



DUBLIN CLIMATE DIALOGUES

Influencing outcomes for COP26



THE IRISH TIMES



AGENDA: WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2021

DAY 1: POLICY AND FINANCE

09:00 – 09:05 BST

Welcome Remarks

Pat Cox, Former President of the European Parliament and Professor Andrew Deeks, President, University College Dublin.

09:05 – 09:35 BST

Scene-Setter: The Climate Imperative – Why an Ambitious Deal at COP26 is Vital

The opening session will focus in the first part a discussion between Pat Cox and Katharine Hayhoe, Chief Scientist for The Nature Conservancy and Professor at Texas Tech University discussing the devastating effects of climate change and how it is impacting humankind and the natural world.

A second discussion will take place between Pat Cox and Fiona Macklin, UNFCCC Race to Zero Co-Ordinator to discuss the importance of COP26 and the vital need for governments to strengthen their contributions to the Paris Agreement in order to accelerate the transition to a #netzero economy.

09:35 – 10:45 BST

Session 1: The Dublin Declaration – Accelerating Climate Ambition

This session will allow global political leaders to set out how their countries and alliances will accelerate the transition to #netzero and push for an ambitious outcome from COP26 to rebuild momentum following COP21 in Paris.

Speakers:

Paschal Donohoe – Minister for Finance, Ireland, and President of the Eurogroup

Enrico Letta – Leader of Italian Democratic Party and former Prime Minister of Italy

Rabia Ferroukhi – Director Knowledge, Policy and Finance Center, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

John Kerry – Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, US

Keiichi Ono – Director-General / Assistant Minister (Ambassador), Japan

Moderator: Pat Cox, Former President of the European Parliament

10:45 – 10:50 | 5 MINUTE INTERLUDE

10:50 – 11:00 BST

Securing global justice for those people vulnerable to the impacts of climate change

Pat Cox in conversation with Mary Robinson who will issue a call to action for climate justice to be a central pillar of the outcomes of COP26.

Pat Cox – Former President of the European Parliament

Mary Robinson – Adjunct Professor for Climate Justice in Trinity College Dublin and Chair of The Elders, Former President of Ireland, and Former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

11:00 – 12:00 BST

Session 2: How to enable an accelerated transition to #netzero

This session will explore how an accelerated #netzero ambition can be led by countries wanting to go further, faster. Which countries are doing the right thing, where can we identify innovation that will enable the hard-to-reach sectors to be decarbonised, and what does success look like?

In conversation with James Cameron, Dr Fatih Birol, Executive Director, International Energy Agency will explore their ground-breaking 'The World's Roadmap to NetZero by 2050' report. This roadmap will be released the day before the Dublin Climate Dialogues on 18 May.

It will set out in detail what is needed from governments, companies, investors and citizens to fully decarbonise the energy sector and put emissions on a path in line with a temperature rise of 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Following the conversation, the Ministers will set-out how their countries have developed ambitious plans for a transition to a sustainable economy based on renewable energy, and how they will work with others to accelerate the COP process towards significantly lowered global emissions.

Speakers:

Juan Carlos Jobet – Minister for Energy and Mining, Chile

Eamon Ryan – Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Ireland

Moderator: James Cameron – Formerly Chairman of the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), Friend of COP26 and Co-founder of Climate Change Capital

12:00 – 12:10 BST

Our decarbonised future: is it still a man's world or is it nothing without a woman or a girl?

Michelle T. Davies in conversation with Baroness Verma discussing the percentage of women engaged in energy over the last 30 years to the current day. Is it easier for women to engage with something which is seen to be more aligned with climate than energy? And, in developing markets, what is happening where there are less choices and opportunities for women?

Speakers:

Michelle T. Davies – Partner and International Head of Clean Energy and Sustainability, Eversheds Sutherland

Baroness Verma – Former Minister and Former Ministerial Global Champion for tackling violence against Women and Girls.

12:10 – 13:00 | LUNCH

13:00 – 14:00 BST

Session 3: The implications of an accelerated transition to #netzero

This session will explore the implications of carbon pricing, the creation of a Carbon Club of Nations to accelerate transition, and the impact on global trade and investment in a #netzero era. Is a Carbon Club of Nations – a must-have or a distraction to delivering an ambitious outcome to COP26?

