European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change

European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change

28th Advisory Board meeting
Minutes

Monday 23 June 09:00 – Tuesday 24 June 15:30 (CEST), 2025
European Environment Agency, Kongens Nytorv 6, 1050 Copenhagen

Participants
See Annex 1.

Agenda
See Annex 2.

Documents
All meeting documents are directly available on the Advisory Board's Teams site.

1. Opening of meeting
The minutes from meeting of 13 May 2025 were adopted without further comments.

The agenda of the meeting was adopted without comments.

2. General update by the Chair
The Chair provided an overview of the main outcomes of the 27th Advisory Board meeting and the extraordinary Advisory Board meeting where the *"Scientific advice for amending the European Climate Law"* was adopted. He also gave an update on key policy developments, outreach and meeting activities, and the main expectations for the meeting.

3. General update by the Secretariat
The Head of the Secretariat gave an update on the developments in Brussels, mainly related to EU's industrial policy and carbon management.

The Head of the Secretariat also gave an overview of the Secretariat meetings, reiterated the designation procedure for the Advisory Board's second term, and informed that an external adaptation expert would join the Secretariat for the 2nd half of 2025.

The call for the International Climate Councils Network (ICCN) co-chairs was highlighted. The call will be circulated by the Secretariat, and the application deadline is 20 July.

4. European Climate Law project

The Secretariat presented the key developments since the publication of the advice: achievement of the project's goal, media coverage, and the forthcoming policy process.

The Advisory Board discussed the publication and how it was received. Media coverage was particularly high for this publication, although the focus was on international credits.

The Advisory Board decided that a short and neutral statement should be prepared and ready to be shared upon request after the publication of the European Commission proposal expected on 2 July.

The Advisory Board agreed to postpone the final evaluation of the European Climate Law project to the next meeting in September.

5. Agriculture project

The Project Champion provided an update on progress, highlighting key challenges around the report's scope, notably the risk of expanding into an overly broad document, which would introduce delays. Options for moving forward, with implications for timing, scope, and resources, were presented for the Advisory Board's consideration.

The Advisory Board members discussed how to respond to these challenges, and agreed on the following way forward:

- For part A, the assessment would be simplified while ensuring scientific robustness, by focusing on key potential synergies and trade-offs between climate mitigation, adaptation and other dimensions
- For part B, the report should focus on policy coherence between different policy instruments, and take into account upcoming proposals from the European Commission, while maintaining flexibility if publication precedes them.
- Overall, the Board agreed that the report should outline what is needed to align the agri-food system with the EU climate objectives, while acknowledging the challenges this might bring for other societal objectives and proposing solutions on how to address this. The report should elaborate on what the agricultural community could gain from a transition of the sector.

The Secretariat presented preliminary findings on GHG pricing options and CAP reform, and the Advisory Board provided guidance. Particular attention was given to distributional effects, administrative burden, and avoiding overly detailed system design. A phased approach was considered useful.

With regard to the CAP, the Advisory Board asked the Secretariat to focus the assessment on potential changes related to:

1. direct income support, with the aim to avoid inconsistent incentives and better target income support,
2. the green architecture, with the aim to make it more effective
3. risk and crisis management tools, with the aim to provide adaptation support while avoiding perverse incentives.

On food policy, the Advisory Board acknowledged the importance of addressing externalities and influencing demand-side behaviour without restricting consumer choice. Cultural dimensions and communication strategies for different audiences were discussed.

The Advisory Board agreed to revisit emerging key messages in September. The timeline for publication in November was deemed ambitious, with a possible delay under consideration. Final decisions on publication timing are to be made later in the process. The Secretariat noted resource constraints and the importance of continued active engagement from Advisory Board members over the summer.

6. Opening of Day 2

The Chair opened the second day of the meeting.

7. Presentation on Adaptation

The Head of the Secretariat introduced the Head of Unit for Climate Risk and Resilience at the EEA. The Head of Unit gave an update on the plans for EUCRA II, ECAP and other EEA adaptation work followed by an informal discussion with the Board.

