

IWG9 Plenary and ZEP 76th Advisory Council

13 September 2023, 10:30-17:00 CET

Agenda Item 1: Introduction and welcome

1.a. Meeting instructions

The IWG9 Plenary and ZEP AC76 meeting will be a physical meeting, **held at the European Commission premises in Brussels – Rue de la Loi 120/130 ([directions](#))**, room 130A.

Physical participation is strongly encouraged. Virtual participation will be facilitated if required, via Webex. The link to join virtually can be found in the Outlook calendar invitation; you can also [click here to join](#).

1.b. Draft meeting agenda

The draft agenda for the IWG9 Plenary and 76th meeting of the Advisory Council is appended as pre-read 1.b.

1.c. IWG9 Plenary and ZEP AC75 draft meeting minutes

The draft meeting minutes of the previous IWG9 Plenary and 75th meeting of the ZEP Advisory Council, which took place on 14 June 2023, are appended as pre-read 1.c.

1.d. ZEP ACEC July meeting minutes

The ZEP ACEC July meeting minutes are appended as pre-read 1.d.

1.e. ZEP extraordinary ACEC August meeting notes

The ZEP extraordinary ACEC August meeting minutes are appended as pre-read 1.e.

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

ZEP 75th ADVISORY COUNCIL AND IWG9 PLENARY

14 June 2023, 10:30-17:00 CEST

In-person meeting in Brussels (and online)

1. Welcome and introduction

ET/chair welcomes participants and confirms quorum.

Chair asks for approval of:

- the IWG9 Plenary/AC75 draft meeting agenda – approved.
- the IWG9 Plenary/AC74 draft meeting minutes – approved.
- the ACEC April draft meeting minutes – approved.
- the ACEC May draft meeting minutes – approved.

2. ZEP developments

POG gives an update on ZEP developments, highlighting the successful management of the long gap in funding proceeding the current EU grant, the Advisory Council's build-up of reserves to avoid this risk, and that ZEP now has a very good basis for development and strong action going forward. He also notes the expected further increase of the financial reserves during 2023 due to additional members and lower costs due to slower return from lockdown, referring to the ZEP-C AGM later today.

Chair mentions, referring to the pre-reads, that in light of the strong positive CCS and CCU momentum the TWG on Future ZEP structure will revisit ZEP membership, structure, and the organisation of workstreams and come back with a mapping at the AC in September. POG adds that two new employees are recruited to the ZEP secretariat.

Questions are raised regarding the possibility to provide input to the process, the composition of the TWG, the fundamental objectives, and the coordination with other organisations working on CCS. Chair explains that the chair and vice-chairs of ZEP make up the TWG and that the goal is to identify elements that could be changed.

The AC approves the terms of reference and the way forward.

3. Updates from governments and projects

SF from the German federal ministry presents the ministry's work, including on a Carbon Management Strategy expected in Q3/Q4 2023. Germany is looking into the ratification of article 6

of the London Protocol. SF confirms that he would be happy to present the strategy to ZEP once it is published.

FA presents RWE's plans regarding the decarbonisation of its power plants in the Netherlands and the UK.

JVDH presents the Delta Rhine Corridor project. Planned capacity is set at 10 million tonnes per year. The project has national interest status in the Netherlands. Three key factors for final investment decisions are permits, emitters commitment, and store acreage.

Sessions of questions and answers follows and the chair thanks the speakers.

4. SET-Plan Review

WC highlights that the SET Plan review has not been prioritised and he adds that a SET-Plan workshop will take place at the end of June. POG notes that ZEP and IWG9 already have taken the most important steps referring to the review, with updated targets and fully coordinated work programme and structure. He gives a short update on the input to the annual SET-Plan progress reporting and the upcoming meeting with the IWG9 chairs.

The ACEC approves the proposed way forward for the reporting.

POG announces that he is moving on from his position at the CCSA and ZEP at the end of August. Chair and participants thank POG for his work on CCS deployment in Europe.

5. Updates from the Networks

a. Network Policy & Economics

LE gives an update on the ZEP Network Policy and Economics, presenting an overview of the latest meeting in May and noting that CS has stepped down from his role as co-chair of the Network. LSN gives an update on the WG Policy & Funding, presenting an overview of open consultations as well as of the elements that the European Commission is considering for the Industrial Carbon Management Strategy.

HS gives an update on the ongoing work of the ZEP/CCSA working group on CO₂ transport by ship, noting that a draft report is being reviewed by working group members. A discussion follows about the need for technical recommendations on standardisation of CO₂ specifications and the need for a pragmatic approach that does not disqualify initial investments, but that at the same time recognises current uncertainties.

ZEP's response to the call for feedback on the EU 2040 climate target and the way forward regarding the calls for feedback in the Net Zero Industry Act and Industrial Carbon Management Strategy are approved by the AC.

b. Network Technology

AF gives an update from Network Technology, presenting an overview of the latest meeting of the Network and the temporary working groups CDR and Supply chain activities regarding consultation responses. AF gives an update on the CCS+ initiative, noting the upcoming public consultation on the first batch of documents and that the CDR workstream has been put on hold, given reservations concerning timing, resourcing, scope and added value.

ZEP's response to the Article 6.4 mechanism Supervisory Body 'Structured public consultation: Removal activities under the Article 6.4 mechanism' is approved by the AC.

6. Updates from the External Relations Group

POG gives an update on the External Relations Group (ERG), noting the call for the vice-chairs to present new ERG co-chairs and the merge of the Communications Group and the ERG. He gives an overview of recent events and communications activities, noting the successful NET Zero Within Reach conference in April, that next year's conference will be organised on 24 April 2024, the June engagement programme, the NZIA knowledge sharing webinar, and the update of the ZEP and IWG9 websites. AF gives an update on ZEP's policy session at the EU Sustainable Energy Week 2023.

7. ZEP Network Projects

LE and POG give an update on the new Network Projects, the set-up and the way forward, noting SS as the proposed co-chair. Regarding next steps, SS notes that Porthos has indicated interest in hosting the first session in November this year. A discussion follows about the involvement of local authorities and the research community in the new Network.

The AC approves the way forward, the Network set-up, co-chair, and hosting of the first project.

8. The Green Deal Industrial Plan and the Net Zero Industry Act

CAB introduces the topic, focusing on the provisions in the Net Zero Industry Act that are relevant to CCS. CDM provides an overview of IOGP's position on the file. A roundtable discussion follows on how to make the injection capacity obligation (Article 18) workable, how carbon removals are reflected in the Act, the need for a value-chain approach, and Member States' financial capacity to fulfil their climate responsibilities. Participants also discuss the applicability of the current target for storage injection capacity in a scenario where it applies to the European Economic Area (EEA) and not just the EU.

9. Update on the Monitoring and Reporting Regulation revision

IM gives an update on the revision of the Monitoring and Reporting Regulation. A discussion follows about the scope of the revision regarding non-pipeline transport of CO₂, and the timeline for the revision.

10. Funding opportunities for CCS/CCU projects

MV gives an update on EU funding programmes, focusing on the Innovation Fund and the LIFE Programme. JF gives an update on the PCI/PMI process. A discussion follows about the total amount of EU ETS funding that flows to the Innovation Fund.

11. Ahead of the CCUS Communication

JF gives an update on the ongoing work of the CCUS Forum working groups and the upcoming Industrial Carbon Management Strategy. A discussion follows about the link of the initiative with the Commission's proposal for a Regulation establishing a Union certification framework for carbon removals.

12. Actions, closing remarks and next meeting

Chair thanks all for participating and notes the next AC/Plenary meeting dates for 2023: ZEP AC76 and IWG9 Plenary on 13 September, with a following meeting on 13 December.

Attendants		
1.	Eve Tamme	Zero Emissions Platform
2.	Joëlle Rekers	Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy
3.	William Christensen	Norwegian Ministry of Petroleum and Energy
4.	Lamberto Eldering	Equinor
5.	Michalis Agraniotis	Mitsubishi Power Europe
6.	Cecile Barrere-Tricca	IFPEN
7.	Al Tucker	Shell
8.	Ross Brown	Shell
9.	Bram Sommer	Shell
10.	Jeroen van de Heijning	Shell
11.	Aslak Hellestø	Northern Lights
12.	Ward Goldthorpe	Sustainable Decisions
13.	Vicente Cortés Galeano	University of Sevilla
14.	Constantin Sava	GeoEcoMar
15.	Thomas Le Guénan	Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières
16.	Suzanne Hurter	TNO

17.	Eadbhard Pernot	Clean Air Task Force
18.	Keith Hester	Eni
19.	Valeria Di Francesco	Eni
20.	David Nevicato	TotalEnergies
21.	Pauline Bourguignon	TotalEnergies
22.	Line Rydså	SINTEF
23.	Stijn Santen	EBN
24.	Marine Valdois	ExxonMobil
25.	Marie Bysveen	SINTEF
26.	Kristin Jordal	SINTEF
27.	Liv Rathe	Norsk Hydro
28.	Stuart Haszeldine	University of Edinburgh
29.	Lina Strandvåg Nagell	Bellona
30.	Heimo Friede	Siemens Energy
31.	Judith Kirton-Darling	industriAll
32.	Raphael De Loenen	Port of Antwerp-Bruges
33.	Reinier van Noort	Institute for Energy Technology
34.	Nicolai Mykleby-Skaara	Aker Carbon Capture
35.	Maria Velkova	European Commission
36.	Eirik Lønning	European Commission
37.	Ioli Howard	European Commission
38.	Johanna Fiksdahl	European Commission
39.	Alexandre Dedo	European Commission
40.	Yiannis Markoudakis	European Commission
41.	Morten Skovgaard Olsen	Danish Energy Agency
42.	Alex Blades	UK Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
43.	Martijn van de Sande	Netherlands Enterprise Agency
44.	Sebastian Fischer	German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action
45.	Timo Ritonummi	Finnish Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment

46.	Tine Leroux	Flemish Energy and Climate Agency
47.	Stefano Benato	Swiss Federal Office of Energy
48.	Onur Bayram	Turkish Energy, Nuclear and Mineral Research Agency
49.	Yasemin Polat	Turkish Energy, Nuclear and Mineral Research Agency
50.	Sebastian Busch	IN4climate.NRW
51.	Margaux Gressé	Teréga
52.	Nina Kolbe	thyssenkrupp Steel
53.	Nikolaos Koukouzas	Centre for Research and Technology Hellas
54.	Patricia Marcos Suárez	Tecnicas Reunidas
55.	Patricia Marcos Suárez	Tecnicas Reunidas
56.	Julia Mülheiss	E.ON
57.	Sytze Ferwerda	Porthos
58.	Arash Hedayat	Repsol
59.	Fiona Auty	RWE
60.	Sofie Cuypers	Port of Antwerp-Bruges
61.	Axel Scheuer	IOGP Europe
62.	Anders Melhus	Altera Infrastructure
63.	Caterina De Matteis	IOGP Europe
64.	Sina Blix Prestmo	ECCSEL
65.	Klaus Meyer	Bosch
66.	Sophie Wilmet	Cefic
67.	Annette Weiss	Forschungszentrum Juelich
68.	Juliette Lebourrier	Lhoist
69.	Nicola Clarke	IEAGHG
70.	Panos Deligiannis	Ecolog
71.	Ståle Aakenes	Gassnova
72.	Virgilijus Petuska	UAB Minijos nafta
73.	Yoshihiro Sawada	Japan CCS
74.	Eric De Coninck	ArcelorMittal
75.	Anna Dubowik	44.01

76.	Ayan Bhattacharji	Interconnector
77.	Liliana Guevara Opinska	Trinomics
78.	Chris Sherwood	Negative Emissions Platform
79.	Ruth Herbert	CCSA
80.	Valeria Palmisano	SNAM
81.	Paolo Testini	SNAM
82.	Ivan Guerra	SNAM
83.	Emmanuelle Robins-Ouagne	Pôle Avenia
84.	Panos Deligiannis	Ecolog
85.	Kostis Andreou	Ecolog
86.	Frederik Pieters	BASF
87.	Eric Ingels	Pall Corp
88.	Haije Stigter	Carbon Collectors
89.	Jan Kjärstad	Chalmers
90.	Clara Pacitti	BCW
91.	Alar Saluste	Ragn-sells
92.	Per-Olof Granström	ZEP Secretariat
93.	Charles-Albert Bareth	ZEP Secretariat
94.	Ana Faria	ZEP Secretariat

ACEC July meeting

11 July 2023

9:00-11:00 CET

Draft meeting minutes

1. Introduction and welcome

Chair/ET welcomes all and confirms quorum.

Chair asks for approval of the ACEC July meeting agenda – agenda is approved. Asks for endorsement of draft meeting minutes from the AC June meeting – minutes are endorsed.

Adrien Collache and Kristin Heidebroek, new to the ZEP secretariat, were welcomed and introduced themselves.

2. ZEP development

Chair gives an update on the work on ZEP's future structure, noting that she will meet with Solar Power Europe in July to understand how their structure works. Chair will also meet with the CCSA and CCS Europe to discuss the future collaboration with ZEP.

Referring to previous meetings, POG notes that new ERG co-chairs representing Industry and Oil & Gas are still needed. He also highlights that Networks Policy & Economics needs a new co-chair after Christian Schwarck has left and proposes to ask the ZEP AC for nominations. POG also proposes to ask the European Commission if they would like to take on the post as co-chair for the new Network Projects.

Based on the proposed AC76 agenda for September, POG notes the ACEC/Vice-chair renewal as set out in the new bylaws.

In the discussion, the following is highlighted: The AC76 agenda should include COP28 and a presentation of the updated NECPs. Regarding the new Network, Stijn Santen highlights that he has asked the Porthos project if they are interested in hosting the first Network meeting, awaiting a response. Chair asks to check if the meeting on Article 6.4 is due to take place before or after AC76.

The ACEC endorses to ask the AC for NWPE co-chair nominations and that ZEP should ask the European Commission to co-chair the Network Projects.

