European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change

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29th Advisory Board meeting
Minutes

Wednesday 3 September 09:00 – Thursday 4 September 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 the 28th Advisory Board meeting (23-24 June 2025) were adopted without further comments.

The agenda of the meeting was adopted without comments.

2. General update by the Chair
The Chair updated the Advisory Board on the main outcomes of the 28th Advisory Board meeting, key policy developments on the 2040 Climate Target, as well as outreach and meeting activities.

3. General update by the Secretariat
The Head of the Secretariat gave an update on the policy developments in Brussels, mainly related to the multiannual financial framework (MFF) proposal and the common agricultural policy (CAP) reform. It was also highlighted that the list of authors for the IPCC AR7 was published, including six Advisory Board members.

The Head of the Secretariat also updated the Advisory Board on meeting activities and operational matters.

4. Extension of 2025 Work Programme

The Advisory Board decided to extend the current 2025 work programme until March 2026, which also marks the end of the current Advisory Board's term.

5. ICCN Co-Chair election

The Secretariat informed the Advisory Board that the International Climate Councils Network (ICCN) will elect its first co-chairs for a two-year term: one from a Global North member and one from a Global South member. Three candidates have come forward.

As a full member council of the ICCN, the Advisory Board was invited to put forward a maximum of one candidate for each co-chair position. The Advisory Board decided on the two candidates to vote for.

6. International Court of Justice (ICJ) advisory opinion

An Advisory Board member gave a presentation on the recent advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the 'Obligations of states in respect of climate change'. An introductory document can be found in the shared folder.

7. European Climate Law project

The Secretariat requested feedback on the project to turn lessons learned into action points for future projects. The Advisory Board provided overall very positive feedback highlighting the usefulness of the advice in national contexts as well as its timeliness.

The points for future attention included the length of the report and the potential for a standardised approach to open political discussions. The evaluation sheets remain on the shared folder for the Advisory Board members to deposit additional feedback. The evaluation marks the end of this project.

8. Adaptation project

The project co-champion gave a brief outline of the project narrative and 'principles' for effective EU adaptation policy, before inviting members to discuss. The Advisory Board discussed the role of the EU on adaptation, the need to better link adaptation with the prevailing resilience and risk narrative, to emphasise the limits to adaptation and growing need to prepare for more transformational adaptation, and whether to change the terminology of 'principles' used in the report.

Following the discussion, the Secretariat gave a short overview of the report outline and of each 'principle', which were then discussed by the Advisory Board. At the end of the agenda item, subject to addressing the raised comments, the Advisory Board endorsed the narrative and the broad approach set out in the skeleton.

9. Agriculture project

The Secretariat presented the project's overall status and narrative, with a focus on distributional impacts and how to address these by assigning specific roles to public versus private finance. The Advisory Board discussed these topics, and concluded that 1) the starting point is the "polluter pays, provider gets" principle to incentivise mitigation action, 2) this can be complemented with public support to address market failures and distributional issues and 3) this public support should be temporary for mitigation, but could be more permanent for adaptation and other environmental co-benefits.

On the second day of the meeting, the Advisory Board discussed the different chapters of the report in more detail and provided a steer to the Secretariat on the way forward. It was decided that the Secretariat would update the draft based on this steer, and this updated draft would be discussed at the next Advisory Board meeting.

10. Any other business

The Advisory Board agreed that the Secretariat will explore availability for an in-person meeting in early November; if not feasible, the pre-announced October dates will be retained. The meeting will primarily focus on the agri-food and the adaptation reports.

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	Online
Keywan Riahi	Signed
Joeri Rogelj	Signed
Nicolaas Schrijver	Signed
Jean-François Soussana	Signed
Maarten van Aalst	Signed

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
Mathilde de Goër de Herve	Signed
Kristina Madsen	Signed

Observer	
Christopher Leisinger	Signed

Annex 2: Meeting agenda (3-4 September)

Time	Item	Notes
09:00-09:05	1. Opening of meeting	
	Adoption of minutes from the 23-24 June 2025 meeting	*For adoption*
	Adoption of agenda	*For adoption*
09:05-09:15	2. General update by the Chair	*For information*
09:15-09:45	3. General update by the Secretariat	*For information*
09:45-09:55	4. Extension of 2025 Work Programme	*For decision*
09:55-10:00	5. ICCN Co-Chair election	*For decision*
10:00-10:45	6. International Court of Justice (ICJ) advisory opinion	*For information*
10:45-11:00	*Break*	
11:00-11:30	7. European Climate Law project	*For discussion*
11:30-12:30	8. Adaptation project	*For discussion*
12:30-13:30	*Lunch*	
13:30-15:30	Adaptation project (continued)	*For discussion & decision*
15:30-15:45	*Break*	
15:45-17:30	9. Agriculture project	*For discussion*

Time	Item	Notes
09:05-10:45	Agriculture project (continued)	*For discussion*
10:45-11:00	*Break*	
11:00-12:30	Agriculture project (continued)	*For discussion*
12:30-13:30	*Lunch*	
13:30-15:15	Agriculture project (continued)	*For discussion & decision*
15:15-15:30	10. Any other business	