



Minister Eamon Ryan,  
Dept. of the Environment, Climate & Communications,  
Adelaide Road,  
Dublin 2.

May 9, 2023

Dear Minister Ryan,

We are writing to express our deep and growing concern over the ongoing failure of government to put in place suitable and appropriate structures to help ensure full delivery of a Just Transition, for affected workers and communities in all areas of the economy and across the country.

As members of the Just Transition Alliance we have particular concerns relating to the failure to significantly progress commitments on the establishment of a Just Transition Commission, as pledged in both the 2022 and 2023 Climate Action Plans.

Proactive engagement with affected communities and workers and strong mechanisms for Social Dialogue are essential components of a genuine Just Transition, as set out under the Paris Agreement and outlined in the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) key guidelines on this subject.

We note that at this year's International Labour Conference at the ILO there will be a general discussion on Just Transition, including consideration of industrial policies and technology, towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all. Member states progress - including that of Ireland - on the implementation of key commitments made on Just Transition will be a focus of this discussion and debate and the conclusions will be a useful indicator of what remains to be done here.

In addition, we also note the important statement by the IHREC (April 10, 2023) calling for the immediate establishment of the promised and delayed Just Transition Commission and the need to ensure that human rights and equality are explicitly included in its mandate and embedded in the functions, expertise and diversity of its governing body and staff. In addition, the Commission's mandate must take into account the Public Sector Duty obligations enshrined in law.

Therefore, we believe it is imperative that we see the establishment of a Just Transition Commission inclusive of all key stakeholders and based on social dialogue, as this is central to ensuring we protect and create jobs, reduce emissions and enhance living standards, as part of the transition.

Job losses and lower living standards are *not* the automatic outcome of the zero carbon transition, but result from bad planning and poor policy.

The fastest, fairest and most effective transition is one that is inclusive, protects workers and communities and delivers new opportunities for all - and the establishment of a Just Transition Commission.

While there have been some initiatives to promote engagement, to date this has not been sufficient to ensure a coherent, effective response across all affected communities.

It is our view that the levels of funding and resources that have and will become available as part of the transition process - such as the EU Just Transition Fund - will require a coherent overarching framework to ensure they are targeted and utilised in the most productive manner possible.

Again, this speaks to the need for a Just Transition Commission which would have the capacity to put in place an overarching blueprint that will help ensure the full impact of all agreed measures and funding.

Although the CAP 2023 commits to seeking “government approval” for the establishment of the Commission in Quarter Two, there is no guarantee this will see such a body up and running in the near or medium term.

In order to deal with the matter as expeditiously as possible, we therefore propose that the Minister and government utilise Section 7 of the NESDO Act (2006) to move urgently and immediately to set up new the Just Transition Commission.

The new body would sit alongside NESC and utilise the same stakeholder/ social dialogue model that has served that body so well, over the years.

As members of the Just Transition Alliance, we would be happy to meet and engage with you and key officials on our proposals for the establishment of the Commission and for delivery of a genuine Just Transition for all affected workers and communities.

***Signed on behalf of the Just Transition Alliance:***

***Macdara Doyle/ David Joyce, Irish Congress of Trade Unions***

**Supported by:**

**Irish Congress of Trade Unions, Siptu, Forasa, Stop Climate Chaos, Friends of the Earth, Global Action Plan**