3. Updates from Networks

a. Network Policy and Economics

LSN provides an update on the Network's activities, noting that ZEP has submitted consultation responses on the call for input on the EU 2040 climate target and the call for feedback on the Net Zero Industry Act. She also notes that WG Policy & Funding will support the drafting of a response to the consultation on the Industrial Carbon Management Strategy, and that ZEP has co-signed a letter urging the European Commission to not delay the strategy.

b. NWT

AF gives an update on the Network's activities, noting that DNV has published a first draft of the CO2 Storage Directive Guidance Documents, where ZEP's inputs are reflected. She also notes that ZEP is preparing written response to this draft, and that Filip Neele will present ZEP's views at the DNV workshop later today. DNV has extended the deadline for further feedback and the draft input will be shared with the ACEC.

The ACEC endorses the proposed way forward for the DNV consultation.

4. Updates from External Relations Group

AF gives an update on past and upcoming activities, noting the updates to the ZEP and IWG9 websites, ZEP's session at the EUSEW, that ZEP's application for the EU Industry Days is approved. ZEP's Industry Days session is planned for 4 October and will focus on CCS for industrial decarbonisation and the new ZEP Network. It is also highlighted that the Communication Group were supportive of ZEP participating at COP28.

POG gives an overview of the draft ZEP outreach and communications strategy, noting the proposed timeline and the importance of this draft strategy being discussed, updated and 'owned' by the ACEC before presenting it to the AC in September. He notes the two different sets of goals for the outreach and communication – development and deployment of CCS and CCU, and the focus on strengthening ZEP as the go-to advisory organisation towards the European institutions – the target audience, key and supporting messages, as well as the basis for the action plans and guidelines, damage control tools, and monitoring and follow-up.

In the discussion, the following is noted: Chair asks to check if the ZEP session at the industry days can be moved to another day. Referring to the possibility for ZEP to participate in a COP side-event, CDR and carbon markets are mentioned as interesting items. There is an interest in ZEP continuing the knowledge sharing seminars. Referring to the draft outreach and communication strategy, there is support for the draft and structure, chair notes the importance of social media presence, and the importance of vice-chairs and ERG involvement is reiterated.

The ACEC endorses the proposed way forward and to hold an extraordinary ACEC meeting (and if possible, also an ERG meeting) end-August to discuss the outreach and communication strategy as well as the Future ZEP structure work.

5. ZEP and the Net Zero Industry Act

CAB gives an update on the Net Zero Industry Act. In the discussion, LDC notes that she would have liked more engagement with the WG Policy & Funding on the amendments. LSN explains that given the very different views and the tight timeline focus was on the most important amendments. She notes that the WG co-chairs held a special meeting to confirm the amendments to put forward. SS highlights that it is great that a letter was published on Article 18. WB notes the Spanish Presidency of the Council is questioning CO2 storage targets and CCS in general. Chair asks about the op-ed on Article 18 and POG notes that an op-ed will be drafted and shared with the ACEC. LCD indicates that the ZEP's messaging for the Net Zero Industry Act should be used also for the consultation on the Industrial Carbon Management Strategy.

6. Closing remarks

Chair thanks participants and reminds that the next ACEC meeting will take place on 10 October 2023 and that the AC76/IWG9 Plenary will take place on 13 September 2023 as an in-person meeting in Brussels. Closes the meeting.

List of participants

Eve Tamme	ZEP chair
Charles Soothill	Sulzer
Winston Beck	Heidelberg Materials
Lamberto Eldering proxy to Luisa de Castro	Equinor
Nils Røkke proxy to Lina Strandvåg Nagell	SINTEF
Jonas Helseth proxy to Lina Strandvåg Nagell	Bellona
Lina Strandvåg Nagell	Bellona
Stijn Santen	EBN
Per-Olof Granström	ZEP Secretariat
Charles-Albert Bareth	- " -
Adrien Collache	- " -
Ana Faria	- " -
Kristin Heidebroek	- " -

Extraordinary ACEC August meeting

22 August 2023

9:00-11:00 CET

Draft meeting minutes

1. Introduction and welcome

Chair/ET welcomes all and confirms quorum.

Chair asks for approval of the ACEC August draft meeting agenda – agenda is approved. Asks for endorsement of draft meeting minutes from the ACEC July meeting – minutes are endorsed.

2. ZEP future structure

Chair presents the draft document on options for ZEP's future structure and asks for guidance from the ACEC. It is noted that the grading of the options is not, but will have to be, based on the views of the ACEC members. Participants discuss their views regarding the benefits and disadvantages of the different options.

There is an agreement of the need to clarify and detail the different options better and to differentiate between the easier questions – such as changing the name on ZEP Networks to ZEP Committees or allowing trade associations to be ZEP members – and the strategic question – if ZEP should be more closely associated with the CCSA or develop further on its own with ZEP-C.

Chair asks ACEC members to include their own grading of the options based on a new clearer version of the document that will be circulated shortly. The draft document will then be shared with the AC ahead of the meeting on 13 September.

3. ZEP outreach and communication strategy

KH presents the draft outreach and communication strategy, focusing on 'Action Plans, Tactics, and Guidelines', the chapter that has been updated since the discussion at the July ACEC meeting. POG notes the importance for the ACEC to agree on the goals and key messages. Chair opens the floor for questions. MB notes the importance of social media visibility and points out videos and visuals. WB notes the importance of the 2024 European Parliament elections.

The aim is to share the draft strategy with the ERG co-chairs for possible further comments ahead of sending it for discussion and approval at the AC meeting on 13 September. It is noted that the ZEP constituencies for oil & gas and industry need to select their ERG co-chair.



KH presents the proposed change to the draft op-ed on Article 18 of the Net Zero Industry Act. ACEC endorses.

4. ZEP new Network Projects

AC introduces the preparatory work done on the new Network Projects. SS presents the different communication elements for the first meeting to be organised in Rotterdam and hosted by the Porthos project on 8-9 November this year. Chair opens the floor for questions and comments. WB notes that session topics should be focus on projects barriers, EU funding application processes, and CDR certification. ZEP's communication will highlight that the first meeting will have detailed discussions.

Chairs asks for endorsement of the different elements. Endorsed.

5. Call for feedback on updated rules for monitoring and reporting

CAB presents the draft response to the call for feedback on updated rules for monitoring and reporting and updates on the way forward regarding the public consultation on the industrial carbon management strategy, where a draft response will be shared with the ACEC for approval.

The ACEC endorses the draft response on monitoring and reporting.

6. Closing remarks

Chair thanks participants and reminds that the next ACEC meeting will take place on 10 October 2023 and that the AC76/IWG9 Plenary will take place on 13 September 2023 as an in-person meeting in Brussels.

Chair closes the meeting.

List of participants

Eve Tamme	ZEP chair
Charles Soothill	Sulzer
Winston Beck until 10.30, then proxy to Chair	Heidelberg Materials
Lamberto Eldering	Equinor
Nils Røkke until 10.40, then proxy to Marie Bysveen	SINTEF
Jonas Helseth proxy to Lina Strandvåg Nagell	Bellona
Filip Neele	TNO

Lina Strandvåg Nagell	Bellona
Stijn Santen	EBN
Marie Bysveen	SINTEF
Per-Olof Granström	ZEP Secretariat
Charles-Albert Bareth	- “ -
Adrien Collache	- “ -
Kristin Heidebroek	- “ -

DRAFT

Agenda Item 2: ZEP developments – for information, guidance, and approval

2.a. Finance update per 31 August 2023 and end of year outlook

Appended is ZEP Communications financial management report of 31 August 2023.

- Income: Budgeted income for 2023 is €330,000 (not taking into account the new ZEP member joining in September).
- Expenditure: Due to startup after Covid-19, the expenditure is lower than budgeted. Some of the Network and TWG meetings, as well as workshops are still virtual. This has kept costs down at the same time as we have increased ZEP activities and outreach. Services from the CCSA are invoiced in December each year.
- The ZEP-C financial reserves are expected to increase during 2023, given the lower costs than budgeted and additional member funding.

2.b Temporary Working Group on ZEP future structure

Following the mandate of the Advisory Council at 75th meeting and discussions with the ACEC at the July and August meetings, the TWG ZEP future structure has prepared a draft analysis of the options available regarding ZEP's future:

- Structure and governance
- Funding model
- Membership
- Working methods

The draft analysis is appended and there will be a presentation at the meeting.

The AC are invited to ask clarifying questions on the document.

2.c ACEC renewal

According to ZEP's bylaws the ACEC renewal will be presented as a proposal at the next Advisory Council in December.

2.d New application for ZEP membership

Yara has applied to become ZEP member, nominating Luc Haustermans as representative. Advisory Council representatives received an invitation to vote on this nomination until 12 September close of business.

Budget management: Expenditure against 2023 budget

Activity	Contractor	Budget 2023	Comments	To date Spent	Comments	To Date Committed	Comments
Administration / Auditing	Adams accountants / Vandelanotte	€ 8 000		€ 2 957			
Website maintenance	Karakas	€ 1 000		€ 0			
	The carbon capture	€ 4 000		€ 0			
Chair	Climate Principles	€ 67 992		€ 39 662			
Contingency	Multiburo, reprobel	€ 4 000		€ 1 445			
Additional work programme		€ 145 000					
Public affairs		€ 85 000		€ 15 519			
Strategic work		€ 12 500					
Total		€ 327 492		€ 59 584		€ 0	

Spent: Actually paid or contractually due for delivered work
Committed: Based on signed contracts, yet to be approved invoices or founded estimates

Spent + Committed € 59 584
Remaining total budget € 267 908

Cash management of ZEP Communications VZW / ASBL

Category	Source	Issued invoices	Comments	Pending invoices	Comments	Received payments	Comments
2023 contributions	O&G	€ 180 000	Total, Equinor, ENI, BP, Exxon Mobil, Shell				
	OEM						
	Others (confirmed)	€ 127 500	Port of Rotterdam, HeidelbergCement, EBN, Northern Lights, Norsk Hydro, Celsio, MHI, 8Rivers	€ 35 000	8Rivers, Gassnova		
	Others (Potential)						

General	VAT return	€ 47 081	VAT declar 2023/08	€ 350	Invoices 2023 to be rec.	€ 0	VAT on sales invoices
Total outstanding / pending ZEP-C		€ 354 581		€ 35 350			

Cash situation (of 31 May 2023)

Current account (KBC - Business compact rekening)			€ 435 669
Savings account (KBC - Spaarrekening)			€ 101
Actual cash at bank and in hand			€ 435 771

Expenditure situation

Source	Outstanding invoices	Comments	Pending invoices	Comments
Short term creditors	€ 142 500		€ 1 667	VDL + CA + Ardna
Outstanding invoices in spent to date, to be paid	€ 142 500		€ 1 667	

Cash boundaries

Minimum virtual financial position (all creditors paid, no more income) € 291 604
Maximum virtual financial position (all creditors paid, all income realised) € 681 535

Forecast

€ 355243, 06	Starting point 2023 (= Left over budget 2022)
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2023 Total Spend	Comments Relative to budget
€ 8 000	
€ 1 000	
€ 4 000	
€ 67 992	
€ 4 000	
€ 145 000	
€ 85 000	
€ 12 500	
€ 327 492	Total budget spent 2023

€ 180 000	
€ 0	
€ 162 500	

€ 342 500	Total forecasted income 2023
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370 251,06	Forecasted Left over budget 2023
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ZEP future

Analysis of options

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1. Introduction

There has been an immense increase in announced CCS and CCU projects and policy initiatives since the publication of the European Green Deal Communication in 2019. The Zero Emissions Platform (ZEP), as the go-to organisation for CCS and CCU in Europe, has substantially increased its activity level, membership and engagement with stakeholders.

ZEP's work derives from both the ETIP ZEP grant agreement and the additional work programme (funded by ZEP Communications ASBL)¹. Over the last four years, ZEP has grown from a technical advisor on CCS and CCU to a platform that covers both technical and policy advice, and 70% of its activities are policy advocacy related. However, the current format as an ETIP limits its range of activities and entails decreasing funding from the Horizon Europe grant. This is also why ZEP, with increasing membership funding, has added further workstreams funded directly by its members.

1.1 Reasoning for considering new options

CCS and CCU need a complete range of support

Europe needs a strong CCS and CCU organisation that can cater for a wide range of stakeholders, be a trusted advisor on technical details but also on policy nuances and best practices. Europe's heavy policy agenda means that in addition to the technical and policy advice that the ZEP ETIP is already providing, the CCS and CCU community needs much stronger and wider advocacy engagement² that comes from an established and trusted source.

There are two distinct ranges of support that the CCS and CCU community needs. First, from technical advice (e.g., standards for CO₂ specifications, guidelines for CO₂ storage) to impactful and wide-ranging policy advocacy to get the necessary policy and funding frameworks in place. And secondly, engaging with policymakers from the most technical level to the ministerial level.

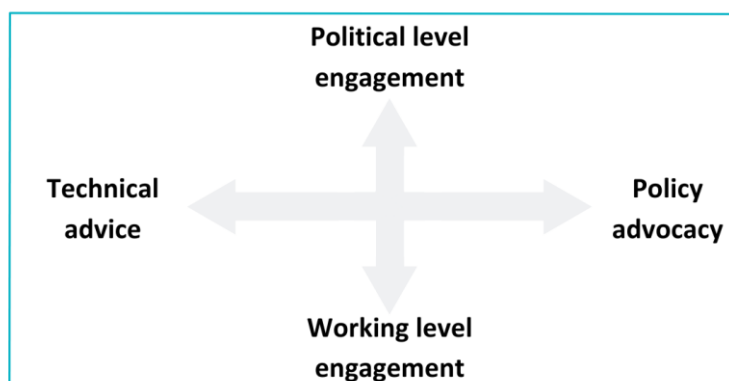


Figure 1: Spectrum of activities

¹ Throughout this paper, "ZEP" is conceptualised as the combination of the ETIP ZEP and the ZEP Communications ASBL.

² Advocacy is a general term that includes activities like sharing best practices, technical advice, coalition building and more. Lobbying is a subset of advocacy activities that relate to influencing specific legislation, including supporting specific articles in legal proposals or suggesting specific changes to the legal text (see, for example, [Ross et al., 2021](#), [Berg, 2009](#), and [Ezell, 2001](#)). All lobbying is advocacy but not all advocacy is lobbying. In practice, ZEP's activities to date, including position papers, letters etc., span across all these activities.

