

## EEW4 External Event Report

**Title of the event:** **The European Green Deal and the National Energy and Climate Plans in Ireland**

<i>Date &amp; location:</i>	Wednesday 16 June, Online
<i>Organiser(s):</i>	EUFORES
<i>Summary of the event</i>	<p>Session 1: Opening session: Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency - Setting the ambition for renewables and energy efficiency for Ireland</p> <p><b>Jan Geiss</b>, Secretary General, EUFORES and Chair of the workshop, welcomed the speakers and the audience to the workshop to discussion the adaptation strategy on the Green Deal and the National energy and Climate Plans.</p> <p><b>Brian Leddin</b>, Member of the Irish Parliament</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our targets are one of the most ambitious in the world: we want to produce in Ireland 70 % of energy from RES by 2030.</li> <li>• We have to do things quickly; it is possible and it is the right thing to do. The convergence of technology and knowledge will make us an international exporter of RES.</li> </ul> <p><u>Input speeches</u></p> <p><b>Eamon Ryan</b>, Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications and Minister for Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EUFORES has been an incredible place to share best practices.</li> <li>• We have lately managed to show leadership that comes from participative politics, starting with an interparliamentary committee that took Climate Action seriously and setting ambitious goals.</li> <li>• We stopped investment in fossil fuels.</li> <li>• Our updated climate plans are very ambitious in energy that will require huge ambition. 70% RES by the end of 2030 is ambitious.</li> <li>• We have a lot of work to do, a large part will be switched with offshore technologies.</li> </ul>



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- It is critical that at this stage there is more integration in the European electricity grid. It is the moment to start delivering and it requires collaborations with and from all our neighbors.
- Energy Efficiency First principle is being applied in renovations of the building stock. It will assure secured well paid jobs and no energy poverty.
- We need to first restore nature and need sustainable ways of producing energy.
- Political context: to make this work all our neighbors have to work together, energy transition cannot happen in isolation. As the island behind the island, we have to make sure we have good energy cooperation with UK and France and Belgium.

**Hans Van Steen**, Director RES & EE, DG Energy, European Commission

- The Commission is pleased to be here, these EUFORES workshops are an amazing opportunity on exchange with and between the European Parliament and National Parliaments.
- We need to take decisive action to tackle the climate crisis to create jobs and reinstate growth. This is what the EU Green Deal is meant to do. The energy sector is the core of the Green Deal. At the same time the recovery efforts and new instruments at the EU level are being activated.
- The revised EED will be published soon as part of the Fit for 55 Package.
- We need to improve EE across all areas of the value chain, deployment of clean energy and RES, and we need to look at how we can better integrate our energy systems. Electrification will be key.
- Per capita green gas emission in Ireland is the highest in the EU. You are on the right track when it comes to RES; 70% RES by 2030 requires massive investments in offshore technologies.
- The Commission also welcomes the strong emphasis on building renovation and to have a dedicated public sector obligation. Building renovation not only fighting climate change, but improves health and wellbeing conditions.
- We get the impression that the focus of EE is not as strong as RES, we will not meet our ambition if we keep on wasting energy. We hope there will be higher ambition in EE.

**Ciaran Cuffe**, Member of the European Parliament and EUFORES president

- We will see a massive increase in offshore wind and ocean energy in Ireland; large offshore RES is working wonders in our grids.
- We need to link our energy grid together with the EU's and the UK has to be part of this initiative. Challenges to manage the interconnectedness from Ireland to Scotland.
- EU legislation: it will be an interesting summer as in one month we will see the Fit for 55 Package presented. Fit for 55 package is the logical package of this Green Deal.



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- Ireland can and should be a leading player in the Offshore RES. We will see more green jobs and less reliance on fossil fuels.
- Winning hearts and minds in Ireland and the EU is key to bring more people onboard in this journey.

