

ZEP Innovation Fund Expert Group Meeting 28th March

9:30-12:00:

Panel Discussion on synergies and complementarities of the Innovation Fund with National Funding Programmes for R&I and other European Funding mechanisms.

Q&A Tour de Table Questions:

Key messages:

CCUS fund across European Commission initiatives need to be **complimentary and consistent**. This includes a cross-initiative homogenous mechanism to deal with project withdrawal or funding shortages.

Make sure the funding mechanism of the Innovation Fund is aligned with the European financial framework, including **Future Lending Policy of the EIB** and the ongoing **TEG Sustainable Taxonomy work**. Encourage the EC to engage with this process across internal departments to ensure essential technologies are not excluded from 'Sustainable Investment' status.

ZEP encourages the European Commission to be cognitive that Member States 2030 plans outlined in their National Energy and Climate Plans should lay the **foundation for delivery of a climate-neutral scenario in 2050**.

ZEP encourages the EC to reach out to national programmes when nations are developing investment models for immature technologies to **ensure funding streams from the commission (such as the IF) and EIB are not blocked by business model design**.

The **SET-Plan** should be the primary tool for the EC to interact with member states R&I programmes.

- 1. What is the best way to explore the synergies with Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe, including joint undertakings and PPPs?**
- 2. Are there any current or future national R&I programmes, which can help projects close their financial gap?**

Some examples of National R&I programmes:

UK:

BEIS CCUS Innovation Funding now £24m increased from £15m after a number of strong submissions

BEIS Hydrogen Supply Programme: £20m to investigate potential use of hydrogen in heating and gas networks.

BEL: Science for Sustainable Development (70m EUR over 8 research themes, including Energy, and CLIMATE), BRAIN-2, (117mEUR for science in Be) and FED-tWIN (cross centre research collaboration fund)

GER: CO2-Plus and CO2-WIN, £17.5m+ to focus on CCU and using CO2 as a feedstock.

CRO: National Feasibility Study to appraise full-chain potential for CCUS in Croatia

- 3. Are there any current or future national R&I programmes – open for projects in earlier or later stages of development – which can help build the project pipeline of the Innovation Fund and subsequently help commercialization?**

UK: ISCF: £180m of matched Government Industry funding for the deployment of the first CCUS cluster in the Mid 2020s

- 4. Are there any existing national programmes for project development assistance with which the Innovation Fund could team up?**

UK: Decarbonising Industry Challenge: £315m announced to decarbonise industry, including potential to use CCUS

NL: In the process of developing a dedicated CCS policy.

IRE: 5 year CCS review to potentially allocate funds and regulation for CCUS

- 5. What is the best way to involve other national Ministries, promotional banks, or agencies responsible for low-carbon funding?**

12:00-13:30:

Presentation and discussion of next steps, outreach and stakeholder engagement

Q&A Tour de Table

Key Messages:

ZEP encourages a close relationship with the EC. ZEP members can then disseminate up-to-date information on the Innovation Fund to a very wide CCU and CCS audience.

ZEP members are keen to be involved in the design of the innovation fund first call.

ZEP is happy to co-host a CCS/CCU sectoral workshop on the design of this fund, and will continue to have regular working group meetings/workshops on the bid submission process.

- 1. What would be the best way to raise awareness about the Innovation Fund and mobilize project proponents to prepare excellent submissions?**

Host sectoral workshops on the design of the calls.

The Commission should give examples or criteria of excellent submissions.

- 2. Are you aware of any upcoming events focused on industry, low-carbon innovation, energy transition organized by Member States and/or industry sectors where the Commission could present the Innovation Fund?**

The 10th Trondheim CCS Conference Norway, 17-19th June 2019.
The EU Sustainable Energy Week 17-21st June 2019
EERA annual Conference
Norwegian CCS Summit 5th September, 2019
CATO events, Netherlands
EGU Annual General Assembly, April 2019 (2020)
GHGT-15, 2020

3. Are you planning any dedicated events on the Innovation Fund?

There is a proposal for a ZEP/EC co-hosted sectoral workshop for CCS and CCU projects on the design of the first call of the innovation fund. A TWG has been established and work with the EC will be disseminated to members, looking to potential IF focussed workshops in the future.