European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change

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37th Advisory Board meeting
Minutes

Tuesday 14 April 09:00 – Wednesday 15 April 16:00 (CEST), 2026
Manos Conference Centre, Chaussée de Charleroi 135, 1060 Brussels

Participants
See Annex 1.

Agenda
See Annex 2.

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

1. Opening of meeting
The Head of the Secretariat opened and chaired the meeting until the election of the Chair (see agenda item 5).

The Advisory Board adopted the minutes from the 36th Advisory Board meeting (24th March 2026) without further comments.

The Advisory Board adopted the meeting agenda without comments.

2. General update by the Secretariat
The Head of Secretariat gave a brief update of key political developments at the EU level in the recent weeks, with a focus on the EU ETS, responses to the energy crisis, and ongoing public consultations. He also gave a brief update on the Secretariat's activities since the 36th Advisory Board meeting.

3. Reinforcing science-based policy making
The Head of Secretariat gave a presentation outlining:

- Possible approaches for science-to-policy making;
- The approaches used by other scientific climate advisory boards;
- The Advisory Board's approach and work so far;
- The possible way forward for the Advisory Board.

Advisory Board members discussed the Board's role and mandate to deliver scientific findings in a policy context. In particular, members that are also part of national climate councils reflected on how the Board's mandate compares to that of national climate councils and how to further advance cooperation with these councils.

4. Strategic review

The Secretariat briefly presented the role and structure of the Advisory Board's strategic framework, and the strategy that was adopted at the beginning of its first mandate.

Advisory Board members discussed potential improvements and adjustments to the strategy, first in break-out groups and then in plenary.

After the meeting, the Secretariat will propose a draft strategy for the 2026-2030 term, reflecting the outcomes of the Advisory Board's discussions.

5. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs

Candidates for the roles of Chair and Vice-Chair to the Advisory Board briefly presented their candidature. Subsequently, using an electronic, anonymous ranked voting system (as foreseen in the rules of procedure), members elected Ottmar Edenhofer as Chair for a (second) four-year term.

Board members subsequently elected Laura Díaz Anadón and Suraje Dessai as Vice-Chairs of the Advisory Board for a two-year term.

6. Amendments to the rules of procedure

Due to lack of time on the first day (14 April), this agenda point was discussed on the second day of the meeting, after the morning's stakeholder engagements at the European Parliament.

The Secretariat recalled that Article 13(4) of the Advisory Board's rules of procedure provides for an adjustment of members' remuneration every four years, starting in 2026. It also informed the Board that, in March 2026, the EEA Management Board had increased the remuneration for participation in EEA Scientific Committee meetings from EUR 400 to EUR 440 per day, with future updates every four years. In line with its rules of procedure, and with a view to maintaining alignment with the remuneration of EEA Scientific Committee members, the Advisory Board decided to increase the remuneration for participation in Advisory Board meetings to EUR 440 per full meeting day.

7. Introduction to EU climate policies by DG CLIMA

Two representatives from DG CLIMA (Jurgen Salay and Vicky Pollard) presented the European climate policy framework, how it was developed, and DG CLIMA's current priorities and planned initiatives.

After the presentation, the Advisory Board and the representatives from DG CLIMA exchanged thoughts on how the Advisory Board can best provide policy-relevant, science-based advice to the EU institutions.

8. Meeting with the cabinet of Commissioner Wopke Hoekstra

Members of the cabinet of Commissioner Wopke Hoekstra reflected on the value of the Advisory Board's work so far and outlined the key priorities for the Commissioner in the coming months and years.

The Advisory Board and members of the cabinet then exchanged thoughts on how the Advisory Board can best continue to provide policy-relevant, science-based advice to support the development of EU climate policies.

9. Meeting with the cabinet of Commissioner Teresa Ribera

Members of the cabinet of Commissioner Teresa Ribera (Terhi Lehtonen and Valvanera Ulargui Aparicio) reflected on the value of the Advisory Board's work so far and outlined the key priorities for the Commissioner in the coming months and years.

The Advisory Board and members of the cabinet then exchanged thoughts on how the Advisory Board can best continue to provide policy-relevant, science-based advice to support the development of EU climate policies.