## **2 SESSION 2 Energy Efficiency – 9.45 – 10.30 (45 min) EU energy efficiency policy implementation in Ireland**

**Robert Deegan**, Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, DECC

- There is a focus on the residential sector in Ireland, the intention is to halve the greenhouse gas emission in the sector by 2030 through a program to upgrade homes, install heat pumps in existing buildings.
- We need to take a comprehensive approach to our plan, we identify 4 pillars, driving demand and activity. Pay for these retrofits, have supply chain and workforce, structure, and governance of this complex phase.
- We will drive demand through a national campaign about education on the benefits of EE and information about heat pumps.

**Joe Durkan**, Programme Manager, Energy Efficiency Obligation, Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland

- I will give an overview of the Energy Efficiency obligation scheme and what the new directive means for the scheme.
- Parties have to abide by their targets otherwise they will be subject to buyouts or penalties.
- The obligation scheme has been successful, and it will deliver Irish retrofit targets.
- In the first 7 years the scheme contributed to 80% of the total national energy action plan achievement under the directive. It brings a substantial contribution to our targets.

**Stephen O'Connor**, CEO, Electric Ireland Superhomes

- SuperHomes has been deep retrofitting homes since 2015, 30% of the market.
- We know the challenge and the transformation required.
- The One Stop Shop Model is aiming to make progress for upgrading homes much easier.
- We take care of the Awareness and Marketing, Consideration & Sale, Designing tenders, Quality control, Advocacy, Paper work, Grants & Finance.
- How do we scale up? Massive change will be required, we will need regional hubs to scale up and deliver.

## **SESSION 3 Energy Efficiency – 10.45 – 11.45 (60 min) Open discussion: enabling factors and barriers for implementing energy efficiency in Ireland**



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**Daniel Becker**, Director, Guidehouse, first presented the EEW4 project, the survey results and the role of narratives.

- We have a massive lag in implementation of EE policy; we can shape the instruments to boost the implementation better.
- It has to do with societal consensus. In countries where governments that shared positive narratives about EE broadly, implementation was much more successful.
- We did a survey on EE in Europe checking about the topics that promote EE.
- Jobs, industrial competitiveness, modernization are the best narratives that promote EE.
- From a narrative workshops organised we concluded that:
  1. It is clear that countries want to be the forerunners
  2. EE is seen as an integral optimization of the production cycle
  3. We need only messages about a real business case and transparent foundation for EE achievements
  4. Understanding your client is key: talking about the image of technologies
  5. Just transition and only where compensation is really needed
  6. Communication is key in the role of stakeholder dialogues
- Which experiences in the described context have you come across? How would you incorporate the narrative process into the legislative process?

*Objective & main programme point*

The main objective of the workshop was to trigger a fruitful discussion on the latest situation on energy efficiency and renewable energy sources development in Ireland and more specifically the European Green Deal, the Climate Law and the Recovery Plan that will improve the status of the Irish National energy efficiency and renewable energy sources legislation and instruments. The discussion aimed for was between Members of the Irish and European Parliament, representatives of ministries, industry, NGOs, scientists and other stakeholders.

*Conclusions*

The event presented the current situation for renewable energies in Ireland, and how they will be addressed via the National Energy and Climate Plans (NECP), considering the European Green Deal and Recovery Plan. Ireland has the ambitious plan to produce 70% of energy out of RES by 2030, and while the political scenario seems favourable we need collaboration at the EU level. Offshore technologies and wind energy are at the core of the Irish strategy, as well as the plans to renovate houses at a faster pace, reducing the costs of heat pumps and by refurbishing initiatives.

The Second Session discussed success stories on implementing energy efficiency policies in Ireland and good practices for boosting investments. The intention in



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Ireland is that to halve the current greenhouse gas emission by 2030 thanks to the upgrading of homes.

The Third session focused on the Energy Efficiency Watch 4 project and tried to create a better understanding of the national debate and motivation on efficiency policies and good practices. This session focused on the influential narratives in Ireland which are those of wellbeing and health; and thermo comfort is the biggest trigger for clients to retrofit their homes. The younger generations look for comfort as a main driver to renovate.