8. Adaptation project

The Project Co-Champion gave an update on the project and explained the relevance of the project for the Advisory Board. The Secretariat presented the analytical steps set out in the project narrative, which the Advisory Board members discussed. Based on that initial discussion it was agreed that the report should:

i) focus on high-level recommendations,
ii) highlight the need for EU action and principles for good adaptation policy,
iii) present the physical science on the warming climate in a limited way,
iv) include one or two examples of policy gaps but not provide a comprehensive policy gap assessment.

The Project Co-Champion then presented the potential scope for recommendations and the need for an overarching message to guide the development of the report. The Advisory Board discussed this and reached consensus on the aim of the report being to set out guiding principles for good adaptation policy on how the European Resilience and Risk Management Plan can ensure the EU effectively drives adaptation efforts. An analysis supporting the principles should also outline what this means in practice for policymakers

and, where feasible in a light-touch manner, identify relevant policy gaps or recommendations to make the advice more tangible and actionable.

9. Stocktake and planning

The Secretariat updated the Advisory Board on the bilateral stocktake with individual Advisory Board members that has taken place since the last meeting on 13 May 2025.

The Advisory Board provided further feedback, including suggestions to further develop internal infrastructure, prioritise policy gap analysis and to evaluate the impact of the Advisory Board's work.

Suggestions also included encouraging the use of Advisory Board members' national networks, media contacts and communication channels to disseminate publications, and to support a smooth transition to the new Advisory Board.

The Secretariat then updated the Advisory Board on the progress of the 2025 Work Programme. Following up on the minutes from the AB meeting on 29-30 October 2024, the Advisory Board decided not to follow up on the workstream related to residual emissions.

It was agreed to keep the 29th Advisory Board on 3-4 September as an in-person meeting in Copenhagen.

10. Any other business

An Advisory Board member mentioned that the International Court of Justice is expected to soon provide a clear legal benchmark with respect to countries' climate change-related obligations.

Annex 1: Participants

Advisory Board members	Signature
Jette Bredahl Jacobsen	Signed
Constantinos Cartalis	Signed
Suraje Dessai	Signed
Laura Diaz Anadon	Signed
Ottmar Edenhofer	Signed
Vera Eory	Signed
Edgar Hertwich	Signed
Lars J. Nilsson	Signed
Lena Kitzing	Signed
Elena Lopez Gunn	Signed
Keywan Riahi	Absent
Joeri Rogelj	Online
Nicolaas Schrijver	Signed
Jean-François Soussana	Signed
Maarten van Aalst	Absent

Secretariat to the Advisory Board	
François Dejean	Signed
Pieter Lemmens	Signed
Ciaran Maguire	Signed
James Clarke	Signed
Frederik Silbye	Signed
Rasmus Sangild	Signed
Kamila Paquel	Signed
Sebastian Franz	Signed
Elsa Malika Malki	Signed
Kristina Madsen	Signed

Observer	
Christopher Leisinger	Signed

Annex 2: Meeting agenda

Time	Item	Notes
09:00-09:05	1. Opening of meeting (Day 1)	
	1. Adoption of minutes from the 13 May 2025 meeting	*For adoption*
	2. Adoption of agenda	*For adoption*
09:05-09:25	2. General update by the Chair	*For information*
09:25-09:35	3. General update by the Secretariat	*For information*
09:35-10:45	4. European Climate Law project	*For discussion and feedback*
10:45-11:00	*Break*	
11:00-12:30	5. Agriculture project	*For guidance*
12:30-13:30	*Lunch*	
13:30-14:45	5. Agriculture project (continued)	*For guidance*
14:45-15:00	*Break*	
15:00-16:30	5. Agriculture project (continued)	*For guidance*
16:30-16:45	*Break*	
16:45-17:30	5. Agriculture project (continued)	*For guidance*

Time	Item	Notes
09:00-09:05	6. Opening of meeting (Day 2)	
09:05-10:00	7. Presentation on adaptation	*For information*
10:00-11:00	8. Adaptation project	*For guidance*
11:00-11:15	*Break*	
11:15-12:30	8. Adaptation project (continued)	*For guidance*
12:30-13:30	*Lunch*	
13:30-15:15	*9.* Stocktake and planning	*For information and feedback*
15:15-15:30	10. Any other business	