



Ministerial Meeting of the BIC Energy Work Sector

04 February 2022, Jersey

COMMUNIQUÉ

The British-Irish Council¹ (BIC) Energy work sector today held a Ministerial meeting hosted virtually by the Government of Jersey. Ministers approved the Forward Work Plan of the sector.

The meeting was jointly chaired by Michael Matheson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport, Scottish Government and Rt Hon Greg Hands MP, Minister of State for Energy, Clean Growth and Climate Change, UK Government.

The Government of Guernsey was represented by Deputy Lindsay de Sausmarez, President, Committee for the Environment & Infrastructure. The Irish Government was represented by Eamon Ryan TD, Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications & Minister for Transport. The Isle of Man Government was represented by Hon Clare Barber MHK, Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture. The Government of Jersey was represented by Deputy John Young, Minister for the Environment. The Northern Ireland Executive was represented by

¹ The BIC, established under the Agreement reached in the Multi-Party Negotiation in Belfast on Good Friday 1998 is a forum for its eight Member Administrations to exchange information, discuss, consult, and use best endeavours to reach agreement on co-operation on policy areas of mutual interest.

Gordon Lyons MLA, Minister for the Economy and Deirdre Hargey MLA, Minister for the Department for Communities. The Welsh Government was represented by Lee Waters MS, Deputy Minister for Climate Change. Officials from across the BIC's Member Administrations, as well as the BIC Secretariat, were also in attendance.

BIC Ministers discussed and reviewed the briefing prepared by BIC Energy officials. Ministers welcomed the briefing, which highlighted energy policy developments in each of the eight Member Administrations.

Ministers noted that all eight administrations recognised the importance of embracing: local and community energy approaches; innovation in energy storage; more effective and comprehensive use of smart grids, including smart meters and smart EV charging points; the expansion of marine energy generation; improved offshore grid and interconnection capability; and new and emerging energy technologies.

Ministers also noted that all Member Administrations face shared challenges including the threat of climate change, the desire to make greater progress in energy efficiency, and the need to ensure energy security. Ministers recognised that the path each Administration is taking towards a net zero carbon future varied according to regional strengths, availability of natural resources and political priorities but noted that by sharing information and experiences the BIC Energy work sector continued to bring important benefits and opportunities for all of its members.

Further, Ministers noted the contribution of the BIC at COP26 in Glasgow, where a ministerial panel event on the importance of collaboration in meeting shared energy challenges showcased the work of the BIC in driving effective climate policy.

Ministers thanked the work sector officials in each of the administrations for their active engagement in the preparation of the briefing and endorsed the Forward Work Plan for the BIC Energy work sector.

BIC Secretariat

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