10. Meeting with Commissioner Dan Jørgensen

The Commissioner outlined the key priorities and activities since the start of his mandate, and his planned initiatives looking forward.

The Advisory Board and the Commissioner then exchanged thoughts on various topics, including the role of the Advisory Board in supporting science-based climate and energy policies.

11. After-dinner conversation with Tom Brookes

Tom Brookes, communication expert and CEO of the Meliore Foundation, outlined how the communication landscape is changing rapidly, referring to the growing importance of social media and AI over traditional media channels and the de-prioritisation of climate-related topics.

Afterwards, the Advisory Board and Tom Brookes briefly exchanged thoughts on these changes and the future relevance of the Advisory Board's communication activities.

12. Meeting with Fabrice Dubreuil, General Secretariat of the Council

The General Secretariat of the Council introduced the current political context and how it differs from the previous policy cycle.

The Advisory Board then exchanged thoughts with the General Secretariat on how the Advisory Board can best continue to provide science-to-policy advice in the current political context.

13. Meeting with coordinators of political groups of the ENVI committee

The Chair briefly presented the Advisory Board's work delivered under its first mandate, and its intentions for the second mandate.

Following the presentation, members of the ENVI committee asked questions on a variety of topics, which were answered by the Chair of the Advisory Board.

14. Guided tour of the European Parliament

The Advisory Board and its Secretariat participated in a guided tour of the European Parliament, which outlined the main functions and working arrangements of the institution.

15. Launch of the 2026 work programme preparation

The members of the Advisory Board shared their key takeaways from the interactions with different stakeholders over the past two days and had a first discussion on future areas of work. Overall, 12 potential topics for future reports were identified.

The Secretariat highlighted that based on the experience during the first mandate, the Advisory Board and its Secretariat would have the capacity to work on a maximum of two products in parallel. This means further prioritisation will be needed to develop a workable work programme.

The Board will continue the discussion on its 2026 work programme at its 38th meeting (18 May 2026).

16. Any other business

No AOB points were raised.

Annex 1: Participants

Advisory Board members	Signature
Annela Anger-Kraavi	Signed
Constantinos Cartalis	Signed
Suraje Dessai	Signed
Laura Diaz Anadon	Signed
Ottmar Edenhofer	Signed
Vera Eory	Signed
Lena Kitzing	Signed
Kati Kulovesi	Signed
Lars J. Nilsson	Signed
Åsa Persson	Signed
Keywan Riahi	Online
Jean-François Soussana	Signed
Giorgio Vacchiano	Signed
Detlef van Vuuren	Signed
Zinta Zommers	Signed

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

Annex 2: Meeting agenda

Day 1 - 14 April 2026

Time	Item	Notes
09:00	1. Opening of meeting and adoption of agenda	*For adoption*
09:10	2. General update by the Secretariat	*For information*
09:20	3. Reinforcing science-based policy making	*For discussion*
10:00	4. Strategic review	*For discussion*
11:15	*5.* Election of the Chair and the Vice-Chairs	*For adoption*
11:55	6. Technical amendments to the rules of procedure (moved to day 2)	*For adoption*
12:00	*Lunch & Travel to the Berlaymont building*	
14:00	7. Introduction to EU climate policies by DG CLIMA	
16:30	8. Meeting with the cabinet of Commissioner Wopke Hoekstra	
17:00	9. Meeting with the cabinet of Commissioner Teresa Ribera	
17:30	10. Meeting with Commissioner Dan Jørgensen, and members of cabinet	
19:00	*Dinner*	
20:30	11. After dinner conversation with Tom Brookes	

Day 2 - 15 April 2026

Time	Item	Notes
08:30	*Travel to the European Parliament and accreditation*	
09:30	12. Meeting with Fabrice Dubreuil, General Secretariat of the Council	
10:30	13. Meeting with coordinators of political groups of the ENVI committee	
11:30	14. Guided tour of the European Parliament	
12:30	*Lunch & Travel to the Manos Conference Centre*	
14:00	15. Launch of the 2026 work programme preparation	*For discussion*
15:50	16. Any other business	