As the world looks to build back better after the Covid pandemic, will carbon border adjustments and national or regional carbon pricing act as an accelerant or as an impediment to rebuilding global trade? What is the future of Global Trade in a carbon priced world?

Speakers:

Tom Burke – Chairman and Founding Director, E3G

Michael Liebreich – Chairman and CEO Liebreich Associates and Official Advisor to the UK's Board of Trade

Pascal Lamy – President of the Paris Peace Forum and Brunswick Europe Chair, former Director-General, World Trade Organisation

Stephen Vaughan – Vice Chair Energy & Power, Rothschild & Co

Moderator: John FitzGerald – Adjunct Professor, Trinity College Dublin

5 MINUTE INTERLUDE

14:05 – 14:40 BST

Session 4: The cost-benefit analysis of an accelerated transition

This session will present the case for speeding up the transition and the benefits that doing so will bring to all aspects of life on earth. What are the cost-benefits of investment today in large-scale adoption of renewable energy, transmission and low carbon infrastructure when forecast out to the end of the century?

Speakers:

Professor Biying Yu – Deputy Director of the Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research, Beijing Institute of Technology

Robert O'Connor – Chief Commercial Officer, SuperNode

Eddie O'Connor – Chairman, Mainstream Renewable Power and Founder, SuperNode

Moderator: John FitzGerald – Adjunct Professor, Trinity College Dublin

5 MINUTE INTERLUDE

14:45 – 15:45 BST

Scene-Setter: Toxic Air: The socio-economic impact of fossil fuels

In this session Damilola Ogunbiyi, Ambassadors Sinéad Walsh and Samantha Power will discuss the destructive socio-economic impacts of fossil fuel use in some of the world's most fragile communities. They will reflect on the conclusions of the report 'Toxic Air: The Price of Fossil Fuels' presented by its author, Dr Aidan Farrow.

Speakers:

Damilola Ogunbiyi – Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All and Co-Chair of UN-Energy, Commissioner for the Global Commission to End Energy Poverty and the Co-Chair of the COP26 Energy Transition Council

Sinéad Walsh – Climate Envoy for Ireland, Former Irish and EU Ambassador

Dr Aidan Farrow – Air Quality Scientist, Greenpeace Research Laboratories, University of Exeter

Moderator: Pat Cox – Former President of the European Parliament

15:45 – 16:45 BST

Session 5: Solving the Green Capital Problem

In the Paris Agreement climate finance was defined as “finance to fund activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions or help in adapting to the impact of climate change”. The mobilisation of capital in both the developed and in the developing world remains a major concern in the run-up to COP26.

In an opening conversation, Mike Hayes of KPMG and Dr Rhian-Mari Thomas will frame the subsequent discussion in which the speakers will explore the nature of the challenges and solutions with reference to the barriers to mobilising capital to fund clean energy and climate related projects in the developing world. This will include the role of the pension, insurance and life assurance industries in helping to mobilise green capital.

Speakers:

Dr Rhian-Mari Thomas OBE – Chief Executive, Green Finance Institute

Jim Barry – Chief Investment Officer, BlackRock

Chris Chijiutomi – Head of Infrastructure Equity, CDC Group

Mike Hayes – Global Lead Renewables and Decarbonisation, KPMG

Lucy Clarke – President Marsh Specialty and Marsh Global Placement

Moderator:

Kirsty Hamilton OBE, COP26 Energy Transition team, Lead – Building Investment Confidence

5 MINUTE INTERLUDE

16:50 – 17:50 BST

Session 6: Climate Risk – is climate change an existential threat to world markets?

The reality of physical and transition climate risk is increasingly apparent throughout the corporate world as these risks will have a global commercial impact. Awareness, identification, and measurement of climate risk is critically important for the following reasons to inform investors as to the true nature of the value of their investee companies through much more accurate financial reporting.

For the investment community this has now become mission critical – future investment and divestment decisions will need to take climate risk into account or risk many years of financial instability.

This session will consider how ready the corporate world is to deal with these issues today amidst pressure from regulators, investors, and other stakeholders.