Programme

## WORKSHOP

### *The European Green Deal and the National Energy and Climate Plan in Ireland*

Organized in cooperation with the Irish Parliament

**Wednesday 16 June 2021**  
**9.00 – 13.30 – Dublin time**  
(10.00 - 14.30 – Brussels time)

Online Conference  
Working language: English

#### SESSION 1

**Opening session: Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency - 9.00 – 9.45 (45 min)**

#### **Setting the ambition for renewables and energy efficiency for Ireland**

*The session will present the current situation for renewable energies in Ireland, and how they will be addressed via the National Energy and Climate Plans (NECP), considering the European Green Deal and Recovery Plan. The session intends to set the picture of the present and discuss the development of policies for the Irish renewable energy and energy efficiency system of the future.*

**Chair: Jan Geiss, Secretary General, EUFORES**

#### **9.00 – 9.05: Opening words**

**Jan Geiss, Secretary General, EUFORES**

#### **9.05 – 9.10: Welcoming words**

**Brian Leddin, Member of the Irish Parliament**

#### **Input speeches**



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- **9.10 – 9.20: The role of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency for a sustainable recovery and economy in Ireland**  
**Eamon Ryan**, Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications and Minister for Transport
- **9.20 – 9.30: The impact of the EU’s Clean Energy Package & the European Green Deal on the Irish energy transition**  
**Hans van Steen**, Advisor, Research and Innovation and Energy Efficiency, DG Energy, European Commission
- **9.30 – 9.40: The role of European legislation for Irish renewable energy and energy efficiency policies**  
**Ciaran Cuffe**, Member of the European Parliament and EUFORES President

#### 9.40 – 9.45: Questions from Members of the Irish Parliament

### SESSION 2

#### Energy Efficiency – 9.45 – 10.30 (45 min)

##### EU energy efficiency policy implementation in Ireland

*This session discusses success stories on implementing energy efficiency policies in Ireland and good practices for boosting investments. Held as part of the Energy Efficiency Watch 4 project, the session aims at exploring the conditions and argumentative drivers for effective policies.*

**Chair: Jan Geiss**, Secretary General, EUFORES

- **9.45 – 9.55: The Irish energy efficiency trends and policies by sector**  
**Robert Deegan**, Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, DECC
- **9.55 – 10.05: The role of energy efficiency in the Irish energy transition & the Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme**  
**Joe Durkan**, Programme Manager, Energy Efficiency Obligation, Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland
- **10.05 – 10.15: Advancing energy retrofitting in Irish homes through Home Energy Grants and SuperHomes one-stop-shop**  
**Stephen O’Connor**, CEO, Electric Ireland Superhomes

#### 10.15 – 10.30: Questions from Members of the Irish Parliament

#### 10.30 – 10:45: Break

### SESSION 3



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### Energy Efficiency – 10.45 – 11.45 (60 min)

#### Open discussion: enabling factors and barriers for implementing energy efficiency in Ireland

*The Energy Efficiency Watch 4 project tries to create a better understanding of the national debate and motivation on efficiency policies and good practices. This session focuses on the influential narratives in Ireland. Preliminary feedback received from business stakeholders in the project will form part of the discussion.*

**Chair: Jan Geiss**, Secretary General, EUFORES

#### 10.45 – 11.00: Energy Efficiency Watch 4 survey results and the impact of narratives on effective policy implementation

**Daniel Becker**, Director, Guidehouse

#### 11.00 – 11.30: Expert Panel

**Moderator: Daniel Becker**, Director, Guidehouse

- **Jennifer Whitmore**, Member of the Irish Parliament
- **Pat Barry**, CEO, Irish Green Building Council, IGBC
- **Siona Daly**, CEO, Tipperary Energy Agency
- **Oisín Coghlan**, CEO, Friends of the Earth Ireland

#### 11.30 – 11.45: Questions from Members of the Irish Parliament

### SESSION 4

### Renewable Energy – 11.45 – 12.30 (45 min)

#### Towards a new and sustainable Irish energy system

*This session will discuss the trends of the new energy system and energy markets in Ireland. Innovative initiatives and new business models from different sectors will be presented to show how different actors are implementing solutions overcoming the challenges faced by the traditional energy system and thereby shaping the future Irish energy system.*

