



Ministerial Meeting of the Sectoral Group on Energy

22 March 2010

Communiqué

The British-Irish Council (BIC) Energy Sectoral Group held its first Ministerial meeting today in London. The BIC Energy Sectoral Group was established at the BIC Summit Meeting of 20th February 2009 and comprises an electricity grid infrastructure sub-group led by the UK Government and a marine renewables sub-group led by the Scottish Executive.

The BIC was established under the Good Friday Agreement as a forum for its members to work together on matters of mutual interest within their respective competencies. The Energy Sectoral Group will consider and report back to the BIC Ministerial Summit on relevant energy matters affecting BIC members.

The UK Government was represented by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath, Minister for the Department of Energy and Climate Change, who chaired the meeting. The other Ministers who attended were: Mr Jim Mather MSP, Minister for Enterprise, Energy and Tourism, Scottish Government; Mr Eamon Ryan TD, Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Ireland; Arlene Foster MLA, Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Northern Ireland Executive; Gerry Kelly MLA, Junior Minister at the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister, Northern Ireland Executive; Jane Davidson AM, Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing, Welsh Assembly Government; Hon. David Cretney MHK, Government of Isle of Man; Deputy Robert Duhamel, Assistant Minister for Planning and Environment, States of Jersey; and Deputy Carla McNulty Bauer, Minister, Commerce and Employment Department, States of Guernsey.

A full list of delegation members is attached.

BIC Energy Ministers agreed that energy is of vital importance to their administrations and felt that there are many issues of mutual interest in the areas of grid infrastructure and marine renewables on which the group can cooperate closely.

Ministers agreed on a number of specific areas of work which the grid infrastructure sub-group could take forward and also agreed on the future work of the marine energy sub-

group. Ministers agreed that the sub-groups should report to the next BIC Summit on the progress made and next steps for these two important areas.

Grid infrastructure

Ministers considered the discussion paper prepared by the BIC Electricity Grid Infrastructure sub-group and presented to the group by Lord Hunt. Discussion centred on identifying key areas for consideration and information exchange in the sub-group and the group's future programme of work. Andy Hiorns, National Grid, and Andrew Cooke, Eirgrid, also presented to Ministers on grid infrastructure developments in the UK and Ireland.

Ministers agreed that the BIC Grid sub-group would focus its work on the following areas:

- exchanging information and experience of **research and development** and other studies to promote greater understanding and cooperation in electricity grid infrastructure;
- sharing experience of and approaches to the **regulation** and **planning consenting** of electricity grid infrastructure to promote best practice and effective decision making within and - where relevant - between BIC members; and
- working together to exert greater influence on the direction of emerging **EU policy** on grid infrastructure and to leverage maximum **EU funding** (where applicable to relevant members) from EU sources for grid infrastructure developments and projects of mutual interest.

In endorsing these areas for future discussion, Ministers recognised the existing co-operation between BIC members and agreed that the BIC has an important role to play in furthering understanding and sharing experience to assist in meeting the challenges facing all BIC members in the areas of climate change and maintaining security of energy supply.

Marine energy

Jim Mather MSP (Minister for Enterprise, Energy and Tourism at the Scottish Government) presented on the work being undertaken by the marine renewables energy sub-group. The marine renewables group has discussed marine planning and policy, research activity, existing activities and initiatives in the marine energy areas and the scope for, and benefits of, greater exploitation of marine energy resources across BIC Member Administrations. Ministers welcomed the progress and future work plan of the group including dialogue with the European Commission on their funding and policy initiatives. Ministers also noted that marine energy would be the theme of the next BIC Ministerial Summit where the sub-group's recommendations will be discussed, and that a presentation will be delivered at this Plenary on the marine renewable opportunities within BIC member jurisdictions.

British Irish Council (Energy Sectoral Group)

22 March 2010

List of Delegates

<u>UK Government</u>	
Minister for Energy	Lord Hunt of Kings Heath
Private Secretary to Lord Hunt, Department of Energy and Climate Change	Anna McIlreavy
Head of Grid Investment Team, Department of Energy and Climate Change and Chair of BIC Grid Infrastructure Sub-Group	John Overton
Senior Policy Adviser, Future Electricity Networks, Department of Energy and Climate Change	Lee Hossain
Senior Policy Adviser, Low Carbon Economy (Devolution), Department of Energy and Climate Change	James Gorie
Policy Adviser, Low Carbon Economy (Devolution), Department of Energy and Climate Change	Richard Pope
Deputy Head, Grid Investment Team , Department of Energy and Climate Change	Paul Hawker
Deputy Head, Wave and Tidal Technologies Team, Department of Energy and Climate Change	Trevor Raggatt
<u>Scottish Government</u>	
Minister for Enterprise, Energy and Tourism	Mr Jim Mather MSP
Correspondence Secretary to the Minister	Kevin West
Head of Energy Projects	Mike McElhinney
Policy Manager, Energy Projects Branch	Carol Anne Hackland
Project Manager, Energy Markets Division	Patrick McWilliams
<u>Irish Government</u>	
Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources	Mr. Eamon Ryan T.D.
Private Secretary to the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources	Colm O'Conaill
Principal, Energy, Department of Communications, Energy, and Natural Resources	Kevin O'Brien
Principal Officer, Department of Communications, Energy, and Natural Resources	Martin Finucane
<u>Northern Ireland Executive</u>	
Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment	Arlene Foster MLA
Private Secretary to Arlene Foster	Glynis Aiken
Junior Minister at the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister	Gerry Kelly MLA
Private Secretary to Gerry Kelly	Claire Brown
Energy Markets, Department of Enterprise, Trade & Investment	Peter Hughes

Energy Markets, Department of Enterprise, Trade & Investment	Alan Chowney
Machinery of Government Division, Office of the First Minister/Deputy First Minister	Conor McParland
<u>Welsh Assembly Government</u>	
Minister for Environment, Sustainability & Housing	Jane Davidson AM
Head of Sustainable Energy & Industry Wales	Ron Loveland
<u>Government of Isle of Man</u>	
Minister for Trade and Industry	Hon David Cretney MHK
Senior Manager for Energy Policy	Dr Ken Milne PhD MBA
<u>States of Jersey</u>	
Assistant Minister for Planning and Environment	Deputy Robert Duhamel
Assistant Director for Performance and Operations	Richard Glover
<u>States of Guernsey</u>	
Minister, Commerce and Employment Department	Deputy Carla McNulty Bauer
Guernsey Renewable Energy Commission	Jon Buckland
Guernsey Renewable Energy Commission	Jon Torode
<u>BIC Secretariat</u>	
Ministry of Justice, UK	Elizabeth Reynolds
Ministry of Justice, UK	Kam Samplay
Ministry of Justice, UK	Savio Barros
Department of Foreign Affairs, Ireland	Aoife McGarry
<u>Grid companies</u>	
Eirgrid	Andrew Cooke
National Grid	Andrew Hiorns