European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change

European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change

38th Advisory Board meeting
Minutes

Monday 18 May, 13:00–17:00 (CEST), 2026
Online meeting

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 Advisory Board adopted the minutes from the 37th Advisory Board meeting (14-15 April 2026) without further comments.

A Board member proposed adding an item on a possible meeting with DG RTD under AOB. This item was added to the agenda and the Advisory Board subsequently adopted the amended agenda.

2. General update by the Chair
The Chair presented the main outcomes of the 37th Advisory Board meeting in Brussels (14-15 April). He also shared the recent Advisory Board outreach activities and gave an overview of the main expectations for the meeting.

The chair introduced Christopher Leisinger, from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), who will assist him on Advisory Board matters and be present at meetings as an observer.

3. General update by the Secretariat
The Head of the Secretariat gave an update on key developments in the EU climate policy framework as well as the broader climate governance and geopolitical developments.

He also gave an overview of the Secretariat's interactions with stakeholders since the last Advisory Board meeting and presented the ongoing organisational developments.

The Secretariat proposed to organise an EU masterclass webinar for any interested members of the Advisory Board, which received interest from several Board members.

4. Strategic review

The Secretariat briefly presented the revision process for the Strategy of the Advisory Board and gave suggestions for smaller amendments to the wording of the Board's vision, mission and core narrative. The Secretariat then presented the guiding principles which also included suggestions for revisions.

Advisory Board members provided input to be reflected in the next iteration. The Secretariat explained it would send a revised draft ahead of the next Advisory Board meeting on 22 June, with a view to adoption.

5. 2026 Work Programme

The Head of the Secretariat explained the discussion format for deciding on the 2026 work programme. He briefly recalled the timeline for the adoption of the work programme, the EU climate policy landscape over the coming two years, and the main considerations emerging from the earlier discussions on the work programme during the April meeting.

Board members discussed the scope of the work programme and agreed on the principle of a lean 2026 work programme, composed of the following three blocks: a flagship project, a topical report, and a section on outreach and stakeholder engagement.

1. The Board discussed and identified a second edition of the "policy gap report" (first published in 2024), as a flagship project for the second term, with the exact scope and timing to be further discussed and decided.
2. Board members reviewed various project proposals based on the input provided at the April meeting, and identified, as a first priority, work on industrial decarbonisation, to be combined with work on international cooperation and energy security/geopolitical resilience.
3. The Board also agreed to include, under Outreach and stakeholder engagement, a reference to further discussions on more agile formats to contribute to ongoing policy processes, while avoiding commitment to specific outputs at this stage. Such outputs could be based on existing recommendations from the Advisory Board (i.e. not requiring additional analysis). The discussion identified the EU ETS review, the LULUCF review and post-2030 flexibilities as possible relevant files. However, the Board agreed that the work programme should remain unspecific regarding any individual output at this stage.

6. Next steps and conclusion

The Secretariat will update the draft 2026 work programme and circulate it to Board members for agreement between 21 and 26 May. The Chair will then present it to the EEA Management Board for feedback. The Advisory Board will adopt the final version at its 39th meeting on 22 June.

He also presented a tentative outline for the online Advisory Board meeting on 22 June.

7. Any other business

The Advisory Board discussed and agreed to explore the possibility of meeting with DG RTD in the autumn 2026.

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	Absent
Lena Kitzing	Signed
Kati Kulovesi	Signed
Lars J. Nilsson	Signed
Åsa Persson	Signed
Keywan Riahi	Signed
Jean-François Soussana	Signed
Giorgio Vacchiano	Signed
Detlef van Vuuren	Signed
Zinta Zommers	Absent

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
Mar Moure	Signed
Elsa Malika Malki	Signed
Kristina Madsen	Signed

Observers	Signature
Christopher Leisinger	Signed

Annex 2: Meeting agenda

Time	Item	Notes
13:00	1. Opening of meeting, adoption of minutes from the 14-15 April meeting, and adoption of agenda	*For adoption*
13:05	2. General update by the Chair	*For information*
13:15	3. General update by the Secretariat	*For information*
13:25	4. Strategic review	*For discussion*
14:15	Break	
14:30	5. 2026 Work Programme	*For decision*
16:50	6. Next steps and conclusion	*For information*
16:55	7. Any other business	