**Chair: Jan Geiss**, Secretary General, EUFORES

- **11.45 – 11.55: How Ireland plans to reach zero-net emissions by 2050**  
**Marie Donnelly**, Chair, Climate Change Advisory Council
- **11.55 – 12.05: The contribution of ocean energy to meet Ireland's RES targets**  
**Patricia Comiskey**, SEAI Offshore Energy Programme Manager
- **12.05 – 12.15: An increased offshore development in Ireland by the end of the decade**  
**Noel Cunniffe**, CEO, Irish Wind Energy Association, IWEA



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**12.15 – 12.30: Question from Members of the Irish Parliament**

**12.30 – 12.45: Break**

**SESSION 5**

**Renewable Energy – 12.45 – 13.30 (45 min)**

**Open discussion: shape and fund the renewable energy transition in Ireland**

*This session intends to discuss the financial opportunities for the energy transition and renewable energies in Ireland, as well as the different existing initiatives to develop renewable energy projects at the local, regional, or national level, and through public, private, or collaborative funding.*

**Chair and Moderator: Jan Geiss, Secretary General, EUFORES**

**12.45 – 12.55: Input speech**

**Brian Leddin, Member of the Irish Parliament**

**12.55 – 13.15: Expert Panel**

- **Colin Hunt**, CEO, Allied Irish Banks, AIB
- **Simon De Pietro**, CEO, DP Energy
- **Liam Ryan**, Chief Innovation and Planning Officer, EirGrid Group
- **Sadhbh O'Neill**, Policy Coordinator, Stop Climate Chaos Coalition
- **Martin Finucane**, Principal Officer, Strategic Energy Policy, Decarbonization Policy Division, Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, DCCAE