One of the main concerns regarding engaging in a broader range of advocacy activities by ZEP has been around credibility. Doing more advocacy and, furthermore, engaging in lobbying activities has been seen as potentially undermining the credibility ZEP has built over the past two decades. In practice, among a wider range of knowledge sharing, ZEP is already engaging in various activities that are commonly considered lobbying (e. g. specific suggestions on legislative proposals). As all ZEP's advocacy activities are fact- and science-based, expanding the range of such activities whilst adhering to the existing principles doesn't impact ZEP's credibility.

ZEP needs a sustainable funding model

ZEP has been championing CCS and CCU for the last 18 years, but its funding from the Horizon Europe grant has lately substantially decreased. The current grant runs until 2025. Given the reduced EU grant funding and increased list of activities, ZEP needs a plan on top of the recently increased membership funding to grow in its role as a cornerstone for the CCS and CCU community in Europe.

Further expanding its funding streams and either building up its own staff or potentially joining forces with an industry association would cater for both needs.

ZEP needs an attractive and fit-for-purpose governance

The core ZEP structure established from the start has more or less been kept intact.

Ahead of the current EU grant, which started in July 2022, ETIP ZEP activities and structure were updated and coordinated with the CCUS SET-Plan Implementation Plan working group (IWG9) in order to increase impact, efficiency, and benefit for stakeholders.

The regained momentum for CCS and CCU through, for instance, the Net Zero Industry Act proposal and the drive from the European Commission, EEA countries and private and public organisations raise the question of whether and how ZEP should be developed to operate under and drive the large-scale development needed and become a powerful vehicle for enabling climate neutrality by 2050 and the intermediate steps in 2030 and 2040 in the most effective way.

It is thus time for ZEP to revisit its structure, funding model, representation and working methods to respond to emerging opportunities.

1.2 Mandate and guidance for analysis

The Temporary Working Group (TWG) ZEP future structure, as approved at the ZEP Advisory Council (AC) of 14 June 2023, aims to revisit the present structure of ZEP in view of the opportunities at hand by mapping options for ZEP's:

- Structure and governance
- Funding model
- Membership
- Working methods

As outlined in the TWG Terms of Reference, the analysis and decisions regarding preferred options should pay particular attention to:

1. Working methods, making it attractive for the various stakeholders to contribute to ZEP and its different workstreams.
2. Governance structure, ensuring effective governance that is easy to understand, facilitates engagement with stakeholders, and is focused yet flexible.
3. Administration, making sure it is fit for purpose and flexible with regard to funding opportunities.
4. A funding model focused on increasing ZEP's impact through additional funding streams.
5. A growing membership base that strengthens ZEP's advice and impact.
6. Providing a clear value proposition for the various stakeholders without hindering funding from public bodies.
7. A ZEP that has clear and agreed battery limits towards other established bodies in the CCS and CCU, CDR area.
8. A ZEP that can drive the CCS and CCU development forward, do advocacy, provide unbiased facts for agenda setting based on the latest scientific findings and aim to build consensus. In short, a ZEP fit to cater for the 'Fit for 55' and climate neutrality objectives.
9. Maintain the role as a trusted advisor to the European Commission in matters pertaining to carbon management with a variety of Directorate-Generals (DGs).
10. Develop further ZEP's role towards the SET Plan Implementation Working Group 9 (IWG9).
11. Driving ZEP's communication work forward, aiming at getting ZEP better known to potential new stakeholders and members.

For the purpose of this analysis, the guidelines are reshaped/rearranged into the following evaluation criteria, providing a transparent framework against which the options are compared. **To offer a forward-looking assessment, the criteria are assessed based on the impact of considered options in a 2-3 year timeframe.** This offers better insights into the potential outcome of the options, including the impact of the business as usual ("status quo" options) over the coming years.

Criteria (relevant guideline number in parenthesis)	Direction	Magnitude
Capacity to drive work programme and influence policy & funding framework for CCS and CCU (7, 8, 10)	Positive (+) Negative (-) No change (0)	Large impact (+++ / ---) Medium impact (++ / --) Small impact (+ / -)
ZEP's role as a trusted organisation (9, 10)		
Capacity to engage with current stakeholders and members (1, 2, 6)		

Attractiveness for potential members (2, 5, 6)		
Funding to increase impact (4)		
Visibility (11)		
Straightforwardness / simplicity of governance and flexibility of administration (2, 3)		
Resources needed (3)		

2. ZEP General Structure and Operating Model

Under the current grant period (2022-2025), the activities of the CCUS European Technology and Innovation Platform (**ETIP ZEP**) and the CCUS SET Plan Implementation Group 9 (IWG9) have been combined under one project and Secretariat, in line with the demands from the European Commission on close cooperation and coordination.

The Secretariat for the project is provided by the [Carbon Capture and Storage Association](#) (CCSA), a trade association representing companies across the spectrum of carbon capture, utilisation and storage technologies. CCSA has supplied the secretariat to ETIP ZEP since 2016 under H2020 and Horizon Europe grants. The Secretariat is funded by the Horizon Europe grant and by ZEP-C (*see below*).

The ETIP ZEP work programme for the Networks, Temporary Working Groups (TWGs) and the External Relations Group (ERG) is combined with the IWG9 to increase efficiency, impact, and value for members and stakeholders, and builds on the EU policy agenda and deliverables set out in the grant agreement. The work programme was developed with stakeholders and was approved at the ZEP AC73 meeting in December 2022. Intended as a living document, the work programme outlines the focus areas and key activities to be developed in 2023:

- Supporting the CCUS Forum work, particularly aimed at enabling an EU strategy for CCS and CCU and the proposed regulatory framework for CO₂ transport infrastructure
- Providing input to the development of the two European Commission studies on CCS and CCU
- Monitoring the revision of the National Energy and Climate Plans
- Providing recommendations on CCUS R&I priorities for the Horizon Europe work programme
- Monitoring and providing input to policy files relevant to CCS and CCU, namely, the EU ETS revision, the Monitoring and Reporting Regulation revision, the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, the Innovation Fund, and the Renewable Energy Directive, the proposal for a certification framework for carbon dioxide removals
- Monitoring and contributing to the revision of the CO₂ Storage Directive Guidance Documents

- Develop early thinking on CO2 transport by ship, the implications of the energy crisis on CCS and CCU technologies, the risks and opportunities in the CCS and CCU supply chains, and the development of standards/codes for CO2 specifications
- Communication and dissemination of activities through the website, social media and newsletter
- Hosting events (webinars, ZEP Conference)

Based on the increased membership funding and decreased EU grant funding, the ZEP AC has also approved a ZEP 'additional work programme', funded separately by ZEP Communications ASBL (**ZEP-C**) members. The focus of the additional work programme is strengthening ZEP's visibility, communication activities, and public affairs. Specifically, the additional work programme includes:

- An additional resource to the secretariat, focused on external relations and Public Affairs.
- Enhanced advocacy and communication activities, including increased media and social media presence and enhanced material dissemination.
- Increased number of ZEP events and increased participation in external events.
- To showcase the positive CCS/CCU narrative and drive the important items of development and deployment of CCS and CCU – an EU CCS/CCU strategy, Europe-wide CO2 transport and storage infrastructure, national strategies for CCS and CCU, improved geographical spread, investability, adequate business models.
- Dedicated administrative support.

In this document, references to ETIP ZEP and ZEP-C mean the entities explained above. As noted in the introduction, all references to ZEP refer to the combination of ETIP ZEP and ZEP-C.

Option 1: Status quo

Advantages:

ZEP's fully transparent and open format makes the Platform accessible to all stakeholders with an interest in CCS and CCU. This has created a strong trust for ZEP and the possibility of working closely with the key policymakers on both the EU and national levels.

Challenges:

The limitations of an ETIP persist. In its current form, ZEP does not have the resources and impact to cater for the large-scale deployment of CCS and CCU in Europe at the level needed. The reduction in funding from the grant makes it crucial to further increase other forms of funding and to cushion against a possible further decrease after 2025.

The fully open and transparent operating model makes it more difficult to attract members as a lot of the information and engagement opportunities in meetings are available to all stakeholders for free.

Continuing with the status quo will likely lead to increasing numbers of different CCS organisations in Brussels that aim to fill the gap between what ZEP is doing and what needs

to be done. That can be confusing for policymakers but also adds an extra burden on stakeholders who have limited resources to engage with a growing number of organisations and their working groups.

Criteria	Direction	Magnitude
Capacity to drive work programme and influence policy & funding framework for CCS and CCU		
ZEP's role as a trusted organisation		
Capacity to engage with current stakeholders and members		
Attractiveness for potential members		
Funding to increase impact		
Visibility		
Straightforwardness / simplicity of governance and flexibility of administration		
Resources needed		

Option 2: ETIP (technical advice) + strengthened ZEP-C (policy work)

Building a separate structure that delivers work beyond the mandate of an ETIP could be achieved by building up ZEP Communications ASBL (ZEP-C). This opportunity was assessed by the ZEP ACEC in 2021 and is not a new concept, given that, in 2010, ZEP employed its own staff.

ETIP ZEP would focus on the technical work and support R&I priorities, whereas the policy work, which currently makes up the majority of ZEP's activities, would increasingly be brought under and financed by ZEP-C. This setup is illustrated below.

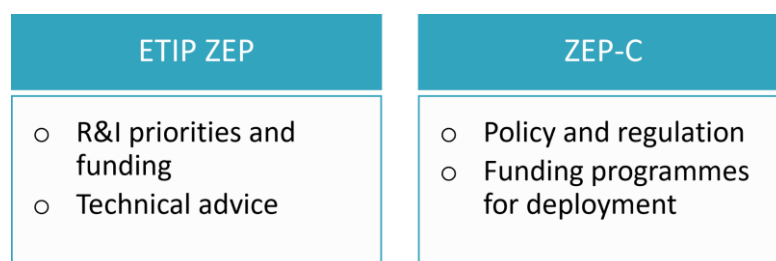


Figure 2: Focus of each organisation under option 2

This set-up would provide flexibility for ZEP to engage with a much wider range of fact-based and science-based advocacy activities, especially if the funding arrangement (Chapter 3) is changed compared to the status quo.

The secretariat of ETIP ZEP will be run by the CCSA until the end of the current grant, and the tendering process for the next grant will establish who will offer the secretariat services under the new grant - this service could be taken by CCSA, ZEP-C (ref. Option 3 - new funding streams incl applying for grants) or others.

ZEP membership will continue as it currently works, with possible changes stemming from options in Chapter 4 (incl whether to allow associations to become members).

Advantages:

Increased flexibility to go beyond the technical work of an ETIP, without the complex and potentially lengthy processes of incorporating the policy and advocacy activities into an industry association.

ZEP's brand will strengthen, along with the possibility to provide input to policymakers as an ETIP ZEP on technical areas, and offering a wider range of policy advice as an industry association on a wider range of topics and effectively developing/expanding its lobbying activities. As a result, the policymakers will receive a wider range of input. Strengthening ZEP, a well-established and respected organisation, would also lead to less fragmentation among CCS organisations in Brussels, and easier and more focused engagement by stakeholders.

Increased independence to set its own policy work programme, as this would be done through ZEP-C instead of the Horizon Europe grant.

The funding of ETIP ZEP from the Horizon Europe grant has been decreasing, and there might be a moment when the ETIP needs support from an association to deliver on the activities outside the mandate/resources of the ETIP.

Challenges:

Having employees changes the setup, adds administration, risks and costs that could be avoided otherwise.

Given that the CCSA provides the secretariat for ETIP ZEP, and both ZEP-C and CCSA would be focusing on establishing a stronger presence in Brussels simultaneously, there is bound to be a conflict of interest in at least some activities (e.g. increasing visibility, meetings with policymakers) even if both organisations do their best to collaborate and mindfully choose their focus not to duplicate activities.

Criteria	Direction	Magnitude
Capacity to drive work programme and influence policy & funding framework for CCS and CCU		
ZEP's role as a trusted organisation		

Capacity to engage with current stakeholders and members		
Attractiveness for potential members		
Funding to increase impact		
Visibility		
Straightforwardness / simplicity of governance and flexibility of administration		
Resources needed		

Option 3: ETIP (technical advice) + industry association (policy work)

Several organisations were approached regarding this opportunity, including CCS Europe and the CCSA. From these, only CCSA was interested in pursuing this arrangement further, motivated by their strategy to expand within Europe.

Combining the running of the ETIP ZEP with the running of the industry association would create a large and strong CCS organisation in Brussels that can cater for the increasing needs of CCS and CCU communities, and the ever-increasing policy agenda. The solution could look somewhat similar to how Wind Europe and Solar Power Europe function today. ETIP ZEP would continue to be the trusted advisor on R&I and technical aspects of CCS and CCU, feeding that into the deployment activities and policymaking. The technical work under the ETIP would be complemented by an industry association that leads the policy, advocacy and lobbying work to create the necessary conditions for the rapid scale-up of CCS and CCU in Europe. In practice, the ETIP would focus on R&I needs while the industry association would be focused on the deployment conditions. This setup is illustrated below.

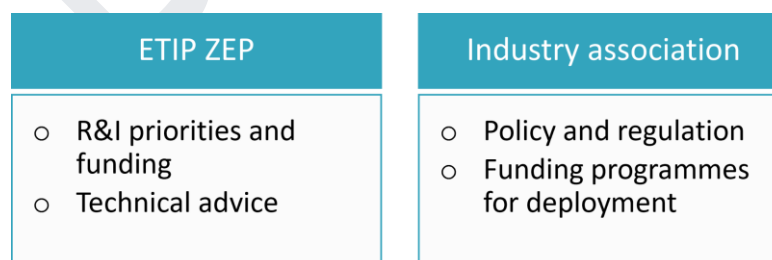


Figure 3: Focus of each organisation under option 3

The CCSA has openly shared their interest in becoming more closely associated with ETIP ZEP. According to the CCSA, it already sees the two organisations as having joined forces given the close collaboration over the years and the fact that the CCSA has been running the ZEP secretariat during the previous and current grant periods, including ensuring continuity of service between the grant periods.

CCSA's new strategy, approved by its board and membership in March 2022, is to support its continued expansion within Europe. Staffing up the CCSA office in Brussels for this strategy is a work in progress, with two new roles appointed in the past 12 months.

During the discussions regarding potentially building an ETIP+industry association arrangement, the CCSA has highlighted the following questions for ZEP:

- What kind of governance and structure would be suitable for ZEP should its policy work move to the CCSA (both organisations currently have their own governance models and structure)?
- How could this be done most efficiently? What kind of processes would this entail within ZEP?

