

Food Vision 2030

Environmental Working Sub-Group Meeting (through VC)

Thursday 16 December 2021

Attendees:

Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine: Bill Callanan (Chair), Deirdre Fay, Dale Crammond, Wila Bruce, Shane Flanagan, Corina Roe, Niall Ryan.

Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications: Noel Regan, Niall McLoughlin

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage: Colin Byrne, Andy Bleasdale

EPA: Brian Donlon

Teagasc: John Spink

Bord Bia: Deirdre Ryan

Bord Iascaigh Mhara: Rory Campbell

Independent: Michael Hamell

Secretariat: Maria Talbot, Damien Wyse

Apologies: Ted Massey, Bernard Harris, Jack Nolan

Bill Callanan, Chair opened the meeting and welcomed members to the group while outlining broadly the role and expectations of the group in contributing their expertise and knowledge to the monitoring process. Food Vision (FV) contains strong ambition and it is important that the SEA monitoring process is open and transparent with clear understandable messaging. The group will report annually to the HLIC regarding environmental metrics and will also articulate challenges. The Chair encouraged all members to contribute in this regard.

Members of the EWSG were introduced.

Food Vision 2030

The Committee was given a presentation on *Food Vision 2030* beginning with an overview of the strategy's objectives. It was noted that FV takes both a food systems and mission approach and some detail of each of the four missions was provided to the group. The success of the strategy will be judged by the monitoring and implementation process. The presentation concluded with an outline of the SEA and AA processes carried out for FV.

A discussion followed where it was emphasised that FV is forthright in the environmental challenges facing the sector. It was noted that the choice of monitoring indicators is crucial with water given as a specific example. The group was informed that through the SEA process a range of indicators were

identified with regard to FV along with proposed additional indicators. It is intended that where possible existing indicator data, whether from DAFM or other responsible department/agency/authority, will be used. Using metrics to identify whether FV is on the correct path to achieve its ambitions regarding environmental sustainability, the group can make recommendations to the HLIC, however, it is the role of the HLIC to address issues if necessary. The importance of aligning parallel processes such as the CAP Strategic Plan was emphasised.

A discussion followed on how environmental commitments are to be met for example, what might a climate neutral economy by 2050 look like. The tools identified to deliver on commitments include a mixture of regulatory, incentive and market drivers. Consistency and clarity of messaging was raised as a challenge in this regard.

The report to the HLIC should consider whether the environmental actions set out in Mission 1 are robust enough to achieve the environmental ambition set out in the strategy. Upon publication each new agri-food strategy sets a ten-year horizon for the sector but early action is required to demonstrate progress.

Actions: Rural Development Division to give a presentation at the next meeting linking the actions contained in FV with proposals in the new CAP Strategic Plan

Previous ESC report to be circulated for information.

Draft Terms of Reference

The group discussed the content of the draft Terms of Reference for the EWSG. Clarification given that the HLIC tasks include progressing the delivery of the four Missions and where appropriate updating the strategy. The EWSG role includes reviewing progress towards achieving the Strategy's high-level environmental goals and actions set out in Mission 1, and where appropriate make recommendations to the HLIC for their consideration.

Actions: DAFM to update wording around remit of group and circulate to the group.

SEA indicators to be attached as appendices and updated draft Terms of Reference to be circulated and proposed with non-response to be taken as acceptance.

AOB/Date of next meeting

It was proposed that group meetings take place before each HLIC meeting (dates provisional).

Action: DAFM to circulate proposed dates.

ENDS