

Summary of the Chairs' conclusions of the Carbon Capture and Storage Breakout Group

The Working Group on Carbon Capture and geological Storage (CCS) was chaired by Artur RUNGE-METZGER (DG Environment). The first speaker in the working group was Mr. Chris HENDRIKS (ECOFYS), who gave an overview of ongoing work in the area of CCS, followed by a summary of a study done by ECOFYS and FIELD for the Commission on the risks and regulatory barriers for the implementation of CCS. This was followed by a presentation by Jürgen LEFEVERE (DG Environment), who gave an overview of the draft mandate for the ECCP Working Group on Carbon Capture and geological Storage. Gabriela VON GOERNE (Greenpeace) then gave the NGO view on CCS, which was followed by a presentation by Lars STROMBERG (Vattenfall), who presented an industry perspective.

In the discussion following the presentations a number of challenges were identified for the implementation of CCS as a mitigation option in the EU. These included the costs of the use of this technology, its environmental risks, the public perception of CCS and the regulatory framework under which it could take place. It was observed that the costs of CCS had come down dramatically compared to assumptions during the first phase of the ECCP. It was also observed that there is a large potential capacity for CCS, but that using this capacity would require thousands of CCS projects.

In relation to the mandate for the working group a number of more specific comments were raised. In particular it was suggested that the group should:

- when reviewing the risks of CCS, compare this to other technologies;
- explicitly address the Environmental impacts and risks of CCS;
- look into the efficiency of CCS and how capture costs can be reduced and whether the technology can be used for other sectors than power generation;
- ensure links with other ongoing processes/work in the area of CCS;
- explore possible incentives for the use of CCS, including the role of the EU emissions trading scheme;
- review existing pilot projects, and in particular also compare the risks of both marine and terrestrial storage;
- consider the acceptance of CCS by the regulator and public and identify how risk can be minimised and managed to increase acceptance;
- look into possibilities for resolving conflicting views on costs and safety;
- elaborate a roadmap for the large-scale deployment of CCS;
- not underestimate the regulatory challenge, in particular the need to make a timely start with any legislative changes needed to ensure the deployment of CCS technology;
- as part of its efforts to identify non-regulatory barriers to CCS explore infrastructure needs in situations where sources are not located in the same area as the storage capacity and how those needs can be best addressed.