The current considerations on this arrangement within ZEP are without prejudice to the decisions to be taken by the CCSA Board. Should this option be considered the best way forward, the two organisations would need to elaborate on the details in parallel, using their current governance structures.

In terms of membership, there will likely be a differentiation where the current ETIP ZEP membership stays as is, and the CCSA membership will grow for the purpose of the policy-oriented work of the association. That is similar to how ETIP PV and Solar Power Europe have set up their respective memberships.

Advantages:

Europe would have a strong entity to advance the deployment of CCS and CCU in Europe, built on two organisations that have almost 40 years of combined expertise in the field. The set-up of industry association+ETIP would be suited to deliver on all needs of the CCS and CCU community and to expand in a self-sufficient way while keeping up with the increasing demand for its input.

Combining ZEP-C with CCSA would bring about some economies of scale, helping to reduce administrative costs (e.g. IT expenses).

The funding of ETIP ZEP from the Horizon Europe grant has been decreasing, and there might be a moment when the ETIP needs support from an association to deliver on the activities outside the mandate/resources of the ETIP.

Challenges:

The CCSA is so far still seen as a UK-focused industry association, although one-third of its 110 members are headquartered in the EU. As such, and given the Brexit context, that may be a limiting factor when engaging with policymakers.

ZEP's policy advocacy work would move under the CCSA structure. It is unlikely that the CCSA would be interested in changing its branding/name to ZEP. Hence, ZEP's brand would most likely in the future be associated with the technical ETIP (as opposed to the current very policy-focused work), limiting the visibility of ZEP compared to status quo.

This setup could be potentially difficult for NGOs/academia/trade unions to support, as it could make them feel less represented by the CCSA.

It is likely that ETIP ZEP and the CCSA would be at times preparing different sets of recommendations for policymakers, given that the ETIP will focus on technical and R&I aspects whilst looking at some policy considerations, and the CCSA is solely driven by the industry and its positions.

Both ZEP and CCSA have a long history, a set of dedicated stakeholders, and a reputation in the CCS and CCU space. Whilst the goal behind the change in ZEP's structure is to find the most practical organisational solution to advance CCS and CCU in Europe, some stakeholders may feel that the CCSA takes over what ZEP has spent 18 years building. Such concerns would need to be alleviated.

There would be two separate memberships, one for ETIP ZEP, and another for the CCSA.

Additional resource requirement:

Both organisations would spend extra resources working out the new set up, agreeing on it between the two organisations, and approving it within their governing bodies.

Communication (branding, websites, press releases).

The table below is filled from the perspective of ZEP ETIP under such an arrangement. From the perspective of the CCSA, many aspects would differ (and are mostly a lot more positive).

Criteria	Direction	Magnitude
Capacity to drive work programme and influence policy & funding framework for CCS and CCU		
ZEP's role as a trusted organisation		
Capacity to engage with current stakeholders and members		
Attractiveness for potential members		
Funding to increase impact		
Visibility		
Straightforwardness / simplicity of governance and flexibility of administration		
Resources needed		

3. Funding Arrangements

As an ETIP under the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET Plan), ZEP is funded by a [Horizon Europe grant](#) with a budget of around €1 million covering activities between June 2022 and July 2025.

In addition to the grant, since 2014, ZEP members have sponsored ZEP additional activities through the non-profit ZEP Communications ASBL (ZEP-C). The annual sponsoring amount is defined for each constituency (with free sponsorship for NGOs, academia and trade unions) and is paid once per year; there is no quarter or half-year sponsorship.

As outlined under the ZEP General Structure section, the future of the grant funding is uncertain, given the steep decrease for the current grant.

In light of the strongly expanding membership, the sponsorships have provided more than the grant funding, sourcing the increased ZEP activity level over the past years. However, there is a need to find further sources of funding given the possible further decrease in grant funding.

In addition to sponsorships, ZEP could also consider applying for grants, allowing ZEP members to commission paid reports, and building ZEP's annual conference into a much larger event through dedicated sponsorships.

When it comes to sponsored reports, conference sponsorships and other similar arrangements, ZEP can choose to put in place certain principles in order to safeguard its integrity and perception by other stakeholders. This may include a focus on industrial decarbonisation that is better represented by sponsorships by industry, projects and technology providers. Such principles can be established in ZEP's bylaws.

When assessing the option of applying for grants, the additional resource requirement must be taken into account.

Option 1: status quo

Advantages:

Even though the EU grant funding was halved for the current grant period compared to the previous one, public funding is one of the elements that has built trust in ZEP. During last year's very long gap in EU grant funding, this was highlighted by both ZEP NGO and Research constituencies.

The current funding structure seems to work, given the sharp increase in new ZEP members over the last three years.

Challenges:

Managing and growing ZEP's activities can be expected to be increasingly challenging in light of the positive policy momentum for CCS and CCU and the risk of decreased EU funding.

Criteria	Direction	Magnitude
Capacity to drive work		

programme and influence policy & funding framework for CCS and CCU		
ZEP's role as a trusted organisation		
Capacity to engage with current stakeholders and members		
Attractiveness for potential members		
Funding to increase impact		
Visibility		
Straightforwardness / simplicity of governance and flexibility of administration		
Resources needed		

Option 2: added member sponsorship options

- (1) allowing ZEP members to commission paid reports (that allow recruiting extra staff when needed)
- (2) building ZEP's annual conference into a much larger event through dedicated sponsorships.
- (3) linking member sponsorships to inflation
- (4) introducing a half-rate for members that join mid-year

Advantages:

Much wider range of income streams that strengthen ZEP's financial status, covering possible periods in between Horizon Europe grants and allow to build the organisation into the strong and flexible hub the CCS/CCU community needs in Europe.

Challenges:

Adding sponsorship for specific reports, work, seminars and conferences is possible. However, when doing so, the undertaken work has to be fact-based and science-based in order for ZEP not to lose credibility. Additional safeguards and principles, as outlined in the introduction of Chapter 3, could be introduced to mitigate these risks.

Depending on the ZEP structure option chosen (Section 2), not all listed funding streams might be seen as appropriate.

Additional resource requirement:

Staff time to describe the advantages and risks and to outline the key principles and pricing menu for different funding streams, and ZEP AC to approve it.

Criteria	Direction	Magnitude
Capacity to drive work programme and influence policy & funding framework for CCS and CCU		
ZEP's role as a trusted organisation		
Capacity to engage with current stakeholders and members		
Attractiveness for potential members		
Funding to increase impact		
Visibility		
Straightforwardness / simplicity of governance and flexibility of administration		
Resources needed		

Option 3: added ZEP member sponsorships + applying for grants

This option involves applying for grants in addition to all ZEP additional member sponsorship options listed under Option 2 above. This includes but is not limited to the Horizon Europe grant for the ETIP. Other types of grant applications could be considered if these help ZEP fulfil its work plan and/or its long-term goals.

Advantages:

Adding grants to potential funding streams offers the widest possible range of income streams that strengthen ZEP's financial status, covering possible periods in between Horizon Europe grants and allowing to build the organisation into the strong and flexible hub the CCS/CCU community needs in Europe.

Challenges:

Applying for grants requires additional resources. Applying for ZEP ETIP grants has to be funded by resources other than the existing Horizon Europe grant. The ZEP Advisory Council can decide to allocate funds from the annual sponsorships under ZEP-C to be used for grant applications.

Grant applications need to be carefully considered to be relevant to ZEP's work.

Adding sponsorship for specific reports, work, seminars and conferences is possible. However, when doing so, the undertaken work has to be fact-based and science-based in order for ZEP not to lose credibility. Additional safeguards and principles, as outlined in the introduction of Chapter 3, could be introduced to mitigate these risks.

Depending on the ZEP structure option chosen (Section 2), not all listed funding streams might be seen as appropriate.

Additional resource requirement:

Staff time to describe the advantages and risks and to outline the key principles and pricing menu for different funding streams, and ZEP AC to approve it.

Resources for grant applications.

Criteria	Direction	Magnitude
Capacity to drive work programme and influence policy & funding framework for CCS and CCU		
ZEP's role as a trusted organisation		
Capacity to engage with current stakeholders and members		
Attractiveness for potential members		
Funding to increase impact		
Visibility		
Straightforwardness / simplicity of governance and flexibility of administration		
Resources needed		

4. Membership

ZEP membership is open to all stakeholders interested in the development and deployment of CCS and CCU in Europe. This results in a broad membership base, which includes oil & gas companies, industry (emitters), utilities and equipment suppliers, research/academia, environmental NGOs, and trade unions. After submitting a membership application, potential members are subject to a vote by the Advisory Council. Subject to a positive vote, the organisation joins one of the five constituency

member groups (which are represented by a vice-chair in the ZEP Advisory Council Executive Committee):

- Fossil fuel producers
- Technology providers and energy-intensive industries
- Equipment manufacturers
- Academia and Research organisations
- Environmental Non-Governmental Organisations and trade unions

Based on the current ZEP bylaws, members cannot be industry associations, national industry associations or similar organisations that aim to represent industries, because the focus for ZEP (and ETIPs) is companies that could invest in the technology and facilitate sharing views.

However, given the recent uptick in announced projects and EU policy agenda, industry associations have become increasingly interested in ZEP's work, and ZEP could benefit from their insights and sponsorship.

Option 1: status quo

Advantages:

Maintaining a constituency structure with which stakeholders are already familiar with.

Challenges:

ZEP would miss out on the input and funding from interested trade associations or other membership organisations that might be seen as such.

Criteria	Direction	Magnitude
Capacity to drive work programme and influence policy & funding framework for CCS and CCU		
ZEP's role as a trusted organisation		
Capacity to engage with current stakeholders and members		
Attractiveness for potential members		
Funding to increase impact		
Visibility		
Straightforwardness /		

simplicity of governance and flexibility of administration		
Resources needed		

Option 2: Restructure constituency groups and open membership to industry associations

Restructure ZEP's constituencies as follows:

- Technology providers and equipment manufacturers
- Energy-intensive industries / emitters
- Fossil fuel producers
- CO2 transport providers
- Projects
- Environmental Non-Governmental Organisations and Trade Unions
- Academia and Research organisations
- Industry associations
- Think tanks

Advantages:

The restructured constituencies would allow new types of organisations to join ZEP, including industry associations, projects and think tanks. This would open up ZEP to contributions from a wider range of stakeholders, hence increasing its attractiveness among potential members, and help fund ZEP's activities via increased sponsorships.

Challenges:

Such change would require updating bylaws, public material on ZEP (incl the website), and also selecting new Vice-Chairs from the added constituencies. Increasing the number of Vice-Chairs may also trigger the need to change the setup with one Vice-Chair per constituency, since the governance may lead to too different opinions on important issues.

Additional resource requirement:

Staff time to change bylaws and website.

Criteria	Direction	Magnitude
Capacity to drive work programme and influence policy & funding framework for CCS and CCU		
ZEP's role as a trusted organisation		
Capacity to engage with current stakeholders and members		

Attractiveness for potential members		
Funding to increase impact		
Visibility		
Straightforwardness / simplicity of governance and flexibility of administration		
Resources needed		

5. Workstream Terminology

The governance structure of ETIP ZEP and IWG9 were combined under the new grant agreement based on the European Commission's clear demand for ETIPs and IWGs to coordinate closely. The structure comprises the decision-making bodies of the two platforms, the networks and temporary working groups (see figure 2 below), whose mandate and responsibilities are as follows:

- **ZEP Advisory Council (AC)** and IWG9 Plenary: as the decision-making bodies of ZEP and IWG9, respectively, they are responsible for overseeing and approving the work/activities and setting the strategic direction for the respective organisation. They meet on a quarterly basis in combined meetings, open to all stakeholders with an interest in CCS and/or CCU.
- **Advisory Council Executive Committee (ACEC)**: responsible for initiating and steering processes within ZEP on behalf of the AC, meeting in between the quarterly AC meetings. The ACEC comprises the ZEP chair and the five vice-chairs (each representing a constituent member group, as mentioned above). The IWG9 co-chairs and the Network co-chairs are also invited to ACEC meetings.
- **Networks**: are responsible for handling items for both ZEP and IWG9 and for guiding the work under the temporary working groups, as laid out in the work programme. Currently, there are three active Networks; Network Policy and Economics, Network Technology, and Network Projects. Each Network has a minimum of two co-chairs and meets 3-4 times per year. The Networks' membership is open to all interested stakeholders.
- **Temporary Working Groups (TWG)**: sitting under each Network, the TWGs are set up with a mandate to deliver specific work within a set timeframe (e.g., reports, feedback to policy files), based on Terms of Reference approved by the ZEP AC and/or the IWG9 Plenary. Membership in the TWGs is decided by the secretariat in cooperation with the TWG co-chairs.
- **External Relations Group (ERG)**: responsible for overseeing and providing input to external relations and communication activities.
- **Government Group (GG)**: operates independently from the AC, and meetings can only be attended by invitation. GG members are representatives from national and/or regional governments and authorities.

- **Secretariat:** responsible for the implementation of the strategy and work programme, organisation and facilitation of all meetings, and organising and supporting the work on external relations, communications, and dissemination. The secretariat is led by the ZEP Secretary General.

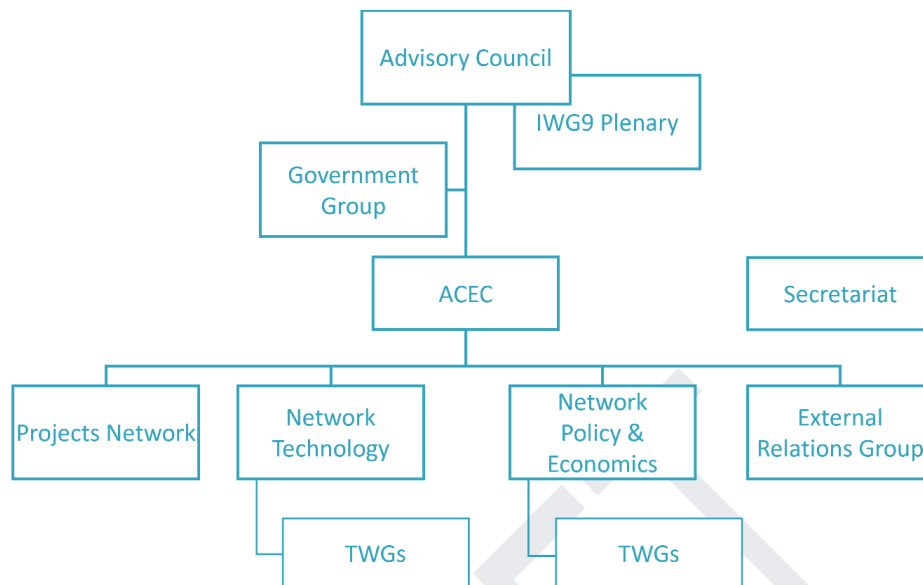


Figure 4: Governance structure

As described above, ZEP has been using a network-oriented working group approach. This has been causing confusion in stakeholder interactions, as the word “network” can be interpreted in various ways, not always understood as a key part of ZEP’s structure.

