



***An Comhchoiste um Thalmhaíocht, Bia agus Muir***

**Tuarascáil Taistil**

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**Comhdháil i Val de Loire**

Nollaig 2022

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***Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine***

**Travel Report**

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**Conference in Val de Loire**

December 2022

## Membership

The following Deputies and Senators are members of the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Dáil Éireann and the 26<sup>th</sup> Seanad Éireann.



Sen. Victor Boyhan  
Independent



Sen. Lynn Boylan  
Sinn Féin



Martin Browne T.D.  
Sinn Féin



Jackie Cahill T.D.  
Fianna Fáil  
[Cathaoirleach]



Matt Carthy T.D.  
Sinn Féin



Michael Collins T.D.  
Independent



Sen. Paul Daly  
Fianna Fáil



Michael Fitzmaurice  
T.D. Independent



Joe Flaherty T.D.  
Fianna Fáil



Paul Kehoe T.D.  
Fine Gael



Brian Leddin T.D.  
Green Party



Sen. Tim Lombard  
Fine Gael [Leas-  
Chathaoirleach]



Sen. Denis O'Donovan  
Fianna Fáil



Michael Ring T.D.  
Fine Gael

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## Introduction

The Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine ('the Committee') received an invitation to attend a conference in Val de Loire organised by the Assemblée Nationale as part of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The conference was titled 'Conference of Committee Chairs of the Parliaments of the 27 Member States and the European Parliament on European Policies on behalf of citizens (CAP, Regional Funds and Sustainable Tourism in the context of the Green Deal).' The conference planned to discuss the following topics:

1. CAP and the improvement of the quality of food for European Citizens,
2. Decisive role that regional funds must play in the making the energy transition a reality, and
3. Sustainable tourism in the context of the Green Deal.

The conference took place on 21 March 2022 in Grange de Meslay, Parçay-Meslay, France.

## Committee Delegation

The conference was attended by the following member of the Committee:

- Jackie Cahill T.D., *Cathaoirleach*

The Cathaoirleach was accompanied by the Clerk to the Committee, Mr. Christy Haughton. On the evening prior to the conference a welcoming function was held in the Chateau Du Clos Luce where Ms Laetitia Saint-Paul, Vice President of the National Assembly, addressed the delegates attending the conference.

## Conference in Val de Loire

The conference took place on a working farm in Grange de Meslay, Parçay-Meslay and the Vice President of the National Assembly opened the conference.

Delegates from 19 Member States attended and made contributions on the agenda items disclosed above. This was followed by discussions involving a Government Minister, member of the Senate, senior government officials and delegates from the

floor. The Cathaoirleach presented on the 'CAP and the improvement of the quality of food for European citizens' emphasising the need for the farmer to receive a proper return on their produce through the Common Agriculture Policy and the actions needed to ensure that the agriculture sector attracts young farmers.

A number of delegates raised the issue of the security of food supply in the European Union given the ongoing war in the Ukraine. The delegates from Member States expressed their condemnation of the war and the risks to food supplies.

Nominated delegates spoke to the other agenda items in particular regional funding for the energy transition. A number of delegates disclosed how they had utilised funds to deliver sustainable energy for their regions.



Jackie Cahill T.D., Cathaoirleach, attended the Conference in Val de Loire.



Jackie Cahill T.D., Cathaoirleach, spoke at the Conference.

## Conclusion

The conference clearly outlined the tasks and the difficulties that the European Union faces in ensuring the continued secure supply of food to its citizens and the provision of sustainable energy. It was expressed that these tasks and difficulties could be met and overcome by collaboration of Member States and a unified European Union.

## Appendix 1: Terms of Reference

### Powers of Select Committees (DSO 96 and SSO 72)

#### **DSO 96**

Unless the Dáil shall otherwise order, a Committee appointed pursuant to these Standing Orders shall have the following powers:

10. power to—

- (a) engage the services of persons with specialist or technical knowledge, to assist it or any of its sub-Committees in considering particular matters; and
- (b) undertake travel;

Provided that the powers under this paragraph are subject to such recommendations as may be made by the Working Group of Committee Chairmen under Standing Order 120(4)(a).

#### **SSO 72**

Unless the Seanad shall otherwise order, a Committee appointed pursuant to these Standing Orders shall have the following powers:

10. power to –

- (a) engage the services of persons with specialist or technical knowledge, to assist it or any of its sub-Committees in considering particular matters; and
- (b) undertake travel;

Provided that the powers under this paragraph are subject to such recommendations as may be made by the Working Group of Committee Chairmen under Standing Order 107(4)(a).