

## The Zero Emissions Platform welcomes the Net-Zero Industry Act

**The Zero Emissions Platform (ZEP) welcomes the proposal for the Net-Zero industry Act by the European Commission (EC). It is a landmark political recognition of the contribution of carbon capture and storage (CCS) and carbon capture and utilisation (CCU) technologies to Europe's climate neutrality target. The Green Deal Industrial Plan is poised to provide a predictable and simplified regulatory environment and stronger incentives for net-zero industries in the EU. There is a need to act swiftly to get this Regulation adopted.**

ZEP strongly supports the objective of 50 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> of annual injection capacity by 2030. When coupled with an investable business case along the entire CCS value chain, it establishes policy predictability for companies, investors, and public authorities.

The obligation for Member States to publish "areas where CO<sub>2</sub> storage sites can be permitted" is also welcome since an exhaustive European Storage Atlas will be instrumental in scaling up the CO<sub>2</sub> storage capacity and the CCS value chain.

ZEP welcomes the eligibility of CO<sub>2</sub> storage projects as 'net-zero strategic projects', benefitting from fast permitting and authorisation processes by competent authorities.

The platform also welcomes the call on regional and local authorities to include CO<sub>2</sub> storage projects in zoning, spatial, and land use plans. Since a Europe-wide open access cross-border CO<sub>2</sub> transport infrastructure (including pipelines, ships, trucks, rail...) is crucial to connect emitters across Europe to secure geological storage, CO<sub>2</sub> transport should be acknowledged in all planning efforts. Going forward, permitting procedures need to be shortened for each part of the CCS value chain including the capture plant.

ZEP supports the creation of a Net-Zero Europe Platform to share best practices for organising national competent authorities and speeding up permitting procedures, as well as monitoring and supporting the deployment of a skilled workforce dedicated to net-zero technologies. Here, it will be crucial for Member States and the EC to nominate representatives at decision level to ensure efficient governance and real progress. Capacity building at the level of competent authorities will be crucial to reduce existing and avoid new bottlenecks and unnecessary delays as more CCS projects come into play.

ZEP also supports the provisions that enable Member States to support projects with access to finance, administrative obligations, and public acceptance. These provisions will ensure that storage operators face as few barriers as possible.

Referring to the Regulation, ZEP would also like to highlight the importance of strengthening the support for CCS and CCU research and innovation (R&I), given that it is the very foundation to achieve efficient and fit-for-purpose solutions. ZEP recommends following the proposals made by the SET Plan CCUS implementation working group (IWG9).



There is a need to move forward with complementary items that are not included in the proposal, such as an EU CCS and CCU strategy, a regulatory framework for non-discriminatory, open access and multi-modal Europe-wide CO<sub>2</sub> transport infrastructure and increased public investments both at the EU and national levels – necessary to make CCS economically viable and reach climate neutrality by 2050.

ZEP is looking forward to discussing the details of the proposal and its implementation with the EC since several items require further clarification.

## ***About the Zero Emissions Platform***

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*ZEP is the advisor to the EU on the deployment of CCS and CCU – a European Technology and Innovation Platform (ETIP) under the European Commission’s Strategic Energy Technologies Plan (SET-Plan).*

*ZEP supports the European Union’s commitment to reach climate neutrality by 2050, defined as net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050. To this end, CCS technologies represent readily available and cost-efficient pathways for the decarbonisation of industrial and energy sectors in the European Union. Some applications of CCU – where CO<sub>2</sub> is stored in a manner intended to be permanent – can also contribute to this goal.*