



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

CLIMATE ACTION

Directorate C – Innovation for a Low Carbon, Resilient Economy

CLIMA.C.2 – Low Carbon Solutions (II): Research & Low Carbon Technology Deployment

# Information Exchange Group under the CCS Directive (Directive 2009/31/EC, Art. 27.2)

## Report

On 11 October 2023, the European Commission services organised a hybrid meeting of the Information Exchange Group under the CCS Directive (Directive 2009/31/EC, Art. 27.2), bringing together the Competent Authorities from Member States and EEA countries in Brussels and online. The objective of the meeting was an exchange of information on recent developments.

The Commission (DG CLIMA) provided the following updates:

- **Policy and strategy updates.** The Commission services informed Member States on the recent and upcoming developments in terms of CCS: the results of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Large Scale Call under the Innovation Fund, which highlighted an increasing CO<sub>2</sub> storage demand, the Commission proposal for the Net Zero Industry Act, meant to address the strong demand for CO<sub>2</sub> storage, and the upcoming Industrial Carbon Management Strategy Communication, with the purpose of providing a homogeneous approach towards the deployment of CCS at EU level.
- **Assessment of draft updated NECPs.** The Commission services informed Member States about the ongoing assessment of the chapters on carbon capture and storage (CCS) in the draft updated National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs). In particular, they pointed out that the expected capture needs were higher than the planned storage volumes and underlined the importance of these dedicated CCS chapters for the Commission to address Member States' needs through related policies, to direct market players and to inform other Member States.
- **Status of CCS Directive Guidance Documents review.** The Commission services reported on the feedback received in the context of the revision of the CCS Directive Guidance Documents. In total, 759 comments were received, many of which showed a certain level of coherence. These comments are currently analysed by the contractor DNV. The Commission services intend to publish the revised Guidance Documents

by the end of 2023, with subsequent capacity building workshops in the first half of 2024.

- **Report on the Implementation of the CCS Directive.** Based on reports by the Member States, the Commission services have prepared the fourth Report on the implementation of the CCS Directive for publication<sup>(1)</sup>. Additionally, the Commission services intend to publish the individual Member State reports together with the EU-wide report. The Commission services presented developments at Member States level, especially in terms of exploration and storage applications, also highlighting the need for measures to incentivise the creation of a CO<sub>2</sub> market.
- **Informal Commission Expert Group on the Geological Storage of Carbon Dioxide.** DG CLIMA will establish an Informal Commission Expert Group on the Geological Storage of Carbon Dioxide, which will replace the current Information Exchange Group. The Expert Group will be a consultative body composed of representatives of competent authorities of Member States and EEA/EFTA states. Its function will be cooperation and coordination, the exchange of good practices and to provide advice and expertise to the Commission. DG CLIMA will act as secretariat for the Expert Group. Depending on the topics to be discussed, the meeting of the Expert Group will also be open to observers and experts by invitation. The first meeting is envisaged for the first quarter of 2024.
- Member States were also notified about the **organisation of a CCS Knowledge Sharing workshop** on 28 November 2023 in Aalborg, Denmark on the occasion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual CCUS Forum Plenary conference. To realise opportunities along the CCS value chain, Member States were encouraged to recommend to the Commission potential transport and storage operators from their country who plan deploying projects by 2030.

During the tour de table, Member States informed and updated the group about the CCS chapters in their draft updated National Energy and Climate Plans; progress in the development of national CCS strategies (DE, FR, RO); storage site explorations and storage permit applications; and other recent developments.

The Commission services concluded the meeting with an outlook on the work planned for the coming months. Still this year, the Commission will publish the Report on the Implementation of the CCS Directive; finalise the assessment of the draft updated National Energy and Climate Plans; and publish revised CCS Directive Guidance Documents. In the first half of 2024, the Commission plans to publish the Industrial Carbon Management Strategy Communication; launch the CCS Directive Expert Group with a first meeting; and organise capacity building workshops based on the new Guidance Documents.

Participants:

- Member States Representatives
- Commission services
- EFTA Surveillance Authority secretariat

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<sup>(1)</sup> [COM/2023/657 Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on Implementation of Directive 2009/31/EC on the Geological Storage of Carbon Dioxide](#)