

ZEP's reaction to European Commission Consultative Communication on CCS

Date: 27 March 2013

Statement by Dr. Graeme Sweeney, Chairman of the Advisory Council of the European Technology Platform for Zero Emission Fossil Fuel Power Plants (ZEP) in response to today's (27th March) European Commission Consultative Communication on Carbon Capture and Storage.

"The companies, scientists, academics and environmental NGOs that together make up the Zero Emission Platform (ZEP) welcome this CCS Communication published by the European Commission today. The EU continues to be a leader in recognizing the important role that CCS can play in addressing climate change. CCS is at a critical stage in the EU, hence urgent policy actions are necessary to put CCS back on track in alignment with the EU's energy, climate and industrialization objectives.

An effective, restructured EU ETS is needed as the backbone of an overall incentive system to reduce CO₂ emissions toward 2050 targets, but most urgent now is the need to put in place appropriate funding and additional policy measures both at the EU level and in the Member States to ensure that investments decisions are made to develop large-scale CCS demonstration projects in order to have a wide deployment of CCS by 2030.

ZEP is underlining the necessity to ensure that Member States renew their political commitment to CCS and provide it with the support needed at this time. Furthermore, show stoppers and potential hurdles in the regulatory framework for CCS should be removed, in the Member States when appropriate, as well as a part of the upcoming review of the CCS Directive in 2015.

Early demonstration of CCS is important so that the EU can meet its CO₂ reduction targets in a cost effective way. If CCS is not demonstrated and deployed at sufficient pace and scale then there is a real risk that Europe will struggle to meet its CO₂ reduction ambitions up to 2050. Developing and deploying CCS will moreover be crucial to preserving and creating industrial and high-tech employment in Europe in the coming decades. ZEP therefore urges the EU and its Member States to avoid the risk to fall further behind in the global development of this climate technology.

We have seen states and investors capable of delivering CCS investment decisions in other parts of the world, at the same time we have recognized a set-back on CCS in Europe. ZEP sees the CCS Communication as a first, but vital, step for the EU to clearly reiterate its commitment to show global leadership in the deployment of CCS.

Europe needs to reflect carefully on its energy and climate policy priorities, reset its CCS Programme and get carbon capture and storage back on track as a core part of managing Europe's CO₂ emissions. We look forward to working with the Commission and Member States over the coming weeks to ensure that the urgent policy actions needed are put in place."

ENDS

Note to Editors



Founded in 2005, the European Technology Platform for Zero Emission Fossil Fuel Power Plants (ZEP) is a unique coalition of stakeholders including utility companies, scientists, NGOs, academics and petroleum companies who are united in their support for CO₂ Capture and Storage (CCS) as a key technology for combating climate change. ZEP serves as advisor to the European Commission on the research, demonstration and deployment of CCS.

www.zeroemissionsplatform.eu

ZEP Media Relations Focal Point, Gert-Jan van der Panne

Tel. +31 (0)70 328 3574

Email. gvanderpanne@zero-emissionplatform.eu