

# **Third meeting of the Carbon capture, utilisation and storage Forum (CCUS Forum)**

**27-28 November 2023, Aalborg**

## **Conclusions**

The Forum:

Thanked the Danish Ministry of Climate, Energy and Utilities for co-hosting the CCUS Forum in Aalborg and congratulated the French Ministry for Energy Transition for being selected as the next co-host of the Forum in Pau (France).

Called on the European Commission to publish the Industrial Carbon Management Strategy in the first quarter of 2024 and welcomed the numerous initiatives undertaken by various Member States to develop national carbon management strategies. Recognised the need to establish a predictable regulatory environment for CCS and CCU projects across the whole value chains.

Reiterated the need of a speedy deployment of CCS, CCU and carbon removal technologies to reach the EU climate goals and in particular climate neutrality by 2050.

Welcomed the Commission's announcements to launch the knowledge sharing project network, to initiate work on common CO<sub>2</sub> standards for transport infrastructure and to launch the CCUS Observatory to monitor, report and verify the CO<sub>2</sub> captured from cement and waste-incineration plants. Underlined the role of the CCUS Forum in operationalising these initiatives.

Praised the Commission announcement to set up a co-ordination mechanism to plan an EU-wide CO<sub>2</sub> transport infrastructure. Stressed that such planning should also consider the repurposing of existing hydrocarbon infrastructure. Underlined that coordination should consider CO<sub>2</sub> transport projects currently under development.

Welcomed the adoption by the Commission of the new PCI/PMI list containing 14 CO<sub>2</sub> infrastructure projects.

Welcomed the signing of the Aalborg Declaration by Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden, recognising the need for CCUS to reach climate neutrality by 2050 and highlighting the need to develop a cross-border European CO<sub>2</sub> capture, transport and storage market.

Praised the results of the working groups of the Forum on an Industrial partnership, on CO<sub>2</sub> infrastructure and on public perception. Endorsed their issue papers.

Praised the Commission's initiative to include CCS in the Net Zero Industry Act as a strategic technology and called on the co-legislators to proceed to a swift adoption of the Regulation. Recognised that the Regulation must not pose unnecessary regulatory burdens. Stressed the positive impact the integration of Norway, Iceland and the UK would have on the availability of sufficient storage capacity.

Praised the Innovation Fund contribution and other EU key funding mechanisms for supporting small and large-scale CCS and CCU projects.

Welcomed the new report of the IEA on CCS business models.

Called on the EU and Member States to put in place more funding and de-risking mechanisms supporting business cases along the carbon management value chains. Stressed the need of targeted subsidies and a coordinated permitting process to deploy projects on time.

Underlined the importance of pro-active storage exploration and deployment as the issue with the longest lead-time in the value chain. Called on the Member States to step up their efforts to explore their CO<sub>2</sub> storage potential and allow for developing of new storage sites.

Called on the Commission to continue the work on a fit-for-purpose EU regulatory framework for an EU wide multimodal CO<sub>2</sub> transport network, based on transparent, fair, and non-discriminatory access conditions. In this context, stressed the need to avoid stifling the development of the nascent carbon market. Underlined the role of the Forum as a consultation platform in this process.

Underlined the urgency to assess any potential gap in CO<sub>2</sub> quality standards and where necessary to develop common standards to enable the functioning of an EU-wide interoperable CO<sub>2</sub> transport market. Notes that the development of such standards should consider projects already in development.

Underlined the need to support and de-risk capture projects located away from industrial hubs in line with the EU's efforts to achieve a just transition in energy intensive regions.

Discussed the integration of negative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions into the EU ETS, while maintaining options for other revenue streams and avoiding any possible double counting, to incentivise the creation of an industrial carbon removals market. Called on the co-legislators to proceed to a swift adoption of the Carbon Removal Certification Framework.

Stressed the importance and the need to improve the business case of CCU projects where climate impact can be verified. Underlined the issue of permanence as regards to chemically binding captured CO<sub>2</sub> in products.

Called on the Commission, Member States and project developers to step up their efforts to raise public awareness on industrial carbon management technologies, including in regard to benefits for local communities. Encouraged further discussion and research on the issue of public awareness.

Underlined the role of international co-operation in industrial carbon management and of knowledge sharing in particular. Welcomed the launch of the Carbon Management Challenge enhancing global cooperation and invited more countries to subscribe to its objectives.

Stressed the need to involve industrial stakeholders more to enable EU-wide project co-ordination and to optimise deployment timelines and costs by identifying adequate funding and de-risking mechanisms. Called on the Commission to include a strong mechanism for public-private cooperation in the Industrial Carbon Management Strategy taking into account existing structures.

Agreed to continue the working group on CO<sub>2</sub> infrastructure with its expert group on standards and the working group on public perception. Recommended creating a Forum working group on CCU.