

CAP Post-2020 Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday 18 May 2020 by Webex

DAFM attendees Paul Savage, Assistant Secretary General (Chair), Sharon Murphy, Fran Morrin, Jacquie Casey, Maria Rigney (minute taker), Edwina Love, Sean Bell, Karen Hanlon, Bernard Harris, Niall Ryan, John Eivers, Mary Carey, Jack Nolan, Ted Massey, Corina Roe and Ultan Waldron, Angela Corcoran, Anthony Cawley, Fintan O'Brien, Fiona Bury, Harry O'Crowley, Patrick Barrett, Meg Laffan, Richard Howell, Sean Bell, Rosita Neilan.

See Annex 1 for list of other organisations and names of their representatives in attendance.

The Chair welcomed the Committee members to today's virtual meeting focussed on the cross cutting objectives in the CAP which are Agricultural Knowledge Innovation System (AKIS) and Gender Equality. He thanked the Committee Members for the responses received to date which will be incorporated, along with today's comments, into the revised version of the SWOT which will be available to the Committee shortly. The next stage will be the needs assessment phase. The Chair introduced the presenters before Ted Massey; EU Division ran through the Webex functions.

Item 1: Minutes from the meeting on 28 April 2020 and matters arising

The draft minutes were agreed.

Item 2: Update on developments at EU level

Sharon Murphy, EU Division gave an update. The main focus at EU level is in response to Covid 19 rather than issues to do with the CAP. The Presidency continues to remain in touch with MS to ask for their views in written format, no return to working groups meetings yet. Expecting a revised Commission proposal on the budget shortly, this will be focussed on the response to Covid 19.

Corina Roe gave an update on the Transitional arrangements. The Parliament has agreed their negotiation position. The Parliament and the Council will meet with the Commission on 20 May to commence trialogues to agree the text. The Croatian Presidency is still hopeful of concluding this by the end of June. The length of the Transitional period is still to be agreed and the EU budget remains to be decided. In DAFM, we have started work on considering how we can give effect to the Transitional regulations. There will be administrative limitations around what can be achieved in this time period.

Item 3: Gender equality – presentation by Prof Sally Shortall, Newcastle University, UK

Professor Sally Shortall gave a presentation on Gender Equality in the context of the CAP Post 2020. The Chair thanked Sally for her presentation and discussed the need for an integrated approach to creating gender balance. The Chair said he is open to considering policy options that could be advanced within the CAP to increase female participation. He then opened to the floor for comments.

Committee Members were pleased to receive Prof Shortall's input and information on activities in Scotland and other countries. Gender equality is a Sustainable Development Goals objective. An open discussion took place where topics included; mentoring programmes, peer learning, farm partnerships, leadership representation, women representatives on boards, more diversity in farming organisations and the traditional management of farms i.e. women involved in the background, but not the decision making process. In addition, land inheritance, succession planning,

additional incentives for women and previous programmes in Spain and Sweden were also discussed.

The Chair discussed the Farm Partnership registration process and said DAFM maybe able to get a better breakdown on the figures. The Chair asked is there a way we could encourage a more coherent approach across the three strands of industry, Government policy development and women themselves to tackle unconscious bias?

Prof Shortall said in terms of consultation, the key is to be as inclusive as possible. With farm organisations, invite them to bring women along. Also bring women organisations along. Look at new entrants, ask gendered questions, are there particular measures that could be introduced around young farmers.

The Chair said DAFM will reflect on the key issues emerging from the discussion i.e. land inheritance and succession planning. The Chair thanked everyone for their comments and confirmed DAFM will seek to reflect these in the updated SWOT which will be shared with the Committee in the coming weeks. The Chair also said DAFM is keen to follow up with Prof Shortall on the Spanish and Swedish experience regarding incentivising women in agriculture.

Item 4: Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) and agri-digitalisation – presentation by Patrick Barrett, DAFM.

Patrick Barrett, DAFM gave presentations on this cross cutting objective AKIS and on agri-digitalisation. The Chair thanked Patrick for his presentations and opened the floor for comments.

It was suggested that the traditional advisory service has been too production focussed and a whole farm plan approach now needs to be considered. It was also suggested that progress on digitalisation will be hampered by farmer's age profile. It was felt that advisors should receive more training regarding different environmental aspects. Sustainability goals should underpin all advisory capacity. Dissemination of information between researchers and industry is a key issue, there are gaps in the level of engagement and involvement with AKIS within the farming sector, there needs to be more targeted measures for greater effectiveness. It was suggested that existing schemes need to be reviewed.

Generational renewal, Knowledge Vouchers for farmers as part of the new CAP, Knowledge Transfer schemes, one to one farmer courses and data collection possibilities were also discussed along with a need for greater focus at 3rd level (including green cert) on education in relation to climate, biodiversity and water quality related issues.

The Chair said the scope for innovation is increasing all the time, we need to move from a linear model of information transfer to an integrated way of exchanging information by joining up the dots both in and outside the CAP. We have to describe elements in our CAP Strategic Plan (CSP); we have to describe the structure and framework in which this modernisation and digitalisation will be achieved and implemented. It's complex but it will form a part of the CSP and an addition will be added to the SWOT specifically focussed on AKIS.

Item 5: Future work of the Committee

The Chair reviewed the work of the Committee and discussed the next steps. The discussion today and at the previous meeting will be reflected in an updated SWOT. It is planned to circulate this updated version of the SWOT in 7 to 10 days time. The next phase will be the Needs Assessment. Originally it was proposed to hold regional focus groups, but DAFM is now considering doing this in a virtual meeting format. The Chair proposed a focus group session on 10th June to look at the Needs

Assessment and asked the Committee Members to look at the revised SWOT and identify their priority needs arising from the SWOT for the new CAP.

Committee Members were invited to nominate another three attendees to participate in a wider focus group on 10th June. The Chair asked the members to consider the updated version of the SWOT with their groups. After the meeting on 10th June, DAFM will come back to the CAP Consultative Committee with a refined set of needs.

Date of next meeting The next CAP Consultative Committee is scheduled to take place at the end of June – possibly the 25/26th June. In the meantime the broader focus group meeting will take place on 10th June.

AOB

The issue of the transitional arrangements applicable at the end of the year was raised. The Chair confirmed there is no definitive timeline at this stage. There is still a lot of uncertainty around this and the EU budget. The Department is currently looking at the options available during the transition period.

End.

Annex 1.

Committee Member/Representative	Organisation
Bleasdale, Andy	Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
Caffrey, Mary	Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
Carter, Clive	Irish Grain Growers Association
Claffey, James	Irish Rural Link
Deakin, Jenny	EPA
Duffy, Thomas	Macra Na Feirme
Duggan, Oonagh	Environmental Pillar/Bird Watch Ireland
Farrell, Eamonn	ICOS - Irish Cooperative Organisation Society
Fitzsimons, Paula	Acorns
Gunning, Gerry	IFA - Irish Farmers Association
Hanrahan, Kevin	Teagasc
Harney, Dympna	Department of Rural and Community Development
Lumley, Ian	An Taisce
McCabe, Niall	Department of Public Expenditure and Reform
Mulvihill, Conor	Dairy Industry Ireland
O'Donnell, Colm	Irish Natura & Hill Farmers Association
O'Driscoll, Owen	Agricultural Consultants Association
Randles, Anne	ORNUA
Shortall, Prof. Sally	University of Newcastle
Smyth, Paul	ICMSA
Stanley Smith, Charles	Environmental Pillar
Wallace, Prof. Michael	UCD
Westbrook, Gillian	IOFGA