



## EFG Position on EU Industrial Carbon Management Strategy Consultation

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The **European Federation of Geologists (EFG)** represents 28 national professional associations across the continent. Its primary role is to safeguard and promote the interests of the geological profession, advocating for the best technical, scientific, and ethical practices while promoting sustainable and responsible use of the Earth's resources. It accomplishes this through participation in EU-funded research projects, international networks and events, the provision of recognised titles to individual geologists, and a wide range of outreach activities.

Carbon capture, utilisation and storage plays an important role in achieving carbon neutrality in the EU by 2050. It provides a decarbonisation option for some hard-to-abate sectors and can be instrumental in advancing industrial carbon removals.

### Point 1

We would like to highlight the central role **a dedicated public relations effort** to support any strategy should play, explaining:

- Imperative of Carbon Capture and Underground Storage (CCUS) to honour the EU and wider continent's commitments in the Paris Climate Agreement *alongside* efforts in decarbonising energy supply and greater efficiency.
- The respective roles of the different CCUS techniques available from capture to the short- and longer-term solutions available.
- Deep geological storage represents the only viable, effective, long-term solution and it is being pursued by a range of users at all scales (not just fossil fuel energy companies).
- While new players may come into the market, the fastest, safest and most cost-effective way to deploy this complex, high-risk, solution is to repurpose the model of existing energy companies.
- All energy sources produce GHG emissions to some degree or other, as well as significant hard-to-abate industries such as steel and cement production: CCUS can be applied in all cases.
- CCUS can provide an industrial scale solution within a decade providing suitable market incentives are provided: Public sector stimulus to begin, but ultimately carbon price support, decommissioning cost offset, ease of CO<sub>2</sub> transport legislation.

### Point 2

We have identified several themes within the pending initiative where we would like to provide some **specific recommendations**:

- Opportunities to store carbon dioxide safely in depleted gas fields are being lost because European governments are failing to halt decommissioning of oil and gas (O&G) infrastructure. The decommissioning of the *Kinsale Head Gasfield* (KHGF) in Ireland is one example.
- The EC should make each state responsible for identifying and maintaining CO<sub>2</sub> storage potential within their jurisdiction where it exists in the interests of all members of the EU.
- Use the know-how of well-standing industries. EC should facilitate the conversion of old industrial projects into more clean solutions, e.g. depleted fields of O&G to be converted into CO<sub>2</sub> sinks.



- It is virtually impossible to achieve the net zero target without Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS). CO<sub>2</sub> capture and storage should become a regular practice around European industrial areas.
- Speed up administrative procedures to incorporate cleaner solutions such as hydrogen into European legislation.

### Point 3

Geology forms a critical component of carbon management. However, the forthcoming expected shrinkage in the petroleum industry in Europe and the current perception of this legacy industry is already negatively affecting the pipeline of young people wishing to study geology. Therefore, we want to emphasise the need for national governments to adequately allocate resources to invest in geoscience education from an early age through university and to educate professionals on carbon storage as a prospective green industrial sector. Without investment in geology education, Europe will not be able to meet the goals of the Green Deal and will face the **risk of an insufficient talent pipeline and skills pool** for what is now looking like it could be a multi-€Bn business activity. As part of the solution, EFG will launch the EFG Academy for training in the fourth quarter of 2023. In addition, the inclusion of Geologists in the list of recognised professions under the Professional Qualifications Directive (2005/36/EC) would offer the opportunity to increase mobility and employment opportunities between countries.

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The **European Federation of Geologists (EFG)** is a professional organisation representing geoscientists from 28 national member associations across Europe. It confers the internationally-recognised European Geologist ("EurGeol") professional title to suitably qualified candidates. For more information see: [www.eurogeologists.eu](http://www.eurogeologists.eu)

The **EFG Expert Panel on CO<sub>2</sub> & Hydrogen Geological Storage** contributes to the development of European Policies by preparing advisory documents for the European Commission and EU Parliament. The Panel consists of approximately 20 experienced professionals from several European countries, many of them holding leading positions in the public and private sector.