

Report of the 3rd Meeting of Food Vision 2030

High Level Implementation Committee

Wednesday 25 May 2022

Attendance:

Minister Charlie McConalogue (Brussels)

Minister of State Martin Heydon (item 5)

Agencies by webex: Michael Murphy, Bord Bia, Jim O'Toole, BIM, Professor Frank O'Mara, Teagasc, Laura Burke, EPA, Pam Byrne, FSAI, , Leo Clancy, EI

Other Government Departments by webex: Pauline Mulligan, DETE, Niall McCabe, DPER

DAFM: Brendan Gleeson - Secretary General (Brussels) Sinéad McPhillips, Bill Callanan, Paul Savage, Patrick Donohoe, Barry Cassidy (item 5), John Clarke, Jonathan Dunne, Ian Fox, Mary Callan, Lu Black

Secretariat: Seán Bell, Wila Bruce

Apologies: Cecil Beamish, DAFM, Brian Carroll, DECC

1. Introduction

Minister McConalogue began by thanking Georgina Hughes-Elders, the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, for her long standing contribution to the HLIC and wished her well in her new role. The Minister welcomed Michael Murphy, interim CEO of Bord Bia.

The minutes from the 2nd meeting on 3 March 2022 were agreed.

The Minister updated the Committee on some recent events since the last meeting including:

- The formal Food Vision 2030 Implementation Plan was launched.
- A €5 million Pilot Farm Environmental Study (FES) opened for applications. This will provide a valuable opportunity for farmers to learn more about farmland habitats and to have the habitats and biodiversity held on their land recorded, mapped and assessed.
- Over €2.5 million in research funding for soil and agri-ICT research initiatives was announced.

- A major in-person agri-food trade mission to North America took place, which included agreements on a health certificate for the export of Irish sheepmeat to the US. The Minister also met with the US Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack and opened a seminar at the World Bank on “Sustainable Food Systems.
- The inaugural meeting of the Organic Strategy Forum took place.
- A meeting took place with the French Minister of the Sea in Paris to discuss access to Irish coastal waters and to provide greater protection to the inshore waters around Ireland under the Common Fisheries Policy.
- A new €2 million International Strategic Partnership to support national climate action in Agriculture was announced.
- There was Cabinet approval for a Bill to establish a new Office for Fairness and Transparency in the Agri Food Supply chain and the Minister led a seminar on ‘Ensuring Fair Trading in the Agri-Food Supply Chain’. This is related to the presentation under Item 4, on the work to date of the Unfair Trading Practices Enforcement Authority.
- Initiatives for the seafood sector were announced, including a 2022 Brexit Voluntary Temporary Fishing Vessel Tie-up Scheme for the polyvalent and beam trawl fleets. The Scheme is an extension of the 2021 Tie-up Scheme, with some modifications, and will help mitigate the impacts of quota cuts for 2022 arising from the Brexit Trade and Cooperation Agreement. The Minister also announced approval for a scheme which will provide €45 million in funding for capital investment projects in seafood processing enterprises. These Schemes deliver on recommendations of the Report of the Seafood Task Force – ‘Navigating Change’ (October 2021) and are proposed for funding under the EU Brexit Adjustment Reserve.

Minister McConalogue said monitoring of developments in relation to the Ukraine crisis is continuing. There are immediate humanitarian, political and economic consequences arising from Russia’s illegal invasion of Ukraine. At the Council of Agriculture Ministers meeting in Brussels on 24 May the Minister emphasised the need to examine all options to protect supply chains and food security as the European Union continues to evolve its response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The Minister supports the comprehensive nature of the EU agri-related responses to the impacts. A number of measures have been announced nationally over the past three months to assist the agriculture sector and additional necessary measures are being considered. There is ongoing engagement with all stakeholders, across Government, and with European partners, to respond

to this crisis, using all of the available tools. The Minister is taking a very proactive approach to the crisis in Ukraine in order to protect the agri-food sector through this period of significant upheaval.

2. Food Vision Environmental Working Sub-Group Update

(Mission 1: A Climate Smart, Environmentally Sustainable Sector)

Bill Callanan provided an update on the work of the Food Vision Environmental Working Sub-Group, the third meeting was held on 19 May and the next meeting is planned for September. This Group was established to oversee monitoring, review and reporting of environmental issues and report back to the High-Level Implementation Committee (HLIC), on the impact of the Food Vision Strategy. The Group aims to publish a report on the key indicators at national level. There will be reporting challenges in the first year and there will be some data gaps. It is hoped that the first annual report will be published in Q3 of 2022, this will be high level and include reporting on general trends. It is hoped that this report will be completed by contractors in subsequent years.

