

Icelandic Economic Council

Minutes of the 13th meeting held online via Teams,
Thursday, May 6, 2021, from 09:00-11:00

Attendees

Icelandic Economic Council:

Katrín Jakobsdóttir, Prime Minister of Iceland

Bjarni Benediktsson, Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs

Sigurður Ingi Jóhannsson, Minister of Infrastructure

Aldís Hafsteinsdóttir, Chairman of the Association of Local Authorities in Iceland

Ásgeir Jónsson, Governor of the Central Bank of Iceland

Halldór Benjamin Þorbergsson, Director General of the Confederation of Icelandic Enterprise

Drífa Snædal, President of the Icelandic Confederation of Labour

Sonja Ýr Þorbergsdóttir, President of the Federation of Public Worker Unions

Jóhann Gunnar Þórarinnsson, President of the Association of Academics

Ragnar Þór Pétursson, President of the Icelandic Teachers' Union

Other attendees:

Guðmundur Ingi Guðbrandsson, Minister of the Environment, Energy and Climate

Ásmundur Daðason, Minister of Social Affairs and Children

Bryndís Hlökkversdóttir, Benedikt Árnason and Henny Hinz (Prime Minister's Office)

Tómas Brynjólfsson (Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs)

Sigríður Halldórsdóttir and Halla Sigrún Sigurðardóttir (Ministry of the Environment, Energy and Climate)

– Under item 1

Karl Björnsson and Sigurður Snævarr (Association of Local Authorities in Iceland)

Rannveig Sigurðardóttir (Central Bank of Iceland)

Hannes G Sigurðsson (Confederation of Icelandic Enterprise)

Halla Gunnarsdóttir (Icelandic Confederation of Labour)

Sigríður Ingibjörg Ingadóttir (Federation of Public Worker Unions)

Vilhjálmur Hilmarsson (The Association of Academics)

Oddur Jakobsson (The Icelandic Teachers' Union)

Sigurður Jóhannsson (The Economic Institute of the University of Iceland) – Under item 1

Hermann Jónasson, Anna Guðmunda Ingvarsdóttir and Þorsteinn Arnalds (The Housing and Construction Authority) – Under item 2

Agenda item 1

Prime Minister's introduction

Agenda item 2

Climate change – Just transition

Introductory address by Guðmundur Ingi Guðbrandsson, Minister of the Environment, Energy and Climate.

Sigurður Jóhannsson, Director of the Institute of Economic Studies at the University of Iceland, gave a talk on social justice and the cost-benefit assessment of climate action (see accompanying presentation) Discussions afterwards.

Agenda item 3

Housing issues

Introductory address delivered by Ásmundur Einar Daðason, Minister of Social Affairs and Children. Anna Guðmunda Ingvarsdóttir, deputy director of the Housing and Construction Authority, presented a progress report on the government's efforts in housing matters in relation to the collective standard of living wage agreement and Hermann Jónasson, director of the Housing and Construction Authority, presented a report on the status and outlook on the housing market. Discussions afterwards.

Agenda item 4

Unemployment insurance and labour market actions

Introductory address delivered by Ásmundur Einar Daðason, Minister of Social Affairs and Children (see accompanying memo to the Icelandic Economic Council from the Minister of Social Affairs and Children). Discussions afterwards.

Agenda item 5

Next steps and final words

The next council meeting is planned on September 2, 2021.

The council's preparatory committee is tasked with further preparing discussions on the impact of global warming on the economy and labour market using the ideology of just transition.