



EEB POSITION ON CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE

5 April, 2007

EEB considers that EU energy policy for the next 40 years should contribute to the global objective of reducing the rise in global temperature to 2°C at most, with measures proportionate to the EU's current and historic per capita contribution to global warming. This means it must achieve a 60-80% reduction in annual greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 compared with 1990. Its energy policy should fully integrate other environmental requirements, such as conserving EU and global ecosystems and protecting public health. It should also contribute to universal sustainable development.

EU's Energy Policy should be characterised by measures that enable:-

- Reducing energy needs: systematically promote energy efficiency and life-style changes. Energy efficiency alone should lead to at least a 10% absolute reduction of energy use in the next decade and at least a 1% further reduction in each succeeding year.
- Expanding the use of renewables with a minimal impact on the environment: wind and solar are unlimited sources. On biomass, EEB insists on policies that protect biodiversity and water resources, do not compete unfairly with raw material needs, and do not reduce global access to food
- Phasing out nuclear energy use: a limited resource with unsolved waste problems and security, environmental and health risks.
- Reducing the environmental impact of fossil fuel use: this not only relates to CO₂ emissions, but also to the impacts on ecosystems and public health.

EEB is aware of scenarios that assume a phase-out of the use of coal for electricity production by 2050 in Europe. However, it is unlikely coal can be phased out worldwide by that time, although its contribution can be reduced. EEB agrees it would be best to try phasing out coal use as far as possible, not only because of its CO₂ emissions, but also because of its other environmental impacts. It is concerned about studies showing that with Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) we may need up to 25% more coal to produce the same amount of electricity, but realises that this figure could be reduced over time. But this still means that other environmental impacts related to coal use risk increase along with CCS. EEB is also concerned about the risks for the environment and people resulting from leaks of stored CO₂. EEB stresses that CCS does not ultimately make coal a carbon-free energy source, but a low-carbon option. However, EEB accepts that the possibility that even in Europe in 2050 coal will not have vanished from the energy production mix, for several reasons, including international energy supply complications, and delays in energy efficiency results. It also recognises that CCS can be used as a residual option to reduce gas-fired power stations' CO₂ emissions. EEB therefore does not want to exclude the CCS option.

However, before allowing and making CCS obligatory for coal-fired electricity and heating plants, the following conditions must be satisfied:-

1. Public authorities at all levels in the EU should increase their funding and other support and leadership regarding energy efficiency and environmentally-sound renewables. CCS development should in no way lead to reduction of these efforts.
2. CCS must follow strict environmental and safety requirements, determined by the EU based on independent studies and tests, and laid down in EU law. Only if these requirements are satisfactorily established should CCS be an acceptable option.
3. The EU should carry out research and testing to determine what will be considered safe storage. Funding for this should be from special fees imposed on current fossil fuel users for electricity and large-scale heat production.
4. Deploying CCS may only be permitted if an environmental liability regime, holding companies strictly liable for leaks from CO₂ storage, is put into operation in the EU.
5. The EU should commit itself to regulations that ensure coal-fired power stations continuously improve their environmental performance. It should lead this process with strict emissions and waste treatment requirements for the entire coal production and use process, based on regularly updated Best Available Technology definitions.
6. The EU should apply the Polluter Pays Principle and as soon as possible move to complete auctioning of CO₂-emission rights for fossil fuel users in the Emission Trading Scheme. It should determine the total allocations for electricity-producing and energy-intensive industries over the coming years, in line with long-term CO₂-reduction targets, and thereby give a clear incentive to electricity producers and energy-intensive industries to invest in efficiency, renewables and low-carbon technologies, including CCS.
7. The EU should phase out all subsidies to coal energy as soon as possible, to avoid CCS legitimising prolonged use of coal in the EU.
8. The EU should offer its safety requirements on CCS and the studies that produced them to countries including China and India.