



Press Release

18<sup>th</sup> May 2016

## **Ambitious COP21 target requires urgent actions on CO<sub>2</sub> Capture and Storage to mitigate climate change**

On 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016, a hundred scientists and stakeholders from industry, policy, regulatory and research funding bodies convened for the 11<sup>th</sup> CO<sub>2</sub>GeoNet Open Forum in Venice to discuss the latest status of and future outlook for Carbon dioxide Capture and Storage (CCS).

CCS is an available and affordable technology for abating CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the carbon intensive industrial and power sectors in order to avoid the negative impacts of greenhouse gas emissions on the global climate.

To meet the ambitious target set out in the COP21 Paris Agreement to keep the temperature rise well below 2 °C, immediate actions are needed to enable large-scale deployment of CCS in addition to accelerated progress in renewables and energy efficiency. CCS is of particular importance for reducing emissions from carbon intensive industries (such as steel and cement manufacture, waste incineration, chemical and paper manufacture) as CCS offers the only currently viable option for significant emission reduction. CCS remains absolutely indispensable for reducing emissions from coal and gas power plants. In addition, actions are needed to advance negative emissions through CO<sub>2</sub> removal from the atmosphere via renewable biomass with CCS or direct capture of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere and storage in deep subsurface geological formations.

In the short term, more large-scale anchor projects and research pilot projects, strategically placed to act as catalysts for widespread implementation of CCS, are required. The development of national and transnational infrastructure for transport and storage needs to be advanced so that the CO<sub>2</sub> streams captured from industrial and power plants can be linked to this infrastructure as they come online. For this purpose, the next tranche of suitable storage sites ready to operate in Europe has to be finalized so that they are ready to enable rapid deep decarbonisation of the European power and industrial sectors. All these actions are covered in the strategic planning of the European Commission (SET Plan in the context of Action 9), and several European countries including Norway, UK and the Netherlands already have policies in place for enabling CCS.

To develop implementation plans at national and regional levels for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions well before 2050, dialogue and concerted action are needed now between the various communities working on mitigation technologies, in particular on CCS and renewables, as well as with energy system planners, decision makers and the general public at the national and regional level.

**The outcomes of the 11<sup>th</sup> CO<sub>2</sub>GeoNet Open Forum, including a short report, presentations and videos of speakers, are being uploaded at <http://www.co2geonet.com/>.**

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*The European Network of Excellence  
on Geological Storage of CO<sub>2</sub> Association*

### **About CO<sub>2</sub>GeoNet**

CO<sub>2</sub>GeoNet is the European scientific body on CO<sub>2</sub> geological storage. The Association currently comprises 26 research institutes from 19 European countries, and brings together over 300 researchers with the multidisciplinary expertise needed to address all aspects of CO<sub>2</sub> storage. With activities encompassing joint research, training, scientific advice, information and communication, CO<sub>2</sub>GeoNet has a valuable and independent role to play in enabling the efficient and safe geological storage of CO<sub>2</sub>. CO<sub>2</sub>GeoNet was created in 2004 as a Network of Excellence supported by the EC FP6 programme for 5 years. In 2008, CO<sub>2</sub>GeoNet became a non-profit Association under French law. From 2013 onwards, the membership of CO<sub>2</sub>GeoNet expanded thanks to the support of the now completed FP7 CGS Europe project. New Members continue to join CO<sub>2</sub>GeoNet to further enhance the pan-European coverage and expertise of the Association.

More about CO<sub>2</sub>GeoNet at <http://www.co2geonet.com/>

### Members of CO<sub>2</sub>GeoNet:

- GBA (Austria)
- RBINS-GSB (Belgium)
- UNIZG-RGNF (Croatia)
- CzGS (Czech Republic)
- GEUS (Denmark)
- TTU-EE (Estonia)
- BRGM (France)
- BGR (Germany)
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