**13.15 – 13.25: Questions from Members of the Irish Parliament**

**13.25 – 13.30: Closing remarks**

**Ciaran Cuffe**, MEP and President of EUFORES

**Jan Geiss**, Secretary General, EUFORES



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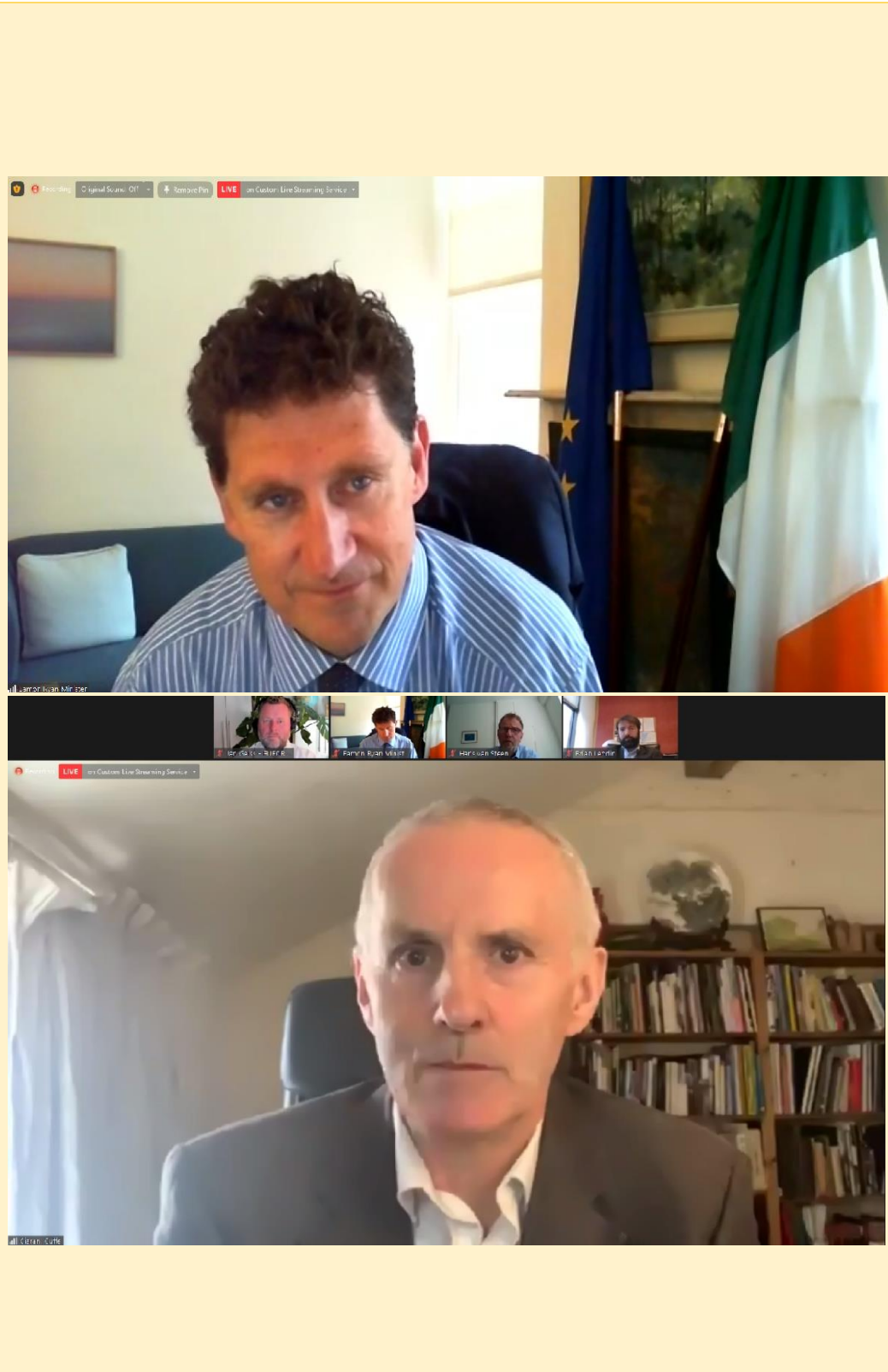
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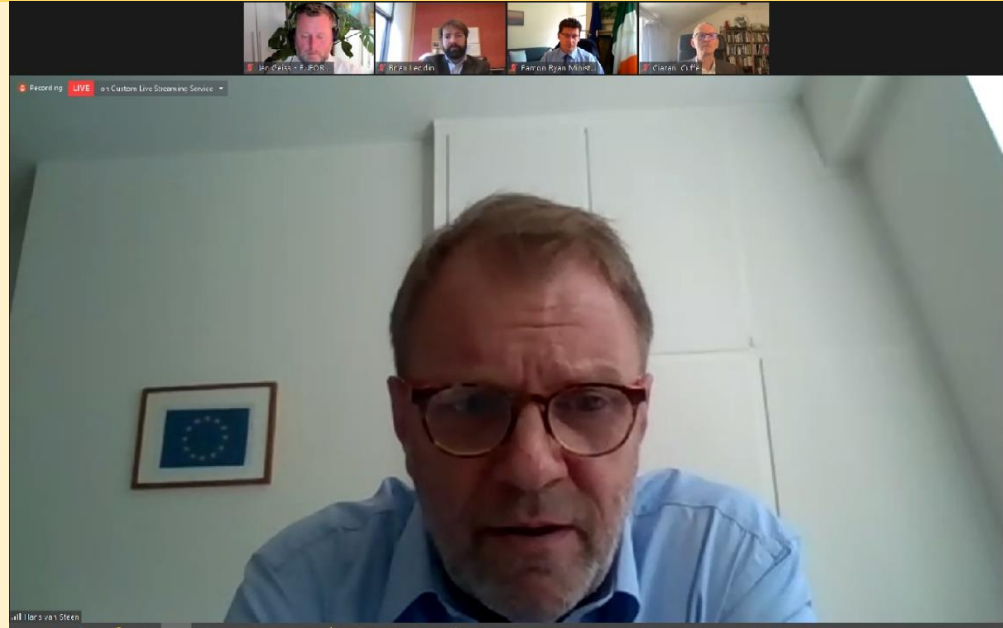