Speakers:

Philip Lane – Member of the European Central Bank's Executive Board and Former Governor of the Central Bank of Ireland

Lord Deben – Chairman of the UK Committee on Climate Change

Bridget Beals – Head of Climate Risk and Decarbonisation, KPMG UK

Moderator:

Michelle T. Davies – Partner and International Head of Clean Energy and Sustainability, Eversheds Sutherland

17:50 – 18:00

End of Day One

Pat Cox, Former President of the European Parliament concludes Day One.





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AGENDA: THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2021

DAY 2: TECHNICAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE

09:15 – 09:35 BST

Pat Cox in conversation with Adam Bruce reviewing the conclusions from day one and previewing the critical role of technology in enabling a global transition to #netzero.

Pat Cox – Former President of the European Parliament

Adam Bruce – Global Head of Corporate Affairs, Mainstream Renewable Power

09:35 – 10:00 BST

Scene-Setter: Engineering toward a Zero-Carbon Future

Sir Jim, as Vice Chancellor of Strathclyde University, leads one of the most important research endeavors underpinning the transition to sustainability, and that is superconductivity. He also straddles the engineering profession in his role as President of the Royal Academy of Engineering.

In the interview with Eddie O'Connor the major engineering imperatives needed to underpin the transition will be explored.

Speakers:

Eddie O'Connor, Chairman, Mainstream Renewable Power and Founder, SuperNode in discussion with **Professor Sir Jim McDonald** FRSE FREng FIET, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, University of Strathclyde and President, Royal Academy of Engineering (RAEng).

10:00 – 11:00 BST

Session 7: Technologies and Resources for Decarbonisation

The transition to net zero carbon energy will require a diverse range of energy resources and supporting technology options. This session will explore a selection of the critical energy resources and technologies required for adoption and integration. The first two speakers will explore the latest wind turbine technology, connection to the grid and the role of smart grids and demand side technologies, as well as looking at the areas of sourcing and recycling of materials. This will be followed by Patricia Maguire in conversation with Mary Quaney on the evolution of the renewable energy industry and their perspectives on the next phase of evolution.

Storage and flexibility will be key enablers for the energy transition and we will hear about the significant investment requirements in this area. The session will close with Prof Andrew Keane in conversation with Henrik Stiesdal, a pioneer in renewable energy who will share insights on the wider industry, with a focus on some of the hard-to-reach sectors.

Speakers:

Wu Kai – Vice President, Xinjiang Goldwind Sci & Tech Co.

Gerard Reid – Co-Founder and Partner, Alexa Capital

Henrik Stiesdal – Former CTO Siemens Wind Power

Mary Quaney – CEO, Mainstream Renewable Power

Professor Patricia Maguire – Director of the UCD Institute for Discovery

Pablo Altimiras – Senior VP, Lithium & Iodine Business, Sociedad Química y Minera of Chile

Moderator: Professor Andrew Keane, Director of UCD Energy Institute

11:00 | BREAK

11:15 – 12:15 BST

Session 8: Energy Systems to Facilitate Decarbonisation

The movement of energy on an international and continental basis will be a key feature of the energy systems of the coming decades. Future energy systems will be characterised by the transport of energy from regions of high renewable resource to those of high energy demand. Already highly interconnected, the energy transition now requires even greater development and interconnection of these systems.

In this live panel debate, we will bring together experts from Europe, China and the US to discuss the different approaches to infrastructure planning and investment, market structures and innovation. We will also explore areas where we can learn from developments in other regions and identify areas for collaboration to improve processes to deliver infrastructure at the pace required for more ambitious climate targets, with supporting regulatory and market frameworks in place.

Speakers:

Marie Toussaint – French Greens/EFA Member of the European Parliament

Sonya Twohig – Secretary General, ENTSO-E

John FitzGerald – CEO, SuperNode

Liping Jiang – Vice President of State Grid Energy Research Institute, China

Rob Gramlich – Founder and President Grid Strategies LLC

Moderator:

Professor Andrew Keane, Director of UCD Energy Institute

12:15 - 12:30 BST

Presentation of the Dublin Climate Dialogues Declaration to the COP26 Presidency

Conclusions and remarks from Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Defence, Ireland, Simon Coveney and Dr John Murton, UK COP26 Envoy, representative of the COP26 Presidency.