In order to bring clarity, “networks” could be replaced with “committees”, except for the Projects Network given its different nature.

Option 1: Status quo

Advantages:

Familiar concepts for those who have been part of ZEP so far, no need to change anything.

Challenges:

The confusion continues where some (especially new) stakeholders do not understand what “network” means and interpret it to be a separate concept outside of ZEP.

Additional resource requirement:

None

Criteria	Direction	Magnitude
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Capacity to drive work programme and influence policy & funding framework for CCS and CCU		
ZEP's role as a trusted organisation		
Capacity to engage with current stakeholders and members		
Attractiveness for potential members		
Funding to increase impact		
Visibility		
Straightforwardness / simplicity of governance and flexibility of administration		
Resources needed		

Option 2: Replace “networks” with “committees”

Replace “networks” with “committees”, except for the Projects Network given its different nature.

Advantages:

Clarifies the role of these elements in ZEP's structure. “Projects Committee”, “Technology Committee”, “Policy & Economics Committee” and “External Relations Committee”, sending a clear message of the status of the group.

As an additional advantage, the role of being a co-chair of a committee instead of a network might be seen as a stronger role to highlight in professional engagements.

Challenges:

This might create some initial confusion for those already familiar with ZEP's structure.

Additional resource requirement:

Update ZEP's bylaws, website and relevant materials, and introduce the changes to the wider audience. No change in the 2-3 year perspective.

Criteria	Direction	Magnitude
Capacity to drive work		

programme and influence policy & funding framework for CCS and CCU		
ZEP's role as a trusted organisation		
Capacity to engage with current stakeholders and members		
Attractiveness for potential members		
Funding to increase impact		
Visibility		
Straightforwardness / simplicity of governance and flexibility of administration		
Resources needed		

6. Value Proposition for Members

As an open stakeholder platform, most ZEP meetings (temporary working groups, Networks, and Advisory Council) and events are open to all interested parties. The meetings of the Advisory Council Executive Committee, the ERG, and the TWG on Policy & Funding are closed and only for ZEP member representatives.

The open meeting documentation, as well as all general documentation (e.g., briefing notes, policy & funding timelines, and reports), are publicly available on ZEP's website. This means that ZEP can leverage external CCS and CCU stakeholders, taking part in discussions, sharing knowledge, and feeding into ZEP's reports, papers and consultation responses.

ZEP's value proposition for members focuses on influencing ZEP's vision and general direction as well as all decisions made by ZEP. Specifically, ZEP AC members have the following roles:

- Set ZEP's overall scope, strategic goals, performance targets and deliverables
- Steer ZEP's operations
- Seek to advise on public-private partnerships and initiatives
- Act as a focal point for developing a policy interface between platform operations and policymaking bodies

In practice, AC members vote³ to elect the ZEP chair, vice-chairs, co-chairs for the Networks and TWGs, and to approve, among others:

- ZEP work programme
- ZEP-C budget
- ZEP governance structure and changes to this (e.g., establishing new Networks and TWGs)
- Changes to ZEP bylaws
- Terms of Reference for TWGs
- ZEP positions
- ZEP membership
- All ZEP materials (responses to consultations, input, position papers, reports, etc.)

Option 1: Status quo

Advantages:

The value proposition, based on openness and transparency, is currently attracting companies to join ZEP and places ZEP as a trusted organisation by EU policymakers.

Challenges:

The current value proposition is based on the fact that ZEP is an open and transparent platform. The wide access to the majority of ZEP work by any interested stakeholder doesn't motivate all potential members to join ZEP. As a result, ZEP misses out on members and sponsoring that could help to build the organisation further.

Additional resource requirement:

None

Criteria	Direction	Magnitude
Capacity to drive work programme and influence policy & funding framework for CCS and CCU		
ZEP's role as a trusted organisation		
Capacity to engage with current stakeholders and members		

³ The voting system is based on consensus. However, if the AC is divided on an issue, the chair may exceptionally request members to vote, in which case, decisions are subject to a simple majority vote, with the chair holding the casting vote.

Attractiveness for potential members		
Funding to increase impact		
Visibility		
Straightforwardness / simplicity of governance and flexibility of administration		
Resources needed		

Option 2: Added member benefits

There is a range of new approaches that could be implemented by ZEP to make it more attractive for new members and increase the engagement and value for existing members. These include:

- Changing certain committees and working groups from open to members-only
- Motivating members to engage more actively by increasing the quality and member-relevance of its output, whilst staying guided by fact-based and science-based principles.
- Increasing members' visibility at ZEP-led events, in media, and in social media.

Advantages:

Increased attractiveness of ZEP's membership for both existing and potential members

Challenges:

All these additional member benefits need to be implemented in a way that doesn't undermine ZEP's credibility. That means, staying focused on delivering ZEP's ultimate goals with fact-based and science-based engagement.

Additional resource requirement:

Changes in bylaws and website. An added workload for ZEP staff working on communications.

Criteria	Direction	Magnitude
Capacity to drive work programme and influence policy & funding framework for CCS and CCU		
ZEP's role as a trusted organisation		

Capacity to engage with current stakeholders and members		
Attractiveness for potential members		
Funding to increase impact		
Visibility		
Straightforwardness / simplicity of governance and flexibility of administration		
Resources needed		

7. Implementation timeline

It is important to allow sufficient time for consideration and discussion of all options analysed in this paper. If the ZEP Advisory Council considers the analysis paper in the September 2023 Advisory Council meeting, a decision on whether to approve it can be taken in the following months. A timeline for a way forward regarding the implementation of any option(s) would then have to be taken by the Advisory Council, including any update to the ZEP bylaws.

8. Suggested approach

Options →	Structure: Develop technical work under ETIP ZEP and policy work under strengthened ZEP-C or a trade association			Funding: Open for new types of ZEP member sponsorships (e.g. reports, events), allow applying for grants?			Membership: Open up ZEP membership to associations?		Value Proposition: Make some group types “members only”?		Workstreams: Change the names from Networks to Committees?	
Criteria ↓	Status quo: ETIP + ZEP-C	ETIP + ZEP-C expansion with own employees	ETIP + (technical advice) + industry association (policy work)	Status quo: Annual member sponsorships	Add new types of sponsorships (reports, events)	New types of sponsorships (reports, events) + grants	Status quo: Associations cannot be members	Associations can be members	Status quo: Open groups	Some groups “members only”	Status quo: ZEP “Networks”	ZEP “Committees”
Capacity to drive work programme and influence policy & funding framework for CCS and CCU												
ZEP’s role as a trusted organisation												
Capacity to engage with stakeholders and members												
Attractiveness for potential members												
Funding to increase impact												
Visibility												
Straightforwardness/simplicity of governance and flexibility of administration												
Resources needed												
Recommendation:												

Agenda Item 3: Updates from governments and projects – for information

3.a. Dutch Council of State ruling on the Porthos project

On 16 August 2023, the Dutch Council of State issued its final ruling in the Porthos project case, authorising the construction of the project to go ahead. The emissions of nitrogen oxides, which in large quantities can lead to negative impacts on plants and animals, were at the basis of the legal case. The final ruling issued in mid-August followed the examination of the project's ecological assessment, which showed that the effects of construction on nature reserves would be limited and temporary.

The project's final investment decision is expected in the coming weeks; construction is expected to start in early 2024 (link to [Porthos press release](#)).

There will be a presentation by Porthos at the meeting.

3.b. GeZero project

The GeZero project is a CCS project led by Heidelberg Materials which aims to fully decarbonise cement production at the company's Geseke plant in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. GeZero is a first-of-its-kind project aiming to realise a full CCS chain for the capture, transport, and permanent storage of CO₂ from an inland location in Germany.

The project is scaled to capture around 700,000 tonnes of CO₂ annually from 2029, with construction starting in 2026. The captured CO₂ would then be transported by ship/pipeline to Wintershall Dea's offshore storage sites in the North Sea. The project will also kickstart Germany's first railway-based CO₂ transport concept.

The project has been selected by the EU Innovation Fund for grant agreement preparation.

Additional information about the project [here](#).

There will be a presentation by Heidelberg Materials at the meeting.

3.c. France's CCS strategy

The French government published its draft strategy on CCS and CCU on 23 June (link to the [draft strategy](#)) and is collecting feedback from stakeholders through a public consultation until 29 September. The draft strategy includes the following elements:

- A CCS and CCU deployment trajectory, with a timetable and volumes of captured CO₂, based on a prioritisation of industrial zone. The strategy highlights the ports of Dunkirk, Le Havre and Fos-sur-Mer as priority areas.

- A Contracts for Difference (CCfD) support scheme for CCS projects.
- A legal framework for CO₂ transport infrastructure, covering risk-sharing arrangements (e.g., State guarantee) between the French state, the operators of CO₂ transport infrastructure and their industrial users.
- Diversification of CO₂ storage possibilities with a call for tenders for geological exploration campaigns before the end of 2023 and CO₂ injection tests at pilot sites, with the first tests scheduled for 2024/2025. The ambition amounts to 4 to 8 million tonnes of CO₂ permanent storage in France by 2030. The French government will also launch information campaigns aimed at facilitating local acceptance.
- The possibility of CCU, to decarbonise the aviation and maritime sectors.

There will be a presentation by the French ministry of ecological transition at the meeting.

Agenda Item 4: SET-Plan review – for information and guidance

4.a. The revised SET-Plan – for information

The [SET-Plan](#) is being revised with the aim of better aligning it to the objectives of the European Green Deal, by renewing policy aims and targets for development and deployment, and pooling national and European R&I resources.

ZEP and IWG9 have already implemented the most important changes highlighted by the SET-Plan review; notably, [the Implementation plan targets have been updated and aligned with the European Green Deal and net-zero](#), and the ZEP and IWG9 governance structures, work programmes and activities have been coordinated to increase impact, efficiency, and benefits for stakeholders.

The revised SET-Plan is expected to be published soon.

There will be an update at the meeting.

Agenda item 5: Updates from Networks – *for information and guidance*

5.a. Network Policy and Economics

The Network Policy & Economics (NWPE) held its latest meeting on 25 May. *The next Network Policy & Economics meetings will take place on 26 October.*

The Working Group (WG) Policy & Funding held its latest meeting on 5 September. Ross Brown (Shell) was nominated as working group co-chair to replace Christian Schwarck (N.B. not nominated as co-chair of the Network Policy & Economics). The group worked on the Net Zero Industry Act and possible amendments, started investigating how a legislative framework on low-carbon products could support CCS deployment, and discussed preparations ahead of the CCUS Forum and the industrial carbon management strategy. The group also discussed the ongoing consultation on the possible restriction of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). *The next WG meeting will take place on 12 October.*

The Advisory Council is invited to approve Ross Brown's nomination as working group co-chair.

Consultations and calls for feedback – *for information and approval*

Closed consultations:

- EC call for evidence and public consultation on *Industrial carbon management – carbon capture, utilisation and storage deployment* (link to the [call for evidence](#) and [public consultation – questionnaire](#)). The ZEP WG Policy and Funding and TWG CDR prepared a response to the call for evidence ([link](#)) and consultation ([link](#)).
- EC call for input on *EU emissions trading system (ETS) – update of the rules for monitoring and reporting emissions* (link to the [call](#)). The ZEP WG Policy and Funding prepared a response to the call for evidence ([link](#)).
- EC call for feedback on the *Net Zero Industry Act* (NZIA) adopted proposal (link to the [call](#)). ZEP responded to the call for feedback with the ZEP paper on the NZIA (link to the [paper](#)).

The AC are invited to approve the responses to the consultations, which have been endorsed by the ACEC.

EU policy and funding timelines

- ZEP EU policy timeline with a focus on CCS and CCU can be found here ([link](#)).
- ZEP EU funding timeline with a focus on CCS and CCU can be found here ([link](#)).

Temporary working group on CO2 transport by ship – *for information*

Ship transport will be a crucial mode of transport for the early deployment of CCS. The temporary working group (TWG) is preparing a report describing the future Europe-wide market for CO₂ transport by ship and providing clear policy recommendations.

The first draft of the report was shared with the TWG on 5 September. Next steps include:

- review of the first draft until 2 October; and
- finalisation of the report by mid-October.

National energy and climate plans

Member States were due to submit their draft updated national energy and climate plans (NECPs) by June 2023. The European Commission (EC) has included CCS and CCU technologies in its [NECP guidance](#) stating that “*Member States are **encouraged** to include in their updated NECPs the efforts planned to enable their industries to **capture and store** their inherent process emissions **permanently in geological storage sites**, in accordance with Directive 2009/31/EC*”. The following countries have published their draft updated NECPs: Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden.

EU ETS allowance price – for information

The price of EU ETS allowances stood at €85.27 on 1 September 2023¹.

5.b. Network Technology

The latest Network Technology meeting took place on 11 May. A description of the meeting can be found on the AC74 pre-reads. *The next Network Technology meetings are planned for 28 September and 23 November.*

The TWG CDR held its latest meeting on 2 May. *The next TWG CDR meeting will be held in September.*

The TWG Supply chain held its latest meeting on 16 May. *The next meeting will take place in September-October.*

Consultations and calls for feedback – for approval

Closed consultations:

- UNFCCC – Article 6.4 mechanism Supervisory Body structured public consultation: Removal activities under the Article 6.4 mechanism (link to the [consultation](#)). The ZEP TWG CDR prepared a response to the consultation, focusing on the merits of aligning the mechanism with existing frameworks reflecting best practice on CO₂ storage MRV and of setting up activity-specific crediting and monitoring periods (link to the [response](#)).

