

## **CAP Post-2020 Consultative Committee Meeting**

**Thursday 27 February 2020 – Agriculture House**

### **Draft Minutes**

#### **In attendance:**

DAFM - Paul Savage, Assistant Secretary General (Chair), Corina Roe, CAP Rural Development Division, Ultan Waldron, CAP Rural Development Division, Fran Morrin, CAP Entitlements Division, Jacque Casey, CAP Rural Development Division, Maria Rigney EU Division (minute taker).

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

#### **Item 1. Minutes from the meeting on the 06 December 2019 and matters arising.**

The Chair welcomed the Committee members and the draft minutes were agreed.

#### **Item 2. Presentation on CAP Consultative Committee's work to date**

Maria Rigney, EU Division gave a progress report on the CAP Post-2020 Consultative Committee's work to date. The Chair confirmed that some elements of the report will feed into the negotiations and some of the issues, especially relating to the environmental areas, will be addressed later. Stakeholders comments on biodiversity and diversification will be added to the presentation before circulation.

#### **Item 3. Update on developments at EU level**

The Chair updated the Committee. There were two Agri-Fish councils (December and January). In December the Finnish Presidency published a progress report. The CMO and Horizontal Regulation are mainly stable. The main outstanding issues relate to the CAP Strategic Plan Regulation. Developments with the Green Deal are ongoing, and the New Delivery Model reporting measures are still under discussion.

In January the Croatian Presidency focussed on the Green Deal and the Farm to Fork strategy which is due to be published in March. The CAP Transitional regulations were discussed, and discussions will continue over the coming months. At working group, the discussion has been mainly technical and has now progressed to SCA.

At SCA - Member States favour a 2-year transitional arrangement. The Commission states it will only be for 1-year transition as a 2-year transition would cause legal difficulties. Member States will be expected to keep their environmental ambitions delivered and work is ongoing.

At MFF - the European Council held a special meeting in Brussels on 20 February, the results of which were inconclusive. After a series of bi-laterals no formal negotiation box was produced by Charles Michel. Ireland's priority is to defend the CAP budget. The Presidency will now reflect and try to get back before the next Council on 26 March with the possibility of another special EU Council in the coming weeks not being ruled out.

The Chair opened the floor for comments:

Stakeholders asked for clarification on transitional arrangements and convergence. The Chair confirmed convergence will continue during the current programme, however convergence will not continue during the transitional period. The new programme will be in place from 2022. Member States can increase their environmental level of ambition, the question was asked, could Ireland be the leader on seeking higher ambition.

The Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment's spokesperson said the Climate Action Plan intends to meet the 30% target, including agriculture. A higher ambition is expected to come with the Green Deal.

A stakeholder asked what consideration is going to be given re. the impact of increased ammonia levels and suggested it is a public health issue. There was criticism of the Department's proposal to increase the investment ceiling for the pig and poultry sectors. The Chair responded by confirming the funding relates to animal welfare issues in the Pig sector and is not designed to facilitate increased numbers. The Chair confirmed that DAFM have targets and ambition and the bar is raised with the Green Deal. This will be clearer when the Farm to Fork strategy is published.

#### **Item 4. Discussion on working draft SWOT analysis and background papers as well as proposed follow up**

The Chair updated the Committee. The Department held bi-lateral discussions with other Government Departments and the papers were updated before circulation. The Chair asked for initial feedback and suggested high level comments would be welcome. Stakeholders were invited to submit written comments by 12 March. The next step is to have a thematic discussion around approximately three areas on the 19 March. The discussion will be driven by the Committee and they were invited to give presentations on the day. After the thematic discussion, that the next step would be the Needs Assessment. It is intended to organise focus groups or stakeholder workshops week commencing 20 April 2020. This Stakeholder consultation process will take place in locations around the country where invited stakeholders can give their views.

The Chair opened the floor for comments.

Stakeholders initial views on the SWOT were positive. It was felt the documents were very comprehensive and that the bio-diversity section was well written. Stakeholders outlined some of their views in more detail, these included: The Impact on farm income and the marketplace, duplication in some areas of the SWOT, costings relating to the MACC curve, convergence, risk management tools, diversification. Young farmers, farm advisory service, more emphasis on forestry, high nature farmland and concern of the use of language around intensive farming were also raised.

Concern was raised that the agri-food strategy 2030 is proceeding before the CAP Strategic Plan is finalised. There was also an exchange of views in relation to Bord Bia's Origin Green programme.

A Stakeholder asked for an explanation of the CAP Strategic Plan process and requested a formal description of the needs (milestones and roadmap). It was also suggested that the timeframe for submitting formal comments on the SWOT was not long enough. The Environmental Pillar offered their assistance as they have experience citizen engagement and consultation.

The Chair thanked the stakeholders for their comments and confirmed they will be taken into consideration. He acknowledged there was duplication and overlap in the SWOT and this was both a result of the cross-cutting nature of some of the objectives, and the structure of the process set out in the Regulation. For policy coherence, the agri-food 2030 strategy is reflected in the SWOT. Development of the agri-food 2030 strategy is an ongoing process, with comprehensive stakeholder involvement in the negotiations, which includes industry. There is a timeline for completion of the CAP Strategic Plan and the level of ambition targets are clear, the CAP needs to be consistent. The Chair said that DAFM are conscious to maintain consistency and that Ag. Climatise and the Farm to Fork Strategy will be considered. Consultation has taken place with colleagues in DAFM and other Government Departments.

The Chair discussed the upcoming thematic discussion and asked if there were any issues the Stakeholders wished to raise. The topics, risk management, diversification and the issue

environmental advisory services to farmers were suggested. The Chair agreed to look at circulating something among the members on the themes being discussed.

**Action point:** Substantial written comments of the SWOT to be submitted by 12 March.

**Update:** Deadline for Committee Members to submit comments regarding the CAP Strategic Plan has been extended until Thursday 26 March to [CAPStrategicPlan@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:CAPStrategicPlan@agriculture.gov.ie)  
Closing date for submission of thematic discussion topic suggestions remains Thursday 12 March.

**Item 5. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 19 March @ 10am and will be a thematic discussion.

**Update:** Meeting scheduled for 19 March has been postponed in light of COVID-19. Alternative arrangements will be put in place.

**Item 6. A.O.B.**

No points were raised under any other business.

**Annex 1.**

<b>Committee Member/Representative</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Bleasdale, Andy	NPWS
Burke, Joe	Bord Bia
Carter, Clive	Irish Grain Growers Assoc
Claffey, James	NRN
Condon, Joe	Irish Natura & Hill Farmers Association
Duffy, Thomas	Macra
Duggan, Oonagh	Birdwatch Ireland
Farrell, Eamonn	ICOS
Flynn, Donal	Dept of Housing, planning and local Government
Grant, Donal	Dept Housing, Planning & Local Govt
Gunning, Gerry	IFA
Hanrahan, Kevin	Teagasc
Harney, Dymnpa	Dept Rural and Community Development
Lynch, Donal	Dept of Public Expenditure and Reform
Mulvihill, Conor	Dairy Industry Ireland
O'Driscoll, Owen	Agricultural Consultants Association
O'Farrell, Kevin	An Taisce
Punch, Eddie	ICSA
Randles, Anne	Ornua
Regan, Noel	Dept of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
Smyth, Paul	ICMSA
Stanley Smith, Charles	Environmental Pillar
Wallace, Michael	UCD
Westbrook, Gillian	IOFGA