



Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce

Meeting 9 Minutes

7 June 2023

Attendees:

Name	Initials	Organisation
Minister Eamon Ryan	MR	Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications
Matt Collins (Chair)	MC	DECC
Robert McGuinness	RMcG	DECC
Joseph Cummins	JC	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE)
Colm Forde	CF	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE)
Mark Christal	MC	Enterprise Ireland (EI)
Ken Cleary	KC	Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform (DPENDPDR)
Sarah Miley	SM	Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS)
Paul Moran	PM	EirGrid
Caoimhín Ó Ciaruáin	COC	Department of Transport (DoT)
Claire Finn	CF	Department of Transport (DoT)
William Priestley	WP	Department of Transport (DoT)
Graham Clifford	GC	Department of Transport (DoT)
Shane Smyth	SS	Department of Transport (DoT)
Bronagh Treacy	BT	Department of Transport (DoT)
Phil Hemmingway	PH	Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU)
Fintan Towey	FT	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)
Marie Minihan	MM	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)
James Kenny	JK	Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD)
Noel Clancy	NC	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)
Paul Kenny	PK	DECC
Damien Clarke	DC	DECC
Conor McCabe	CMcC	DECC
Eoin McShane	EMcS	DECC
Stuart Nolan	SN	DECC
Tom Chan	TC	DECC
Ferga Kane	FK	EY
Saigeetha Srinivasan	SS	EY
Tony Connolly	TC	EY
Tomás Murray	TM	EY



Secretariat: Ian Price (DECC), Kate Ahern (DECC), Joanne Keenan (DECC)

Apologies: William Beausang (DFHERIS), David Hegarty (DETE), Roni Hawe (DAFM)

Agenda Item 1: Opening Remarks

MR welcomed members to the meeting and gave a brief overview of recent developments, noting the success of the ORESS auction as a significant and positive step towards the deployment of offshore wind in Ireland. MR proceeded to outline the work done since the last meeting of the Taskforce, noting the designation of 17 July as the official date for the establishment of the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA).

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of Minutes of Meeting 8

The minutes of Meeting 8 were circulated prior to the meeting and were adopted.

Agenda Item 3: Update on Actions Arising from Meeting 8

COC advised that the consolidated note from DoT and DHLGH on planning and consenting issues had been submitted to the Minister. The Chair acknowledged the progress made in relation to this work.

COC reported that the IMDO draft report on the Minimum Irish Port Capacity was being finalised and would be circulated the week after next.

Agenda Item 4: Update on MARA/Ports discussion from Meeting 8 [DHLGH/DoT]

COC reported that a lot of work had been done to ensure ports readiness and that engagement between DoT and DECC had ramped up in the last month in support of this work. He also highlighted that the establishment of MARA along with the amendments to the MAP Act would enable ports to commence the planning process. COC stressed that DoT and DHLGH will continue to work together to ensure the planning process can begin as soon as the amendment has been passed.

In relation to financing and funding, COC advised that DoT had held discussions with DPENDPDR, NewERA and the IMDO. COC reported that commercial conversations were also taking place at pace. He also outlined that the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) results



were due in mid-June and noted that a business case was being prepared for submission to DECC to access the Climate Action Fund to secure funding to establish a fund to contribute towards port feasibility studies along the same lines as the CEF, in the event that CEF funding is not secured.

COC also reported that DoT were intending to establish a forum to bring developers and ports together in order to accelerate the process. An event is being planned for the end of June during which presentations would be made by the ports and developers alongside presentations addressing the finance piece.

The Chair queried whether the IMDO report will change significantly as 4 ports would be needed to deliver on the 2030 targets to which COC replied that Rosslare Europort, Port of Cork, Doyle Shipping and Shannon Foynes had informed the department that they were progressing plans to satisfy the 5GW target and he noted that there were other ports looking to progress in future years which could be used to meet future targets.

In response to the Chair's query on when investment decisions would be made, COC advised that these should take place by the end of 2024. He mentioned that longer term funding contracts and equity models were also being explored and that the EIB are also procuring consultants to consider the wider financial options available and what has been availed of in other jurisdictions.

Following a question and associated discussion on State Aid requirements, COC noted preliminary research had been undertaken but noted that ports' business cases need to be finalised and scrutinised to assess commercial and financial viability in the first instance.

The Chair thanked FT for the legislative work his Department had completed which will make a huge difference to the planning process.