¹ [EU carbon price tracker](#). Ember.

- DNV call for feedback on the draft updated CO₂ Storage Directive Guidance Documents (link to the [consultation](#)). ZEP WG Policy & Funding and TWG CCS Directive prepared a response to the consultation ([link](#)) focusing, among others, on the terms/definitions, the transition from hydrocarbon production, seismicity and financial securities.

The AC are invited to approve the responses, which have been endorsed by the ACEC.

Open consultations:

- DG CLIMA 'Call for input: Industrial Removal Certification Methodologies' (link to the [survey](#)). Deadline: 15 September. The survey aims to collect input from stakeholders on existing certification methodologies for industrial carbon removals and their alignment with the QU.A.L.I.TY criteria (Quantification, Additionality, Long-term storage, and Sustainability) outlined in the Proposal for a Regulation on an EU certification for carbon removals ([link](#)).

Proposed ZEP action: The TWG CDR is working on a response to this consultation, together with the ZEP representative in the European Commission's Expert Group on Carbon Removals.

CO₂ Storage Directive Guidance Documents – for information

The European Commission has contracted DNV to support the update of the four CO₂ Storage Directive Guidance Documents (GD). The update aims to reflect the global state of the art of CCS and remove ambiguities. The draft updated guidance documents ([link](#)) underwent stakeholder review in summer 2023, including a public stakeholder workshop which took place on 11 July in Brussels. ZEP submitted feedback on the draft GDs (see above) and Filip Neele (NWT co-chair) represented ZEP at the workshop.

DNV is now preparing its final report to DG CLIMA, to be submitted by the end of September 2023.

5.c. Update on Projects Network

ZEP has recently announced the launch of the Projects Network, with a first meeting already to be held 8-9 November at the project site of Porthos in Rotterdam ([link to the event page](#)).

The Secretariat and the permanent co-chair have developed a concept note, for the AC's information and guidance (*appended*), summarised below.

Objectives - the Projects Network aims to strengthen the CCS and CCU industries in the value chain and promote its large-scale deployment in Europe by:

- **De-risking projects**
- **Accelerating projects**
- **Enabling cost-effective realisation of projects**

Approach – the Project Network aims to (i) enable real project-to-project knowledge sharing on good practices and experiences; (ii) address on-the-ground enablers and barriers

encountered during the projects; (iii) recommend to the EC and European governments necessary policy/regulation, funding, and business model actions.

Organisation –The Network is permanently co-chaired by Stijn Santen (EBN), alongside a rotating co-chair from projects hosting the meeting and an invited representative of the European Commission.

Meetings will be organised every 4/6 months in cooperation with and held at a project site – ensuring geographical balance across Europe.

The Network will have open membership, targeting project developers, representatives from the EU, national, regional and local governments and authorities and members of the R&I community.

The Projects Network meetings will take place over two days, including closed sessions (functioning under Chatham House rules), a high-level political session, open sessions and networking sessions.

Conclusions and recommendations of each network event will be compiled and presented to the ZEP government group and project developers.

AC members can find the appended Projects Network note for information.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Projects Network, you can contact the ZEP Secretariat.

5.d. ZEP Government Group

The latest Government Group meeting took place on 27-28 June 2023 in Copenhagen, Denmark, hosted by the Danish Ministry of Climate, Energy and Utilities. Participants exchanged on recent national developments on CCS and CCU, as well as on EU and international developments, notably, on the Article 6.4 mechanism and the Net Zero Industry Act. Participants also provided input to the setup of the new ZEP Projects Network (see pre-read 7). The agenda also included a site visit to the ARC waste incineration facility ([link to the project](#)) and to Gas Storage Denmark storage site ([link](#)).

The next meetings will take place on 4 October (hosted by the Flemish Energy and Climate Agency) and 14 November (hosted by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action).

ZEP Projects Network

The Zero Emissions Platform (ZEP) introduces a new Network – the Projects Network – operating in parallel to the ZEP Networks on Policy & Economics and Technology. This new Network creates a forum where CCS and CCU project developers exchange information, discuss enablers and hurdles, good practices, and de-risking planned and ongoing projects across Europe, and engage with European, regional, national and local policymakers.

There is an urgent need to support these projects and there is currently no EU/EEA-wide platform that specifically gathers and allows for information sharing between the many projects being developed in Europe. With this Network, ZEP establishes an important tool to efficiently support projects and at the same time actively support the European Commission and governments on necessary policy/regulation, funding and actions linked to public perception.

Objectives

The new Network aims to strengthen the CCS and CCU industries in the value chain and promote its large-scale deployment throughout Europe, by:

- **De-risking projects** – highlight insights on practices, business models, framework conditions, policy and infrastructure enabling CCS/CCU deployment, considering varying institutional contexts and geographies. Both financial and technical de-risking issues will be addressed, looking at supply and demand of CO₂.
- **Accelerating projects** – reduce project development time throughout the industry by enabling in-depth exchanges on proper applications of project management, policy and needs requirements as well as best practices on stakeholder management.
- **Enabling cost-effective realisation of projects** – improve cost-effectiveness of CCS/CCU deployment by promoting practices enabling economies of scale and conducive contractual structures.

Making timely and significant contributions to the EU's CO₂ emissions reduction goals and to the elaboration of its relevant European and national policy packages such as the Net-Zero Industry Act and Industrial Carbon Management Strategy.

Approach

The Projects Network aims to reach its objectives by:

Enabling real project-to-project knowledge sharing (considering competition law and confidentiality) on good practices and experiences. The project-centred approach will enable discussions to tackle topics that CCS and CCU project developers face at different stages of the development and deployment of the projects. This will vary from knowledge of the EU-ETS and the CO₂ storage Directive, permitting and licensing issues to PCI/funding processes, technical/operational topics and public perception issues. Sessions will be organised to enable participants to discuss and gain in-depth insights on specific issues faced by industry.

Addressing on-the-ground enablers and barriers encountered during the projects. The Network will provide CCS and CCU project developers and parties in the CCS value chain a

dedicated forum to address on-the-ground issues. These issues relate to project management, governance and leadership, financing and commercial topics. The aim is to share lessons learned among projects developers active in the CCS and CCU value chain.

Recommending to the EC and European governments necessary policy/regulation, funding, and business model actions. The goal of these discussions is to provide actionable recommendations to European, national and local policymakers, with the aim to enable a more favourable regulatory environment and accelerate the deployment of CCS and CCU projects across Europe. The ZEP Government Group is supportive of this new Network and highlights that the outcome from the Network meetings will be of great interest to European governments. ZEP Government Group meetings will be coordinated to enable members to take stock of the conclusions from the Network meetings.

Organisation

Chairing: The Network will have three co-chairs, supported by the ZEP Secretariat:

- a permanent co-chair: Stijn Santen from EBN
- a representative from the European Commission will be invited to co-chair
- a rotating co-chair representing the project hosting the subsequent Network meeting

Location & frequency: Meetings will be organised every four to six months in cooperation with and held at a project site. Projects will be selected to ensure geographical balance across Europe.

Participants: The Network will have open membership, with a focus on project developers. Representatives from the European Commission, from national, regional and local governments and authorities that are linked to the specific geographic area of the project will be invited. Members of the research community will also be invited, focusing on the further needs for R&I resulting from projects and scaling-up.

Structure: Network meetings will take place over two days, structured around closed sessions. The closed sessions will enable in-depth and unfiltered discussions between project developers on operational, technical, governance, commercial and financial issues faced by industry and specifically ongoing and planned projects. These sessions will be by invitation only and function under Chatham House rules. The meetings will also include:

- *A high-level political session:* allowing the host project and European, national and local authorities to explore the vision, context and resulting experience of the project, as well as its applicability for other projects across Europe.
- *Open sessions:* open to all parties interested in operational, technical, governance, commercial and financial issues on CCS and CCU development faced by industry.
- *Networking Sessions:* meeting and exchanging information and experience with peers through networking sessions which will take place throughout the event.

Deliverables: The conclusions and recommendations of each network event will be compiled. Hereby, the specific policy related findings and recommendations will be presented to the ZEP government group whereas the project development findings and recommendations will be communicated to the project developers.

Agenda item 6: Updates from External Relations Group – *for information and guidance*

6.a. ZEP Advocacy and communication strategy

ZEP's advocacy and communication strategy is currently undergoing a revision, encompassing an updated approach and targeted objectives. The goal of this revised strategy is to enhance ZEP's visibility and ensure coherence across diverse communication channels and platforms. This strategic framework serves as a foundation for the ERG, developed in collaboration with ZEP's chair, vice-chairs, members, and in parallel with the ongoing work of the TWG Future ZEP structure.

The advocacy and communication strategy pursues a dual purpose: firstly, to raise awareness and recognition of CCS and CCU technology development and deployment, and secondly, to strengthen ZEP's role as the trusted advisor to the EU.

ZEP is open, transparent and does not differentiate between internal and external communication. The targeted audience of ZEP's communication activities encompasses the CCS/CCU community, including policymakers, decision-makers, businesses, civil society, financial institutions, international organisations, media, and the broader public.

The revised strategy (appended) builds on existing communication activities, focusing on improving their efficacy and expanding their reach. This entails sustained engagement with policymakers and stakeholders based on their commitment and influence on CCS/CCU policy matters. Moreover, ZEP's social media presence will be improved, adopting trending formats, personalised content, and visuals to amplify the organisation's message and reach.

Furthermore, the strategy delineates specific actions for ZEP's newsletter, online project map, and press releases. It also looks into new forms of content, such as briefings, videos, podcasts, and alternative forms of publications, ensuring a dynamic and impactful communication approach.

The revised advocacy and communication strategy reflects ZEP's commitment to advancing CCS and CCU technologies, fostering collaboration with stakeholders, and reinforcing its advisory role within the EU context.

6.b. ZEP External Relations Group (ERG)

The ERG is composed of four co-chairs. The co-chairs are appointed by the ZEP constituencies. Jonas Helseth (Bellona Europe) and Marie Bysveen (SINTEF) have been appointed representing respectively NGOs and the Research groups. Two co-chairs are yet to be appointed by both the technology providers and energy-intensive industries 'industry' constituency and the fossil fuel producers 'oil & gas' constituency.

The new co-chairs will be communicated to the AC in due time.

The next ERG meetings are planned for:

- 22 September 2023

- 27 October 2023
- 15 December 2023
- 26 January 2024
- 8 March 2024
- 3 May 2024

6.c. Overview of ZEP communications activities and events

ZEP's application to host a side event at COP28

ZEP, together with CCSA, has applied to host a side event in the EU pavilion during COP28 (30 November – 12 December). With carbon markets expected to be an important topic during this upcoming summit, the event proposal focuses on “defining a gold standard for carbon removals”, aiming to highlight expertise in the EU, EEA and UK and deliver conclusions on what is the best way forward to establish a sustainable carbon market at a global scale.

The draft for the event proposal is appended to this document.

ZEP Newsletters

The next newsletter will be published in the week of 14 September. The previous editions were circulated on 30 May ([link](#)), 7 July ([link](#)), 26 July ([link](#)) and 28 August ([link](#)).

Stakeholder session at the EU Industry Days 2023

The EU Industry Days 2023 will take place on 4-6 October in Málaga, Spain ([link to the website](#)). ZEP has applied to hold a session together with the Global CCS Institute, which has been accepted. The session will focus on CCS as a decarbonisation tool for energy- and carbon-intensive industries, the conditions necessary for scale-up and deployment and the role of project-to-project knowledge sharing. This is the draft session programme:

- 1) Welcome and introduction, Eve Tamme, ZEP
- 2) Presentations
 - Guloren Turan, GCCSI: The role of CCS in the decarbonisation of industry, and current status of CCS in Europe
 - Aniceto Zaragoza, Agrupación de Fabricantes de Cemento de España: How CCS can support the decarbonisation of the cement sector in Spain, challenges and enablers
 - Eadbhard Pernot, CATF: CO₂ transport and storage infrastructure as an enabler for large scale deployment of CCS in Europe
 - Stijn Santen, EBN: The key role of collaboration and knowledge sharing amongst projects, based on the experience of the ZEP Network Projects
- 3) Panel discussion and Q&A
- 4) Closing remarks

Policy session at the EUSEW 2023

ZEP hosted a policy session at the EUSEW 2023 Policy Conference (link to the [session details and recording, in the online programme](#)), on 22 June. The session gathered around 170 attendees, both onsite and online, and featured the following speakers:

- Eve Tamme, ZEP
- Ellina Levina, Global CCS Institute
- Chris Bolesta, DG ENER
- Malte Bornkamm, German Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action, BMWK
- Per Sandberg, Equinor
- Annemarie Manger, Aramis CCS
- Judith Kirton-Darling, IndustriAll

ZEP's participation in the initiative '10 Experts, 10 Ideas, One Goal'

ZEP was invited by Drax to participate in the series '10 Experts, 10 Ideas, One Goal' which will feature various external experts talking about the role of carbon removal technologies – and BECCS in particular – in climate mitigation and the necessary conditions for large-scale deployment. Kristin Jordal (ZEP's representative in the European Commission Expert Group on Carbon Removals and Chief Scientist at SINTEF) represented ZEP in the initiative.

The series will include a range of outputs, from articles to short video clips, and will be launched during the New York Climate Week (17-24 September).

European Commission outreach

ZEP engaged in a series of meetings with European Commission officials in June, with the objectives to:

- Introduce Eve Tamme as the new ZEP Chair.
- Discuss current policy and funding initiatives relevant for the development of the CCS industry in Europe.
- Discuss areas where ZEP can add value to the work of the European Commission.

A summary of the meetings can be found below:

Meeting with DG ENER (13 June) – Participants from ZEP: Eve Tamme and Per-Olof Granström

The ongoing ZEP work, the new Network Project, and the further development of ZEP was presented and discussed. The participants discussed the upcoming CCUS Forum plenary in Denmark on 27-28 November, the ongoing work, the draft programme and the possibility for the new ZEP Network Projects to have a session on day two of the plenary.

