting that Ireland is an outlier in the sectoral shares of national emissions, she outlined the three most important factors in Ireland's emissions (fossil fuels, fertiliser and agriculture and forestry) and discussed the need to reduce emissions from each of these areas in a manner that is both socially and economically feasible. She noted that reducing carbon dioxide emissions is relatively straightforward, with fossil fuels expected to be eliminated by 2039 as Ireland moves towards a sustainable and secure energy market. Progress has been made in reducing agricultural emissions, noting that nitrous oxide emissions have already reached their 2030 target, given a reduction in fertiliser use. She added that methane emissions are also estimated to have reached their ceiling, given a stabilisation in herd numbers. Innovations in technology will likely contribute to further reductions, if approved by consumers. Progress in the forestry sector has been largely limited, as Ireland continually falls short of afforestation targets.

Given these sources of emissions, Ms Donnelly noted that Ireland has three important tools in reaching climate targets: legislation, technological innovation and behavioural change. Legislation continues to improve outcomes, with limited disruptions to consumers. Technological innovation can provide large benefits, but require significant capital investment as well as effective dissemination. Behavioural

---

<sup>1</sup>Apologies from Irish Life, FSI, KBI, Just Transition Commission, IPB Insurance, Irish MiFID Association, SEAI, Irish Funds and UNDP.

changes are more likely to occur only over longer periods, therefore legislation and technology will remain the most important levers of climate action in the near term. A Q&A session followed Ms Donnelly's presentation.

### **3. Panel Discussion: Navigating the Geopolitical Landscape**

The Chair then introduced Rory McElligott, Head of the CCU, as the Chair for the panel discussion. Panel members included representation from the Central Bank, the Climate Forum, and the financial sector. A summary of the Central Bank of Ireland's participation in global policymaking was provided, including its ongoing participation in the G20. Given a clear shift in the prioritisation of climate action at an international level, panel members discussed the impacts that this has had on their operations. Particular consideration was given to the changes identified in the European Commission's Omnibus Proposal, as well as broader challenges emerging globally. Acknowledgements were made that despite some rollbacks in climate action, many firms are committed to obtaining and improving climate-related data in order to accurately measure and manage risks.

### **4. Central Bank of Ireland Information Note: *Planning for the Transition to Net Zero – Our Perspective***

The Chair then introduced Kathleen McTaggart, of the (CCU) who presented an overview of the Information Note, '*Planning for the Transition to Net Zero – Our Perspective*,' which was published that day. Noting the engagement that took place with Climate Forum members previously and support for the output she began by setting out that the Information Note is not meant to be considered as guidance by firms. Rather the information note sets out the Central Bank's position that credible transition plans are a means to align business models with climate goals, manage strategic and financial risks and unlock opportunities to attract investment. She also set out that the information note seeks to assist all regulated entities in their own transition planning, and to help them assess the credibility of stakeholder transition plans, through the development of key principles to support the transition planning process. A Q&A followed the presentation.

### **5. Working Group Updates**

The Chair then discussed the role of the Working Groups and thanked members for their ongoing work.

Mr. Cathal McGlinchey, KMPG, introduced himself as the new co-chair for the Data and Disclosure working group, and provided a brief overview of the group's first meeting held earlier, its terms of reference and short-term goals.

Ms Louise O'Mahony then provided an update on behalf of the Risk Management Working Group, which is looking forward to welcoming many new members in its June meeting. She noted the working group will focus on transition planning and welcomed the publication of the Information Note.

Mr. Damien Lodge introduced himself to the Forum as the new co-chair for the Capacity Building Working Group. Mr. Lodge expressed thanks for the work of the previous co-chairs, Dr. Dorothy Maxwell, Davy, and Mr. Kevin Thompson, RSA Insurance Ireland. The next Working Group meeting will review the Terms of Reference and establish goals for the year at its next meeting.

Closing remarks were provided by the Chair, who thanked all members for their contributions since the Forum had been established, and noted that the next meeting would be 5 December 2025.