



PRESS RELEASE

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New survey of European climate experts shows strong support for mandatory emissions performance standards. Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) should be one of the solutions for reducing CO2.

Brussels, 7 November 2008. A new survey of senior-level European climate experts shows that many (53%) believe CCS technology should be part of the overall portfolio of measures to fight climate change. To enable earlier deployment, EU-level public funds, together with Member States and private sector financing should be used to pay for CCS demonstration plants say 63%. Only 5% support a public-private financing scheme that excludes the EU.

The on-line survey was carried out by GlobeScan, sponsored by the European Climate Foundation, between the 22nd August and the 12th September, before the recent financial crisis.

Eight out of ten experts said climate change was the most important issue requiring action at the EU level, above other issues like security of energy supply, water and air pollution and even countering terrorism. Most experts believe that a range of measures need to be used - energy efficiency, reducing transport emissions, increased use of renewable sources, Emission Trading Schemes - and other measures.

Seventy percent of respondents are supportive or very supportive of establishing mandatory carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions standards for fossil-fuel power plants in the next 10-15 years. One quarter of respondents oppose emissions standards that would in effect require CCS.

A plurality of experts is supportive of large-scale deployment of CCS across Europe (36%). Surprisingly, slightly under a third of experts either chose a "neutral position" (26%) or "don't know" (6%) answer regarding CCS deployment in Europe. This high neutral figures shows that there is a need and scope for education and engagement of those who feel they don't have enough information to form an opinion on CCS potential.

It is notable that the level of support for the effective mandating of CCS technology (legally, the prohibition of those without CCS) for new electricity generation plants - at 50% - is more than twice that for "increased use of nuclear energy" (only 24%). Among people who have global responsibilities, around half are supportive of CCS deployment, most probably reflecting concerns about the nature of energy generation of increasingly energy-intensive countries like China.

Other notable findings

Regarding advantages and disadvantages of CCS technologies some interesting observations emerge:

- 42% of respondents think that one of the advantages of CCS is that it allows for the continued use of coal as an energy source
- 47% are convinced that the EU should establish emissions standards that in effect require power generation plants to install and operate CCS
- Among concerns expressed about CCS, notably safety and security of storage, liability, and cost-effectiveness are mentioned most frequently
- Experts agree that there should not be any commitment to CCS until effectiveness and safety are demonstrated at a large scale
- There is weaker support for CCS among environmental NGOs, who are most likely to feel that CCS will divert attention away from the deployment of renewables, than among the private sector, academics and government officials, to different degrees.

The report is available at http://surveys.globescan.com/ecf_report

Methodology

The internet-based survey was targeted at named Europe-based experts and policymakers active in climate change and sustainable development issues. The survey was conducted over 22 days starting on 22 August 2008. This was prior to a number of widely reported assessments of CCS and the 7 October European Parliament Environment Committee votes on a range of climate proposals. Responses are based on 477 registered responses. Almost half (47%) of respondents have a senior position and another 36% identify themselves as mid-level professionals.

Commissioning organisations

The survey was funded by the European Climate Foundation (ECF) www.europeanclimatefoundation.com, a not-for-profit foundation whose goal is to promote climate and energy policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Centre commissioned the survey on behalf of ECF.

About GlobeScan

GlobeScan Incorporated is a global public opinion and stakeholder research consultancy with offices in Toronto, London, and Washington. GlobeScan conducts custom research and annual tracking studies on global issues. With a research network spanning 50+ countries, GlobeScan works with global companies, multilateral agencies, national governments, and non-government organizations to deliver research-based insights for successful strategies.

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