

Meeting Note: 2017 European Parliamentary Hearing on CCS

On Thursday 23rd March, **MEP Lambert Van Nistelrooij (EPP, NL)** hosted the European Parliamentary Hearing on CCS: Unlocking Clean Growth through Carbon Capture and Storage, in partnership with the Zero Emissions Technology and Innovation Platform (ZEP), Gassnova, the Norwegian Ministry for Petroleum and Energy, and the International Energy Agency (IEA). Through a series of three panel discussions, moderated by **Sandrine Dixon-Declève**, the event examined the urgent and important role of CCS in reducing CO₂ emissions from Europe's energy intensive industries in line with deep decarbonisation targets, safeguarding jobs in these industries, and the existing barriers, and potential opportunities to CCS deployment.

In her opening remarks, Sandrine Dixon-Declève noted the increasing profile of CCS in Europe, particularly in light of developments in Norway and the Netherlands, remarking that Europe is now paying close attention to CCS. This was followed by a welcome from MEP Van Nistelrooij, who reaffirmed his commitment to pushing the CCS agenda in Parliament, and noted his previous activities in this area, including a visit to Canada's Boundary Dam project in 2016. He reiterated that further innovation alone will not deliver CCS, which requires greater ambition at the political level. When asked about the level of CCS awareness within Parliament, considering the last debate took place four years ago, Lambert Van Nistelrooij responded that the delivery of powerful examples, such as the ROAD project, are now needed to raise the profile of CCS.

The first panel discussion examined the topic: *'Reducing CO₂ emissions in Europe: what is the role for CCS?'* Sandrine Dixon-Declève introduced the discussion, commenting on the importance of adopting technology-neutral policies and asking speakers where they believed CCS featured in the overall picture of reducing Europe's CO₂ emissions. **Trude Sundset, Chief Executive of Gassnova**, responded that in Norway attitudes have changed post-Paris Agreement, with renewed interest and a sense of urgency in dealing with CO₂ emissions reduction, adding that there is now understanding amongst politicians and the public that addressing this issue will require 'all the tools in the toolbox'. She remarked that everything was in place to deliver the Norwegian CCS projects by 2022, leaving only the spending of allocated funding.

Kamel Ben Naceur, Director at the International Energy Agency (IEA), stated that the IEA has been developing 2 °C scenarios for a decade, always maintaining technological neutrality, and concluding that "about 15% of emissions could be abated with CCS between now and 2050 in a 2 degrees scenario ... without it the whole system would be extremely expensive." He added that there was already the political will, but for this to be achieved the development of CO₂ transport infrastructure must now be progressed. Leading on from this point **Charles Soothill, Vice Chair of ZEP**, introduced ZEP's flagship report: CCS and Europe's Contribution to the Paris Agreement. The report was launched that day and estimates that the cost of meeting the Paris Agreement could be up to €1 trillion cheaper for Europe with CCS by 2050, with a further saving of €50 billion for each following year. The report demonstrates that to achieve the ambitions of the Paris Agreement, CCS must be part of the picture, and could also facilitate greater integration of renewables by allowing for the best-use of wind and solar. **Jonas Helseth, Director of Bellona Europa**, commented that this work

clearly demonstrates the business case for CCS, adding that conversations around CCS need to move away from cost and start talking about finance, utilising a large infrastructure approach and allowing costs to be reduced through sharing.



The second panel examined the question: *Can CCS help to unlock clean growth and sustainable jobs?*

Rob van der Meer, Director at HeidelbergCement, opened the discussions by noting the current economic importance of energy intensive industries, with 1 million European jobs associated with the cement industry alone. He stated that the retention of these jobs will be closely tied to investment in emissions reduction options for European industries.

Allard Castelein, President and Chief Executive of the Port of Rotterdam Authority, followed on from this point, noting that as Europe's largest port, and employer of over 100,000 people, it was vital that industries be supported to reduce emissions, allowing them to focus on core activities and growth. To achieve this, the Port is progressing a number of initiatives, which aim to establish a coalition of the willing for industrial decarbonisation and create the backbones of the infrastructure needed to capture both heat and CO₂.

Sarah Tennison, Technology and Innovation Manager at Tees Valley Combined Authority, built on the idea of 'industrial green zones', adding that CCS is seen as the only solution for the industries in the Tees Valley region, where much of the emissions produced are inherent to industrial processes, and referring to a recent study estimating this could be achieved at a cost of €67 per tonne of CO₂ abated. When later asked if she believed the CCS narrative had been too technology focused in the past, Sarah Tennison responded that although important to reinforce the point that the technology is viable, jobs should also form part of the discussion, and that perhaps in the past this had not been heard loudly enough. **Benjamin Denis, Senior Advisor for the European Trade Union Congress** followed this point by stating that the jobs narrative now needed to extend beyond the short to medium term; stressing that CCS could both maintain existing jobs in Europe and also create new ones, through attracting inward investment. He noted that for the European industry to remain competitive in the future progress on CCS needs to be accelerated now.