Meeting with Commissioner Simson's cabinet (20 June) – Participants from ZEP: Eve Tamme and Per-Olof Granström

The work of ZEP, the groups noting the Governments Group and the ongoing work and upcoming reports. The further development of ZEP and the new Network Project was also presented. The participants discussed the importance of European CO₂ transport and storage infrastructure, the NZIA process and the need to include the whole CCS value chain in the new regulation, and how to go about the possible inclusion of CCU in the EU ETS.

The participants discussed the upcoming strategy and the next step after the strategy has been published this autumn.

Meeting with DG CLIMA (21 June) – Participants from ZEP: Eve Tamme, Jonas Helseth, Per-Olof Granström and Ana Faria

Participants discussed the expected evolution of the Innovation Fund (IF) and the foreseen budget for CCS and CCU, considering the recently proposed Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP). Participants to the meeting also discussed the Net Zero Industry Act (NZIA), focusing on the ongoing discussion at the Council level and the concerns of some Member States. ZEP presented its plans to develop a New Network Projects in order to support project development through knowledge sharing.

A meeting with DG ENER was initially scheduled to take place on 22 July but was rescheduled to 11 September.

Draft ZEP Advocacy and Communication Strategy

Outline

1. Introduction – including communication and advocacy today
2. Goals for communication and advocacy
3. Target audiences – (mapping)
4. Key messages
5. Action plans (per audience group/target/channel), tactics and guidelines
6. Media – questions and answers/positives and damage control
7. Monitoring and follow-up – clear link to the targets
8. Annex – Graphics & identity

1. Introduction

1.1. Introduction and background

An important basis is that ZEP today, as a European Technology and Innovation Platform under the European Commission's SET-Plan, is transparent and open, with almost the same benefits for members as for any stakeholder that would like to cooperate. This means that internal and external communications are almost the same, apart from to and from the ACEC.

This is a new situation for ZEP with a very strong positive momentum and busy CCS and CCU policy and funding agendas, and the increased number of organisations active in this area – cooperating or possibly competing with ZEP.

The Advocacy and Communication strategy, per definition “the way to reach the goal”, will help ZEP to increase clarify and guide the communication and to ensure consistency and coherence. The strategy is THE important basis for the ERG, and it will be developed – engaging with the ZEP chair and vice-chairs, the ERG (co-chairs), and the ZEP members – in parallel with the ongoing work of the TWG Future ZEP structure.

Timeline: Discussing the first draft of the strategy and way forward at the July ACEC meeting, an ad-hoc session with the ACEC end-August (and if possible, a discussion with the ERG) and presenting for discussion/approval at the AC76 in September.

1.2. ZEP's advocacy and communication today

ZEP's current communication includes:

- Own meetings: AC, Networks, WGs, Government Group, Conferences, Seminars...
- Participation in policymakers' and other stakeholders' meetings, conferences, roundtables, seminars, etc.,
- Direct communication: meetings and telephone calls with policymakers,
- ZEP Website,
- ZEP newsletter,
- Social media posts on LinkedIn and Twitter,
- Press releases,
- Letters,
- Articles, own and others',
- Direct messages/emails,
- Communication material: ZEP reports and Infographics, posters, ZEP cards with 'QR code linked to website', etc.

2. Goals for communication and advocacy

There are two sets of goals, the first linked to the development and deployment of the technologies – everything from awareness and recognition to political support and commitment, and the second linked to the strengthening of ZEP – from awareness to membership and further developed ZEP role.

Goals linked to deployment and deployment of CCS and CCU (based on ZEP objectives, to be updated/confirmed):

- On awareness and recognition: CCS and CCU to be broadly understood as key technologies for Europe's possibility to cost-efficiently reach climate neutrality by 2050.
- On urgency: To demonstrate the extreme importance to deploy CCS technologies at scale now, in order for the EU/Europe to reach these goals.
- On an enabling framework: To clarify what needs to be done (and to make it happen), and by whom, on policy/regulation, funding and business models, in order to ensure development and deployment of CCS and CCU, in order for the EU/Europe to reach its climate targets by 2030, 2040, and 2050.
- On a Europe-wide infrastructure: To accelerate the deployment of European CO₂ transport and storage infrastructure – to enable clean and competitive energy and industrial sectors, early large-scale volumes of clean hydrogen and carbon dioxide removals.

Goals linked to strengthening ZEP (to be updated/confirmed):

- ZEP to be the go-to advisory organisation to liaise with European policymakers at EU and National levels.
- To be the natural hub for technical discussions among stakeholders on CCS and CCU technologies/R&I in Europe.
- To increase the recognition of the ZEP brand among stakeholders across Europe, in order to increase ZEP membership with a focus on European industry/emitters.
- Short-term: To increase the recognition of ZEP's activities linked to the new Projects Network, in order to ensure ZEP's role defined by the CCUS Forum as the 'Industrial Partnership.
- ZEP members to feel included and involved and that their views are taken into account in the ZEP work.

(these targets to be updated/confirmed in coordination with the ZEP structure TWG work)

3. Target audiences

As highlighted earlier, external and internal communication is almost the same thing for ZEP. Audience groups are:

1. Members and stakeholders
 - ZEP members: AC members and whomever are involved in ZEP groups and activities.
 - Stakeholders in the CCS/CCU/CDR/R&I communities
 - Other professional/academic stakeholders
2. Prospective ZEP members
3. European policymakers and decision makers
 - European Commission: DGs ENER, RTD, CLIMA, GROW, JRC, TRADE, TAXUD
 - European Parliament: ITRE and ENVI committees, Secretariat
 - Council: permanent representation to the EU, Secretariat
4. European (both EU and non-EU) national and regional governments/authorities
5. Media: Brussels/EU media, Energy/Climate/CCS/etc. media, general media
6. Finance institutions: insurers, DG BUDG, EIB...
7. Industries/Trade Associations
8. Civil Society (trade union, NGOs, think tanks, philanthropy) and Academia/Research, that are not interested in becoming a member of ZEP
9. International organisations (IRENA, Mission Innovation, IEA, Clean Energy Ministerial...)
10. Wider public.

A stakeholder mapping has been started with focus on policymakers/decision-makers, noting: 'CCS ambassadors', 'unaligned', and 'negative', as well as 'high influence', 'high commitment'.

4. Key messages and positions

4.1. Proposed messages.

The messages are supposed to be used separately for different occasions and audiences, while the messaging model itself is an internal ZEP document, not to be circulated or communicated as such:



Communication goal: To demonstrate to policymakers, legislators and other stakeholders that the implementation of CCS technologies at scale now, is essential to reach climate neutrality in Europe by 2050.

Umbrella messages: The urgent deployment of CCS is essential to reach climate neutrality in Europe by 2050, whilst making Europe an attractive region for clean investment.

To make this possible, an enabling policy and funding environment and coherent and coordinated R&I programmes are needed in Europe.

Supporting messages

1. Europe cannot reach net-zero emissions without CCS,
2. The urgent development of CO₂ transport and storage infrastructure is vital to unlocking the benefits of CCS and CCU across industry, heat and power, and to enable carbon dioxide removals,
3. CCS and CCU enable a Just Transition for Europe's citizens and industries, making EU regions attractive for clean investment,
4. CCS enables production of large-scale clean hydrogen, which is critical for the transition to low carbon industrial, transport and heating sectors,

Messages on what is needed to make this possible:

5. enabling policy framework – making it economically feasible to invest in all parts along the CCUS value chain
6. Coherent and coordinated EU and national funding programmes

7. Strong continued support for CCUS R&I through Horizon Europe and partnerships
8. Political recognition of CCS and CCU technologies
9. An EU strategy for CCS and CCU – including a regulatory framework for CO₂ transport infrastructure
10. Supporting markets for net-zero products – where real climate impact is reflected in the price

(these messages to be updated/confirmed in coordination with the ZEP structure TWG work and proof points to be added/developed)

4.2. ZEP positions

ZEP advocacy and communication is based on ZEP's fact based reports and position papers, drafted together with ZEP's Working Groups and Networks, and approved by the Advisory Council.

5. Action plans, tactics and guidelines

The EU [policy timeline](#) highlights the key current and upcoming policy work linked to the development and deployment of CCS and CCU. This timeline is updated on a monthly basis.

Key ZEP advocacy and communication for actions – ZEP reports and papers, conferences and seminars, ZEP actions on key policy files are based on definitions below. Key focus areas for ZEP actions are defined in the [ZEP work programme](#). The ZEP work programme is approved by the Advisory Council in December every year.

5.1. Meetings with policymakers/decision-makers

- Mapping out key decision-makers from each EU institution and national government/authority.
- Mapping ZEP position/asks against current/proposed policy
- Determine positions of (and possibly coordinate with) other stakeholders.
- Determine the level of influence and commitment for each stakeholder:
 - high influence + high commitment = manage closely (requires a high level of interaction: one-on-one meetings, regular updates and advice),
 - high influence + low commitment = keep informed (imply a lower level of interaction: regular updates),
 - high commitment + low influence = keep informed,
 - low commitment + low influence = monitor (imply a low level of interaction, but monitor to ensure their position does not change).
- Based on the above assessment determine the level of interaction, who from ZEP should participate/lead, if and how to engage with/coordinate with/bring other stakeholders.

5.2. Social media

General guidelines:

- Always start a social media post with a “hook”.
- Include a link to the ZEP website (when possible).
- Use different strategies for Twitter and LinkedIn but post on both platforms at the same frequency.
- Posts published in the morning gain more impressions.
- Use photos and graphics to make the post stand out in the feed.
- Coordinate with members and stakeholders to increase the performance of social media posts.
- Tag speakers and organisations to create engagement when posts are about a joint activity.

Twitter:

- Content strategy: (1) deliver more on objectives that are related to raising awareness and demonstrate the urgency of accelerating CCS deployment, (2) communicate ZEP’s position and events.

- Quality of the content: use engaging language, write short posts and use photographs instead of vector illustrations.
- Aim for informative post that add value to the debate on CCS and CCU.
- Engage in trending formats to deliver ZEP message, such as 'threads' to deliver longer form of content, video contents, infographics and any other forms of content that are trending.
- Frequency of tweets per month: > 30.
- Engage more with the ZEP community by tagging relevant stakeholders and their contents as much as possible.
- Encourage ZEP members and stakeholders with a following to engage with and increase visibility for ZEP's content.

LinkedIn:

- Content strategy: demonstrate ZEP role, position and activities, considering the fact that LinkedIn is first and foremost a professional platform and aims promote the organisation's mission, work and impact.
- Create longer content, containing more information and insights into the ZEP activities and positions.
- Give a personal touch to content, to achieve higher engagement rate.
- Increase the engagement rate on posts by tagging the relevant stakeholders.

5.3. ZEP events

- Basis: create a concept note, providing background, proposed objectives and results, integrated in the overall communication strategy.
- When concept note is validated and date is set, determine audience list and send out save the /communicate the date widely (newsletter, social media, website...).
- Reach out to stakeholders, to coordinate/partner on promotion of event.
- Create event e-mails using specific template (based on event identity), including description of the event, programme (when available) and registration link.
- Send out reminders to register and follow up with more information when event is getting closer (specific timeline for online and free events).
- Communicate deadline to register widely.
- Build up to the event, with targeted e-mails to the registered attendants and social media posts about the speakers, the agenda, what to expect and practical information.
- During the event: specific communication programme.
- After the event: follow up with highlights, photos (when relevant) and promote ZEP activities (newsletter, etc.).

5.4. ZEP newsletter

- Improve the readability of the newsletter with a revised template, including more photos and illustrations, ensuring quality of the content and that each paragraph is clear and highly readable (limiting paragraphs to 100/150 words max).

- Evaluate regularly the performance of the Newsletter, determining which types of content perform better with the audience and to ensure quality.
- Push the CCS/CCU community/audience to subscribe to the newsletter, when promoting the newsletter on social media, when registering to events, to encourage the community to keep informed with ZEP activities, as well as CCS/CCU related news.

5.5. ZEP website

- Develop further the ZEP website – more work to be done – important to balance benefit vs workload.
- Depending on possibility to develop ‘ZEP inner life’ (to divert from ‘all information is transparent and openly available), develop password ‘protected members only area.
- All ZEP communication should lead/guide the reader to the website.
- ZEP map projects:
 - Revise the projects map page to include more information and improve the navigability of the page.
 - Continuously (quarterly) add new/update projects and information.
 - Create a template to collect information from each individual project – collect projects’ descriptions to present case studies of each project, to be used in communication activities.
 - Link individual projects to a dedicated page giving a description of the project with information collected.
 - Create a workstream to ensure information on the project map is up to date.

5.6. ZEP press releases

- Use press release template to facilitate the writing process.
- Ensure the press release is newsworthy and fits into current affairs and narratives.
- Make use of clear and simple writing. Write succinctly and keep technical terms to a minimum.
- The message should be clearly understandable without going into depth in the press release: only include essential information and keep it short and focused.
- Answer the “so what” in the press release, why it matters and what is the relevance for the public.
- Include quotes from speakers that are known by the audience.
- Target news outlets that are relevant to the topic of the press release. Example: a press release about an event taking place outside of Brussels is an opportunity to reach out to local/national journalists.
- Be bold. A good press release stands out from the masses.

5.7. ZEP briefings and infographics

- Prepare ‘ZEP briefings’ on key policy files and news, in direct coordination with its publishing, to share with members and stakeholders (depending on the possibility to have an ‘internal ZEP life’ focus on serving the members).

- Prepare 'ZEP infographics' – short (one- or two-pager) with easily understandable language and graphics – linked to all ZEP reports and more developed papers.
- Briefings and infographics to be written so they can be re-used in other communication activities.

5.8. ZEP articles and op-eds

- Choose which policy files, news items, and own activities where op-eds or interviews should be included.
- Develop further the relations with key news media and magazines.
- Redefine strategy for paid articles (today: no payment for articles).

5.9. Further developments, if possible:

Video content for the ZEP website:

- Explore the possibility of creating video content to demonstrate the benefits of CCS and CCU technologies, applicability, etc.
- Coordinate with other stakeholders, sharing cost.
- Take advantages of Projects Network and the visits to projects for video content.

Podcasts:

- Choose key items (few) for efficient podcasts.
- Identify podcasts and podcast hosts to collaborate with.
- Identify within our networks stakeholders to mobilise when receiving requests for podcasts.
- Prepare pitch for podcasts ideas.

