



British-Irish Council Transport work sector Ministerial meeting

22 October 2021, Belfast

COMMUNIQUÉ

The British-Irish Council Transport work sector held a Ministerial meeting today, hosted by the Northern Ireland Executive in Belfast. Ministers were welcomed by Nichola Mallon MLA, Minister for Infrastructure, as chair of the British-Irish Council Transport work sector.

The British-Irish Council, established in 1999, is a forum for its members to discuss, consult and use best endeavours to reach agreement on co-operation on matters of mutual interest within the competence of its Member Administrations.

With the declaration of a climate emergency across many Member Administrations, and the commitment to achieving 'net zero', the need to increase the urgency of efforts to address climate change is a shared priority. Member Administrations are in accordance that an intensive programme of decarbonisation is required to meet these targets, including within the transport sector, as one of the largest contributors to carbon emissions.

The British-Irish Council Transport work sector is led by the Northern Ireland Executive, and this group has proved to be a constructive forum for facilitating thematic evidence exchange and practical collaboration as administrations seek to decarbonise transport. This meeting of the Transport work sector was particularly timely, allowing Ministers to take stock of efforts ongoing across these islands, in advance of the COP 26 Conference taking place next month.

In addition to Minister Mallon, the Northern Ireland Executive was represented by junior Minister, the Executive Office, Gary Middleton, MLA. The Government of Guernsey was represented by Deputy Lindsay de Sausmarez, President of the Committee for the Environment & Infrastructure. The Government of Ireland was represented by Mr Eamon Ryan T.D., Minister for Transport and the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications. The Isle of Man Government was represented by Tim Crookall MHK, Minister for Infrastructure. The Government of Jersey was represented by Deputy Kevin Lewis, Minister for Infrastructure. The Scottish Government was represented by Mr Graeme Dey MSP, Minister for Transport. The UK Government was represented by Trudy Harrison MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Transport. The Welsh

Government was represented by Lee Waters MS, Deputy Minister for Climate Change.

Electrification of Vehicles

During the meeting, Ministers considered a paper prepared by the work sector on the Electrification of Vehicles and discussed how this transition will make a key contribution towards the decarbonisation of transport and to achieving efficient, cleaner movement of people and goods across BIC Member Administrations.

Ministers shared experiences and perspectives on pathways towards the electrification of vehicles, including aspects such as Charging Infrastructure and Supporting the Transition to Electric Vehicles through financial and fiscal mechanisms.

Future work

Ministers noted and agreed the content of the forward work plan for the Transport work sector, which will support all administrations' efforts towards addressing Climate Change and decarbonisation, and which identifies the areas of focus for the work sector for the next 3 years as:

- Modal Shift;
- Decarbonisation of public sector transport; and
- Decarbonisation of the freight fleet.

British-Irish Council Secretariat
22 October 2021