

ECCP II

WG III: Terms of reference for the carbon dioxide capture and geological storage working group set up under the European climate change programme

Draft Mandate

1. Background

The European Climate Change Programme (ECCP) was established in June 2000 to help identify the most environmentally sound and cost-effective EU measures enabling the EU to meet its target under the Kyoto Protocol, namely an 8% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2008-2012, complementing Member States efforts. In total, 11 different working groups were established and have operated under the co-ordination of an ECCP Steering Committee:

The results from the ECCP formed an important contribution to the October 2001 Communication¹ on the implementation of the first phase of the European Climate Change Programme”, converting the ECCP results into a clear political commitment from the Commission. It highlighted a package of twelve priority measures and an action plan for implementation of these measures, to be brought forward by the Commission in 2002 and 2003. A progress report on the implementation of the ECCP was made in May 2003.

The February 2005 Communication ‘Winning the battle against climate change’² indicated that the Commission “*will review progress and explore new actions to systematically exploit cost effective emission reduction options in synergy with the Lisbon strategy*” and stated that “*attention will be paid in particular to [...] carbon capture and storage*”.

2. General Objective

The general objective of the Working Group is to explore carbon dioxide capture and geological storage (CCS) as a mitigation option by:

- reviewing the potential, economics and risks of CCS, including a SWOT analysis (strength, weakness, opportunities and threats);
- identifying regulatory needs and barriers and exploring the elements of an enabling regulatory framework for the development of environmentally sound CCS;
- identifying other barriers that could impede the development of environmentally sound policies to advance CCS, and policies to enable the development of environmentally sound CCS.

¹ COM (2001) 580 final

² COM(2005) 35

3. Policy Deliverable

The Working Group will deliver a final report by May 2006. Taking into account this report, the Commission intends to present a Communication on Carbon Dioxide Capture and Geological Storage at the end of 2006 or early 2007.

4. Organisation, work programme and time table

The Group is chaired by the Commission service in charge and will be composed of maximum 25 stakeholders plus Commission officials of relevant services. The Working Group will comprise Member State experts, representatives of relevant business sectors, NGO representatives, academic experts and Commission officials. Members of the group and, where appropriate, external experts will be asked to make specific contributions in the form of presentations and issue papers. Members of the group will also be asked to contribute and comment on the final report.

Working Group III will meet four times between February and May 2006. The Chairman will prepare minutes of each meeting, for adoption by the group. The Chairman will also prepare the final report, which will draw conclusions as well as set out key options based on the discussions in the group.

The four meetings of the working group will cover the following issues:

- Opening session (February 2006): **State of play**. At this session participants will explore the state of play of the CCS technology, including updates on the implementation and the timing of commercial realisation of specific projects, on the basis of expert presentations.
- Second session (March 2006): **Risks and economic potential**. At this session participants will explore the economic potential of CCS technology as well as the risks associated with its use on the basis of expert presentations.
- Third session (April 2006): **The regulatory framework**. At this session participants will explore regulatory barriers to the implementation of the technology and regulatory needs for its safe and environmentally sound deployment on the basis of expert presentations.
- Closing session (May 2006): Summary and conclusions of previous meetings and discussion of the final report.