

Statement on NER300 Funding for CCS

We understand that a number of promising CCS demonstration projects around Europe may miss out on NER300 funding because their relevant national governments have so far been unable to satisfy the EU Commission on the level of national co-funding that they would provide. It has been suggested that there may only be one CCS project selected for funding under the first tranche.

We fully understand the need for national co-funding and for Member States to make clear commitments in this respect. The NER300 is a partnership between the EU and Member States. As parties involved in, or close to, CCS demonstration projects, we also understand from our own engagement on them with national governments, that these commitments are not made lightly, not least given the significant sums of money involved and the current economic climate. It is also clear to us that funding commitments can only be made on the basis of close dialogue and partnership between the different parties involved. And it is our firm belief that the necessary co-funding commitments can be made if such dialogue is vigorously pursued.

We therefore urge the Commission to defer its selection of first tranche CCS projects for just a few months to allow this dialogue and negotiation to take place before the launch of the second tranche.

If the projects had to re-apply for the second tranche of the NER300, that would cause a critical delay. And if it means only one project is supported from the first tranche, it would further delay the meaningful demonstration of CCS in Europe notably in the power sector, (whilst North America and other regions are proceeding with projects). Politically it would expose the EU to the charge that it's simply not walking the talk on CCS.

A small extension to the process of the type we propose could deliver two more CCS projects to the list and fulfil the original visionary ambition of the NER300 programme.

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Statement supported by:

