



Danish Ministry of Climate,
Energy and Utilities



Federal Ministry
for Economic Affairs
and Climate Action



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Ministry of Economic Affairs
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Government Offices of Sweden
Ministry of Climate and Enterprise

AALBORG DECLARATION

ON ENABLING CROSS-BORDER CARBON CAPTURE UTILIZATION AND STORAGE (CCUS) IN EUROPE

The Paris Agreement and the goal of limiting average global temperature rise to 1.5 degree Celsius are central to our climate policies. To this end, we aim to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions in 2050 at the latest. The energy transition will be a core component of achieving net zero emissions, including the decarbonization of the transport and industry sectors.

As of 2023, actions have been taken in key areas of emission reduction, and it remains the highest priority of our climate policies. For the net zero emissions, it will be critical to mitigate hard-to-abate emissions from, for instance, industry and waste sectors and to create negative emissions in order to balance unavoidable greenhouse gas emissions.

The United Nations International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the International Energy Agency (IEA) have emphasized that carbon capture and storage (CCS) and carbon capture and utilization (CCU) could contribute to achieving global climate goals.

Mitigation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and lowering of atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations is a matter of urgency, and we are striving to accelerate the deployment of sustainable CCS and CCU in Europe.

The EU Industrial Carbon Management Strategy provides an opportunity to address some of the shortcomings of the current framework for CCS and CCU, but in order to encourage investment and ensure a timely, sustainable and cost-efficient market development we need to remove regulatory and economic uncertainty and enhance cooperation between our countries.

On this basis, we seek to make our position on the following matters clear:

- We emphasize that emission reduction and removal technologies should not cause delayed climate action in sectors where feasible, effective and cost-efficient mitigation alternatives are available, particularly in this critical decade. We reiterate that our absolute priority must remain the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to achieve net zero by 2050 at the latest, in accordance with our commitments in the Paris Agreement.
- In this context, we also recognize the role of CCS and CCU technologies as promising tools to achieve reductions of CO₂ emissions in hard-to-abate sectors in which other emission-reduction options either do not exist or are not feasible, as well as to generate negative emissions.
- We welcome CCS as a climate tool, and do not condone the use of CCS to increase fossil fuel extraction and production.
- We consider CCU as promising technologies in the production of green fuels and chemicals for the transition of hard-to-abate sectors.
- We strive for a unified European CCS and CCU market, which will foster a competitive industry across the continent, encouraging innovation and investments in projects.
- We recognize that a substantial amount of CO₂ removal from the atmosphere is needed to ultimately reach greenhouse gas neutrality.
- We call on the European Commission to improve regulatory predictability, including accounting rules, for permanent negative emissions such as bio-energy CCS (BECCS), giving due considerations of sustainability aspects and other use cases. We consider the Commission's 2026 assessment and possible legislative proposal on how permanent negative emissions could be covered by the EU ETS important.
- We believe cross-border CO₂ transport infrastructure will be very important in the roll-out of CCS and CCU across Europe, provided that efficient and cost-effective transport of captured CO₂ to suitable storage or utilization sites is ensured.
- We emphasize that, in order for CCUS to be an efficient climate tool, a full value chain approach is needed, in which the interdependencies between capture, transport utilization and storage are recognized and addressed in the relevant regulatory framework.
- We share an ambition to act, and through cooperation we seek to enable the creation of a stable and predictable environment for CCS and CCU investments and infrastructure developments in Europe. In this matter, Belgium, Denmark and the Netherlands have already signed bilateral MoU's related to cross-border transport and storage of CO₂.

Signed on 27th of November 2023.

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