ENERGY EFFICIENCY WATCH

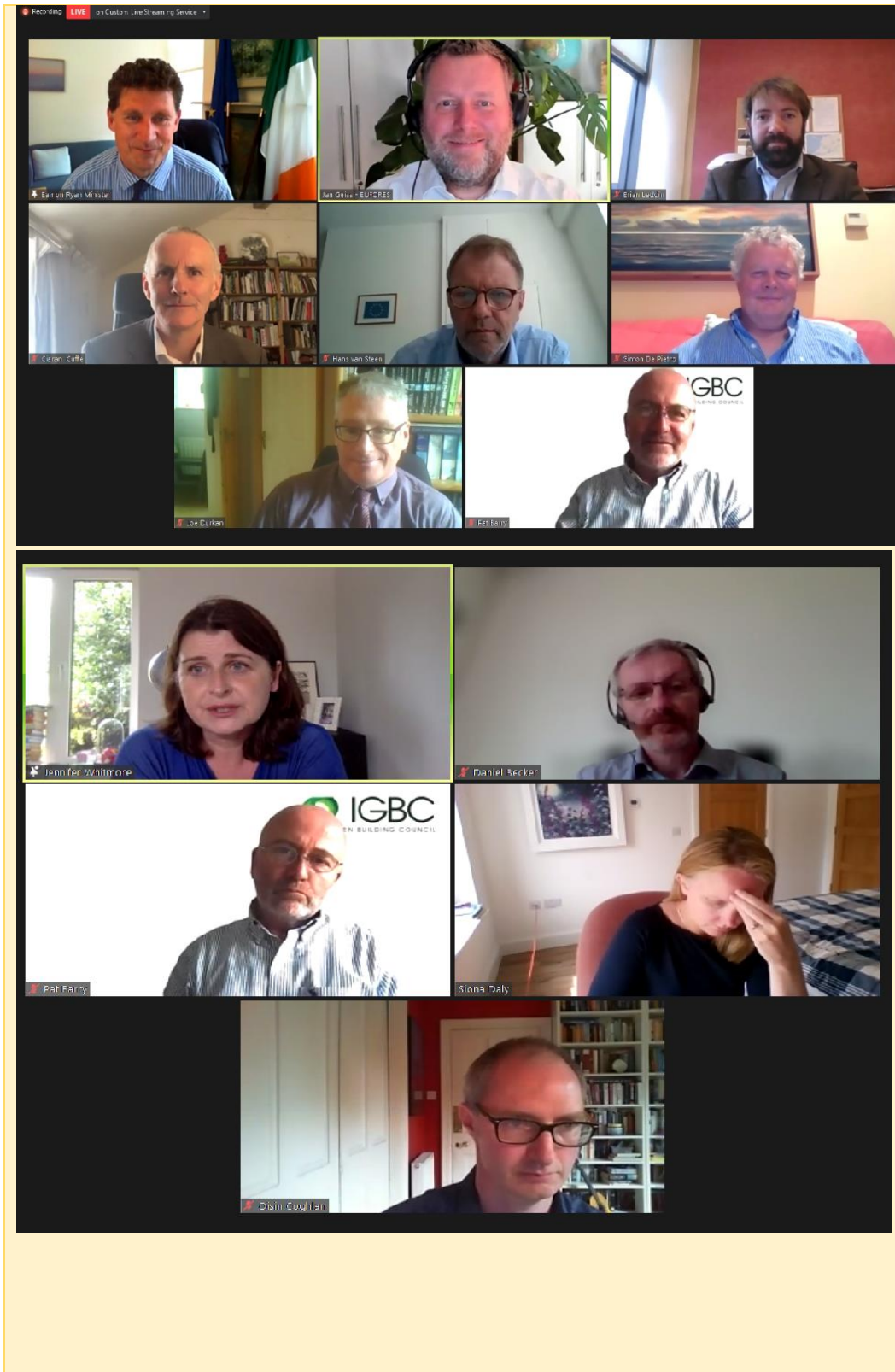
Pictures



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