



ETS Innovation Fund – Knowledge sharing workshop

The emerging EU CO₂ transport and storage market

On 30 March 2023, the European Commission services organised a close-door knowledge sharing workshop in Brussels, entitled “ETS Innovation Fund’s closed-door knowledge sharing workshop: The emerging EU CO₂ transport and storage market”. The objective of the workshop was to connect and discuss with EU co-funded CO₂ capture operators, CO₂ cross-border network developers and prospective CO₂ storage operators as well as Member States’ and EFTA countries authorities. The focus of the discussion was on the timely operational availability and access to the CO₂ storage sites, and its relationship with the other elements of the CCS value chain (CO₂ capture, transport and regulation). The presentations and discussions focused on:

- An overview given by the Commission services regarding the opportunities for support from the ETS Innovation Fund, the role of CO₂ storage in the Net-Zero Industry Act proposal and the applicable State Aid rules for CCUS investments in Member States.
- Twelve prospective operators informed about their planned CO₂ storage projects in Europe, their development status, timing, their storage targets and possible availability of storage volumes for potential capturers. According to the statements made by the operators, the total planned storage capacity available in 2030 could amount to around 72 million tonnes annually in the European Economic Area, of which around 35 million tonnes in the EU if relevant investment decisions will be taken on time.
- Representatives of Denmark, the Netherlands and Norway informed about their CO₂ capture and storage support programmes, current storage projects in their respective countries and the role of public engagement and support to CCS.
- Innovation Fund supported projects that will be capturing a total of 4.6 million tonnes of CO₂ per year by 2028 presented their project timelines, locations, needs for transport and storage volumes and in particular their needs to take Final Investment Decisions for deploying CO₂ capture installation based on certainty regarding the available CO₂ transport and storage solution.
- Cross-border CO₂ network Projects of Common Interest from the 5th list presented their location, timelines, levels of advancement and capacities of CO₂ collection and

transportation, and discussed their position as link between prospective capture and storage operators.

In an open discussion, the participants discussed the unique challenges of creating a nascent CO₂ market and possible pathways to solutions. The participants discussed in particular risk-sharing and risk-management across a value-chain consisting of different industry sectors, as well as the need for information exchanges and structured, synchronised cooperation between public and private entities and regulatory authorities on EU and Member State level to ensure investment decisions are taken based on sufficient transparency about costs and project risks.

The Commission concluded the meeting acknowledging the need to continue targeted knowledge-sharing workshops for CCS projects and/or Member States. As part of the next steps, the Commission will assess the CO₂ capture and storage needs in Member States, as notified in the draft National Energy and Climate Plans. The work on the announced CCUS Strategy Communication will continue with a public consultation in Q2 2023, leading to an adoption planned for Q4 2023, as well as the adoption the 6th List of Projects of Common or Mutual Interest also in Q4 2023.

Participants:

- Prospective CO₂ storage operators
- CO₂ capture projects supported by the Innovation Fund
- Cross-border CO₂ network Projects of Common Interest under the TEN-E regulation
- Member States and EFTA countries Representatives
- Commission services