6. Questions and answers/damage control – ZEP CCS/CCU Facts & Information Toolkit

In order to effectively manage both positive and negative information in the media as well as any inaccuracies around CCS/CCU, there is a need for a coordinated approach and a toolkit with questions and answers and further material.

The CCS/CCU Facts & Information Toolkit aims to take a positive approach and to be proactive, by informing about CCS/CCU technologies and explaining the complementary role of CCS in combatting climate change. The Toolkit will also serve as a point of reference to determine how to react when CCS/CCU is not being accurately presented in the media. Furthermore, the Toolkit provides a basis for unprompted proactive and positive communications around CCS/CCU to a wide audience, with the aim to communicate:

- The role of CCS in the energy transition and industrial transition.
- The role that CCS has to play as a transitional technology and the share of its role.
- To provide balanced points of view.

The CCS/CCU Facts & Information Toolkit is a living document, posted on (but not easily accessible) the website and updated on an ongoing basis.

7. Monitoring and follow-up

In order to successfully develop going forward, monitoring and follow-up is need on all activities and audiences, including website, media, social media, the newsletter, etc. The ERG will follow this up based on an annual reporting on these metrics.

8. Annex – Graphics & identity

The graphics are built in Adobe Express. Templates and graphics (e.g., case studies, event banners, etc.), as well as Colour HEX codes, fonts, Teams backgrounds, and other communications materials are stored in the ZEP SharePoint.

8.1. ZEP colour palette

Orange (for text): #DC9132

Orange (for graphics): #F79431

Tints of orange (dark to light):

#dc9132

#df9c46

#e3a75a

#e6b26f

#eabd84

#edc898

#f1d3ad

#f4dec1

#f8e9d6

#fbf4ea

#ffffff

Blue (for text): #33a4bd

Blue (for graphics): #00B1C4

Tints of blue (dark to light):

#33a4bd

#47adc3

#5bb6ca

#70bfd0

#84c8d7

#99d1de

#addae4

#c1e3eb

#d6ecf1

#eaf5f8

#ffffff

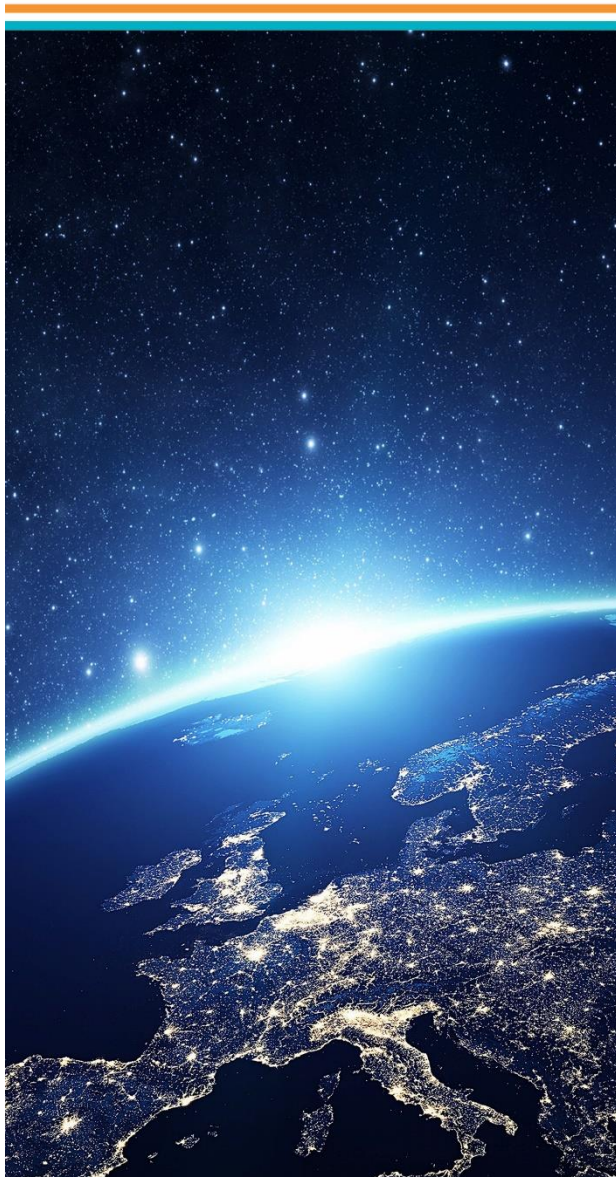


8.2. Email inboxes to monitor

- info@zeroemissionsplatform.eu
- media@zeroemissionsplatform.eu
- events@zeroemissionsplatform.eu
- iwg9@zeroemissionsplatform.eu

8.3. Rollups

<http://zeroemissionsplatform.eu/>
[@EUCarbonCapture](https://twitter.com/EUCarbonCapture)
info@zeroemissionsplatform.eu
 +32 2 882 50 07
 Av. des Arts 44, 1000 Brussels



<http://zeroemissionsplatform.eu/>
[@EUCarbonCapture](https://twitter.com/EUCarbonCapture)
info@zeroemissionsplatform.eu
 +32 2 882 50 07
 Av. des Arts 44, 1000 Brussels



→ ZEP is the adviser to the EU on the deployment of carbon capture and storage (CCS) and carbon capture and utilisation (CCU)

→ To reach net-zero emissions by 2050, CCS and CCU technologies will be an important tool to enable both climate change mitigation and to safeguard European industrial competitiveness

Agenda Item 7: Updates on ZEP membership – *for information*

7.a. Presentation

There will be updates regarding ZEP's membership at the meeting.

DRAFT

Agenda Item 8: Investing in CCS and CCU technologies – The Net Zero Industry Act – *for information and guidance*

8.a. ZEP's open letter on Article 18

ZEP has published an open letter in support of Article 18, calling for a mechanism that would allow for extensions of the injection capacity obligation deadline under specific circumstances (link to the [open letter](#)). The letter has been shared with key EU policymakers in the Council, the EP, and the EC, published on ZEP's website, and posted on social media.

The AC is invited to approve the letter, which has been endorsed by the ACEC.

8.b. Legislative process for the Net Zero Industry Act

The European Commission (EC) published the proposal for a regulation Net Zero Industry Act in March (link to the [proposal](#)). ZEP communicated its position on the proposal (link to the [first reaction](#) and the longer [paper](#)).

The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) is leading on this file and rapporteur Christian Ehler (DE, EPP) published his draft report in May (link to the [draft report](#)). ITRE has published six lists of a total of 1,450 amendments to the proposal (link to the amendments [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)).

The EP Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) has published three lists of a total of 757 amendments to the proposal (link to the amendments [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)). The ENVI rapporteur Tiemo Wölken (S&D, DE) put forward an amendment whereby the 50 Mtpa objective would be restricted to “residual emissions from energy-intensive sectors with unavoidable CO₂ generation”.

The ENVI Committee is expected to vote on its amendments on 11 September. The ITRE Committee is provisionally scheduled to vote on the draft report and its amendments on 12 October. The European Parliament (EP) is scheduled to vote its report on 16-19 October or in November.

The first Council Presidency compromise text was published on 4 August. According to the text, Article 18 requires further in-depth examination by the Council. The definitions of ‘net-zero technologies’ and ‘strategic net-zero technology’ also require further in-depth examination. The compromise text includes ‘CO₂ storage project or CO₂ transport infrastructure project’ under the definition of ‘net-zero strategic project’, in line with ZEP's position. Finally, the compromise text proposes to exclude environmental impact assessments from the 18-month time limit to the permit-granting process for storage sites and to remove the provision considering a lack of reply as a permit approval under condition.

The second Council Presidency text was published on 5 September. According to the text, Article 18 would exclude ‘entities with crude oil and natural gas production below a certain threshold’ from the contribution. The text also refers to setting up ‘a Union market for CO₂ storage services’ in the recitals.

The European Commission's intention is to reach an agreement by the end of this year to avoid a delay caused by the 2024 EP elections.

8.c. Innovation Fund

The Innovation Fund's third large-scale call attracted 239 applications, with 41 projects being selected to prepare a grant agreement. The third call had an initial budget of €3 billion, but the Commission used flexibility to increase the call's budget – ultimately, the selected projects will be awarded over €3.6 billion in total funding. The supported projects will enter into operation before 2030 and have the potential to avoid 221 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions in their first 10 years of operation.

5 CCS and 5 CCU projects were selected. These projects aim to capture CO₂ in the cement and lime sectors in Germany (2 projects), Belgium, Croatia, and Greece. Two of the selected projects aim to store CO₂ in the Mediterranean, kickstarting an end-to-end CCS value chain in the region. One of the selected projects in Germany will test a railway solution to transport captured CO₂ to the North Sea.

CCU projects consist of e-methanol production in Spain (2), France and Greece, and e-methane production in Belgium, with CO₂ captured in the cement, lime and power sectors, as well as from direct air capture.

In addition, two CCS/CCU mid-sized pilots were selected for grant preparation. One will be implemented in the Netherlands and aims to demonstrate innovative carbon capture technology with carbonate fuel cells; and the other will be implemented in Norway, testing the production of e-fuels with CO₂ captured from industrial off-gases.

More information about the selected projects can be found [here](#).

Agenda Item 9: CDR developments – *for information*

9.a. EU certification framework

On 30 November 2022, the EC adopted a proposal for a regulation establishing a Union certification framework for carbon removals (link to the [proposal](#) and ZEP's [briefing](#)), laying down quality criteria for carbon removal activities, guidelines for verification and certification, as well as the procedure for the recognition of certification schemes. Certification methodologies and more detailed rules will be set out in implementing acts and delegated acts.

The EC's work on carbon removals is being supported by an expert group ([link](#)). The Expert Group has held two meetings – a kick-off meeting (7 March; link to the [recording and documentation](#)) and a workshop on carbon farming (21-22 June; link to the [recording and documentation](#)). The next expert group meeting will take place on 25-26 October and focus on industrial carbon removal methodologies.

The EC proposal is undergoing examination from the European Parliament and Council. The European Parliament's Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) Committee has discussed the Rapporteur's draft report ([link](#)) and tabled amendments (link to amendments [82-355](#), [356-678](#), [679-926](#)). Tabled amendments include the following elements, among others:

- The definition of 'carbon removal', underlying the need to ensure permanent geological storage;
- Differentiating industrial carbon removals and carbon farming;
- Establishing incentives for deployment, such as the introduction of an EU-wide target for carbon removals;
- Introduction of safeguards related to the authorised uses of carbon removal certificates, sustainability objectives, and ensuring that carbon removals do not replace emissions reductions;
- Enabling the application of the framework to carbon captured in the EU but geologically stored in the European Economic Area or in a neighbouring country to a Member State, provided that the legal requirements set out in the CO₂ Storage Directive are implemented in that third country;
- Reinstating the 'financial additionality' requirement;
- Additional rules on monitoring, validity, reporting, and liabilities.

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI) and the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) have also adopted their opinion on the proposal (link the amendments tabled by [AGRI](#) and [ITRE](#)).

The vote on the adoption of the ENVI report is expected to take place on 2 October.

The Council's Working Party on the Environment will discuss a revised compromise text outlining the Council's position on the proposal (not publicly available yet) in early September. The adoption of the Council's General Approach is expected in December.

Fabien Ramos from DG CLIMA will give an update at the meeting.

Agenda Item 10: Preparing for the Industrial Carbon Management Strategy – *for information*

10.a. CCUS Forum

Five working groups (WG) have been established under the CCUS Forum:

- CO2 infrastructure (co-chaired by ZEP, IOGP, Bellona)
- Industrial Partnerships (co-chaired by ZEP, Cembureau, European Lime Association)
- Public Perception/Role of society (co-chaired by ERCST, EPG, Fraunhofer)
- CCUS Communication
- Vision (co-chaired by CATF, Florence School of Regulation, Danish Ministry) (*concluded*)

WG on Vision

In 2022, the WG delivered a vision paper with recommendations for a CCUS Strategy, including setting milestones on capture and storage volumes (link to the [vision paper](#)).

WG on CO2 infrastructure

The WG delivered an issue paper in 2022 ([link](#)) and a final report in August 2023 (not publicly available yet) with recommendations on how to develop and deploy a European CO2 transport and storage infrastructure. The final report also includes the analysis concluded by the expert group on CO2 specifications on guidelines and principles for standards and network codes, covering definitions for temperature, pressure and purity, and recommendations for specific research efforts.

WG on Industrial Partnerships

The WG has delivered an issue paper highlighting what an Industrial Partnership could look like. The issue paper and any next steps will be discussed at the next WG meeting on 25 September.

ZEP has provided input to the WG co-chairs ([link](#)) and highlighted that there are substantial overlaps between the proposal and ZEP/ZEP's activities, something which was also highlighted by other WG members.

WG on Public Perception/Role of society

The WG on public perception has prepared an issue paper which highlights the need to consider public perception in the deployment of CCS/CCU technologies as well as the main

findings and recommendations of the WG. The issue paper will be discussed at the next WG meeting (date to be confirmed).

WG on CCUS Communication

The WG has held one meeting in 2023, where the EC outlined the context for the upcoming Strategy on CCS and CCU, potential scope/areas of focus and next steps in the process.

The plenary session of the CCUS Forum will take place in 27-28 November 2023 in Aalborg, Denmark (link to the [event page](#)).

Chris Bolesta from DG ENER will provide an update at the meeting.

10.b. CO2 infrastructure/CO2 specifications

As mentioned above, the WG on CO2 infrastructure finalised its report in August (not publicly available yet), which includes recommendations regarding CO2 specifications.

The European Commission's call for evidence on the industrial carbon managements strategy mentions that CO2 quality standards could be included in the strategy, referring to the fact that there are no minimum CO2 quality standards for infrastructure access.

Roland Span, co-chair of the CCUS Forum expert group on CO2 specifications, will provide an update at the meeting.

Agenda Item 11: ZEP and IWG9 actions, next meeting dates

11.a. 2023 meeting dates – for information

ZEP Advisory Council and IWG9 Plenary (Wednesdays)

- 13 December

ZEP Advisory Council Executive Committee (Tuesdays)

- 10 October
- 7 November

Network Technology

- 28 September
- 23 November

Network Policy & Economics

- 26 October

External Relations Group

- 22 September
- 27 October
- 15 December