3. Food Vision Dairy Group

Mission 1: A Climate Smart, Environmentally Sustainable Sector and Mission 2: Viable and Resilient Primary Producers, with Enhanced Wellbeing

Professor Gerry Boyle, Chair of Food Vision Dairy Group attended for this item.

Minister McConalogue announced that the Food Vision Beef and Sheep Group will convene shortly to begin its work with Professor Thia Hennessy, Head of the Department of Food Business & Development and Chair of Agri-Food Economics at Cork University Business School, as its Chair.

Professor Gerry Boyle began by saying that an interim report is ready to be signed off and will be submitted to the Minister this week with the aim to have a final report complete by the end of July. This Group dealt exclusively with the dairy sector but has cross-over with other sectors.

The presentation covered the following:

- Terms of Reference
- Climate Action 2021 – Sectoral Reduction Targets
- Sources of Emissions from the Agricultural Section
- Enteric Methane Emissions
- Direct Impact Measures to Mitigate Greenhouse Gas Emissions from the Dairy Sector

- Enabling Factors to Support the Mitigation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from the Dairy Sector
- Estimated GHG reductions from Key Measures
- Next Steps

A discussion on the Report and next steps followed.

4. Ensuring Fair Trading in the Agri-Food Supply Chain

Mission 2: Goal 2: Improve the Creation and Equitable Distribution of Value

Noel Collins, Head of Unfair Trading Practices Enforcement Authority attended for this item

Noel Collins gave a presentation on Ensuring Fair Trading in the Agri-Food Supply Chain as follows:

- Unfair Trading: When and Why?
- Relevant Food Vision 2030 Anchor – Mission 2, Goal2
- UTP Legislation and Key Dates
- Key Points of UTP Regulations
- Enforcement Authority (EA) Aims
- Enforcement Authority Approach
- Buyer Engagement
- Approach with Other Largest Buyers
- Wider Awareness Raising
- Breakfast Seminar: Ensuring Fair Trading in the Agri-Food Supply Chain – 5th May 2022
- Enforcement Policy
- Buyer 6-point Checklist
- Survey of Suppliers in agri-food supply chain
- EA priorities for rest of 2022
- Enforcement approach with buyers
- Office for Fairness and Transparency in the Agri-Food Supply Chain

A discussion on next steps followed.

5. Trade Missions

Mission 3: Goal 4: Develop Market opportunities at Home and Abroad

Minister of State Heydon and Damien Flynn, Head of Brexit and International Trade attended for this item

Minister Heydon began by saying that Ministerial-led trade missions are an important tool in delivering on the export growth ambition of the industry set out in Food Vision 2030. Following the challenges which Covid-19 presented in terms of restrictions on international travel, the

return to in person trade missions this year is a positive development. The benefits of engaging directly with Government counterparts and businesses in these markets was evident from the recent trade mission to Mexico. These in person trade missions have demonstrated the importance of this direct contact in building relationships both at Government to Government level and with existing & potential customers for Irish food. The establishment, and nurturing, of these relationships is critical to building trust and making progress on addressing specific market access issues in priority markets. Minister Heydon said the Mexican trade mission allowed discussion with his counterparts in the Mexican Ministry of Agriculture and more widely across Mexican Government with Departments of Trade and Foreign Affairs on key access issues related to pigmeat, petfood, and beef. Minister Heydon concluded by saying that he looked forward to the next 3rd country Mission to Southeast Asia in the Autumn and visits to European markets in Germany, UK and France later in the year, all of which will be important in supporting the sector deliver on its export growth ambitions.

Damien Flynn and **Michael Murphy** gave a presentation on Trade Missions as follows:

- Strategic Context of Trade Missions
- Bord Bia Office Network and Agriculture Attaches
- Meat Market Access in Priority Markets
- Support in Action: Trade Missions 2022 and 2023
- UAE and Saudi Arabia Trade Mission, February 2022
- North America Trade Mission, April 2022
- Organic Trade Mission Germany, July 2022
- Looking Ahead: Leveraging the Best of Hybrid

A discussion on trade missions followed.

6. AOB

Food Vision 2030 Secretariat

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