Action Points:

- Circulate the finalised IMDO report on MIPC study (DoT)

Agenda Item 5: Update on Workstreams by exception

Workstream 8 – Skills and Workforce



SM informed Members that the Workstream was looking at expanding the membership of the Expert Advisory Group on Skills and Workforce Requirements. SM noted that WEI were running an EOI process in order to get three industry representatives on the group. SM also noted that a contract had been awarded by Greentech Skillnet in relation to the pathway for critical skills and workforce requirements for ORE, and that work had commenced. SM reported that initial recommendations and results should be available in mid-June. SM also updated the Taskforce on a change to one of the Workstream's actions which pertains to a communications campaign and noted that the change would lead to more impactful work on this. In response to the Chair's query about whether the funding plan for the work would be included in the October budget, SM confirmed that they hoped to have a preliminary business case entered in June with a final business case submitted thereafter, in advance of the deadline for the budget. The Chair asked how this was progressing and SM advised that the work will be finalised before being submitted for DPENDPDR approval through the Estimates process.

Workstream 7 – Supply Chain

CF (DETE) provided an update on DETE's industrial strategy. The intention is to align publication with DECC's Future Framework policies in Q1 2024. CF (DETE) outlined that DETE has been working closely with DECC to develop a scoping strategy and noted that an enterprise forum was in development. DETE are also working with Enterprise Ireland (EI) in relation to developing industrial supply chain zones in key port areas. The Chair stressed that more detail was required in relation to ensuring supply chains would be available to meet 2030 targets. MC advised that work was ongoing to develop a strong cohort of companies to form part of the supply chain and that EI were currently working with a network of 85 companies (Gael Offshore Network). MC agreed to present to the group on the offshore wind supply chain.

Workstream 6 – Maritime Transport/Commercial Ports Policy

COC advised that the main Workstream 6 updates had been covered under Agenda item 4 but highlighted that the required technical guidance was being developed and an internal consultation would be run in the next few months. He also informed Members that the



legislation in relation to vessel activities is expected to be submitted to the Government prior to the summer recess and highlighted that engagement was ongoing in relation to skills gaps.

Workstream 5 – Grid Development including Licensing/Regulation

PM advised that ORESS 1 has now mobilised, and the current objective is to support the developers with their planning in order to reach the long-term aim of assisting them to get their full connection contracts. He confirmed that the foreshore applications have been successfully submitted and noted that marine surveys, which are currently going through a procurement process, are expected to commence early next year. The Chair queried whether the Workstream was on track according to the roadmap, to which PM replied that they were and that they expected to provide the developers with connection contracts in June of next year.

Workstream 4 – ORESS

RMcG informed the Taskforce that no notices of dissatisfaction had been received following the provisional results of ORESS 1 with final results expected on 14 June. ORESS 2 is also on schedule and engagement between DECC and MARA will be important in expediting projects through the MARA process.

Workstream 3 – Communications

RMcG reported that a dedicated Communications unit had now been established. RMcG informed Members that industry engagement with the Taskforce would take place on a bimonthly basis to ensure buy in and provide access to relevant information. The first of these events is scheduled for late June. MR asked whether there had been any feedback from the National Climate Stakeholder Forum and stressed the importance of all stakeholders, including environmental bodies and NGOs, being a part of the dialogue. RMcG advised that a draft interim strategy was being prepared which would consider all stakeholders and rural and coastal communities.

Workstream 2 – Enduring Regime 2030



RMcG informed the Taskforce that the Enduring Regime had officially been renamed as the Future Framework. In relation to the OREDPII consultation, he reported that a lot of valuable feedback had been received and that DECC colleagues were working to incorporate the findings into the final strategy which is due to be published in September. The Interconnection and Hydrogen strategies are also progressing and are due to be finalised in June.

Workstreams 1A (Marine Planning, Regulations & Guidelines), 1B (Marine Biodiversity, Designation & Assessment), 1C (ORE Consenting and Regulatory Framework)

FT reported that 9 of the 39 actions were now completed. He also informed the Taskforce that the establishment of MARA was proceeding well and the new CEO of MARA will commence on 10 July. He concluded his update by noting that the amendment of Part 2 of the MAP act had enabled the designation of the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications as the competent authority for the designation of DMAPs which will have positive implications for Phase 1 projects and future DMAPs.

Agenda Item 6: AOB

- The next meeting of the Taskforce is scheduled to take place on 26 July (11:30-12:45).
- The Chair thanked EY for their input and contribution during the development and implementation of the Offshore Wind Energy Programme.

Actions:

Action	Owner
DoT to share the finalised IMDO report on MIPC study	DoT
MC to present on the offshore wind supply chain	MC (EI)