In introducing the final panel, MEP Lambert Van Nistelrooij commented that discussions around CCS 'should not stick to the old story', and should focus on a regional and local approach, adding that there will be no progress without local commitment.

This panel examined the question: *What can the EU and Member States do to accelerate progress?* **Ingvil Tybring-Gjedde, State Secretary for the Norwegian Ministry of Petroleum and Energy**, began discussions by emphasising the importance of learning from both past failures and operational experience, such as that of the Norwegian petroleum industry in the North Sea Basin. When asked if she believed CCS could be progressed in other countries with state-owned enterprises, she responded that it will be important that governments do not interfere in the business models. Later the Secretary of State stressed that the Norwegian Government wishes to share what they have learnt in order to progress CCS deployment in the rest of Europe.

Mechthild Wördsörfer, Director Energy Policy in DG Energy at the European Commission, stated that although the EU executive has 'always been positive and friendly towards CCS', 'so far our EU efforts have not been matched as much as we would have wished by member states'. She added that further EU engagement would focus on clusters of carbon emissions and Europe's energy-intensive industries.



Graeme Sweeney, Chairman of the ZEP Advisory Council, concluded the event's discussions by stating that he was 'cautiously optimistic' about the progress of CCS in Europe, with the narrative now making sense at a local level, as was demonstrated by the Rotterdam and Tees Valley regions. He noted the importance of ongoing projects, such as the European Commission's Strategic Energy Technology Plan for CCUS and the current application process for Projects of Common Interest, in progressing CCS in Europe, adding that for this to be successful a regional focus must be adopted and be driven from the 'bottom-up'. He concluded that the CCS technology is ready but infrastructure development is crucial and must be progressed now.

List of Attendees

Iñaki Álvarez Gutiérrez	Ciuden	Aurélien Genty	European Commission
Laurens Baas	Ministry of Economic Affairs (The Netherlands)	Jan Gerbrandy MEP	European Parliament
Nikolaas Baeckelmans	ExxonMobil	Anca Gurzu	POLITICO
Kamel Ben Naceur	International Energy Agency	Jonas Helseth	Bellona Europa
Thomas Berly	International Energy Agency	Laurel Henning	MLex
Anne Margrete Blaker	Gassnova SF	Hyklo Oosterloo	US Mission to the European Union
Raphael Borger	European Parliament	Kristofer Hetland	Statoil
Emilie Brisson	The Mission of Canada to the EU	Gardiner Hill	BP
Karl Buttiens	ArcelorMittal	Robert Hodgson	ENDS Europe
Marie Bysveen	SINTEF	Harriet Howe	CCSA
Suzanna Carp	Sandbag	Giorgi Komakhidze	European Power Plant Suppliers Association
Allard Castelein	Port of Rotterdam	Vassilios Kougionas	European Commission
Magdalena Chawula-Kosuri	EURACOAL	Zofia Labno	ADS Insight
Niels Peter Christensen	Gassnova SF	Vera Lipkovskaya	Gazprom RepOffice Belgium
Sonia Clarena Baron	EUTurbines	Claude Lorea	Cembureau
Chris Davies	Chris Davies Ltd	Christopher Mchone	U.S. Mission to the EU
Benjamin Denis	ETUC	Theo Mitchell	CCSA
Michal Dlugosz	Central Europe Energy Partners	Philippa Parmiter	SCCS
Sandrine Dixson-Declève	Moderator	Jonathan Pearce	British Geological Survey
Mark Downes	Shell	Jacek Podkanski	European Investment Bank
Charlotte Elvsaa	Norwegian Ministry of Petroleum and Energy	Julia Reinaud	i24c
Arne Eriksson	European Commission	Wolfgang Schneider	European Commission
Andrea Forabosco	Shell	Michael Schuetz	European Commission
Guillermo Gea	European Environmental Bureau	Jeroen Schuppers	European Commission

John Scowcroft	Global CCS Institute
Ragnar Semundseth	Ministry of Petroleum and Energy
Ana Serdoner	Bellona Europa
Charles Soothill	Zero Emissions Platform
Trude Sundset	Gassnova
Stig Oyvind Uhr Svenningsen	The Norwegian Ministry of Petroleum and Energy
Graeme Sweeney	ZEP
Sarah Tennison	Tees Valley Combined Authority
Onno Tillema	MITAS
Lucas Tripoteau	Pan European Networks
Ingvil Smines Tybring-Gjedde	Norwegian Ministry of Petroleum and Energy
Carl van der Horst	Tata Steel
Rob Van der Meer	HeidelbergCement
Rannveig van Iterson	European Climate Foundation
Lambert Van Nistelrooij MEP	European Parliament
Yannis Vatopoulos	European Parliament
Maria Velkova	European Commission
Marijn Verhees	European Parliament
Luke Warren	CCSA
Lukas Wernert	European Commission
Keith Whiriskey	Bellona Europa
Ton Wildenborg	TNO
Elodie Woillez	LafargeHolcim
Mechthild Wörsdörfer	European Commission
Kirsten Zondervan	Port of Rotterdam
Peter Zweigel	Statoil ASA

