



Vlaamse
overheid



Member State Contribution CCUS – Net Zero Industry Act (NZIA)

Relevant provisions

NZIA Art. 21(2) & (3) - By the end of 2024, and thereafter annually, Member States shall report to the Commission and the public on:

- a mapping of CO₂ capture, transport and storage projects in progress, with expected permit and FID dates;
- any national support measures, national strategies and targets that have been or will be adopted;
- any cross-border cooperation for CO₂ transport & plans to facilitate the decarbonisation of industrial sectors, if no CO₂ storage projects are in progress on their territory.

Belgian contribution

CCS is regulated by Directive 2009/31/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the geological storage of carbon dioxide. Offshore (transboundary) CCS must also comply with the London Protocol (anti-dumping treaty) and OSPAR.

By 2030, initial projections indicate that industrial plants in Belgium will capture about 5 Mt of CO₂, entirely in the Flemish Region. The potential in the Walloon Region is still under further investigation. After 2030, this capture will be further expanded in both the Flemish and Walloon Regions. For the further implementation of CCS in Belgium, in terms of the entities interested in deploying it, the lack of cost-effective storage potential on home soil creates a need for storage capacity in third countries. One of the legal conditions for this cross-border cooperation is the conclusion of a bilateral agreement between the exporting and importing State to meet the requirements of the London Protocol.

The federal state, the Flemish Region and the Walloon Region will also seek harmonization, or at least alignment, of bilateral agreements at the North Sea level. This can be done through further participation in European expert group meetings and in the North Sea Basin Task Force.

The following Memoranda of Understanding have been concluded to implement the London Protocol:

- Memorandum of Understanding between the Minister for Environment of the Flemish Region and the Minister for Energy and Climate of the Walloon Region and the federal Minister for the North Sea of Belgium and the Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities of Denmark on cross border transportation of CO₂ with the purpose of permanent geological storage, signed on 26th September 2022;
- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Minister for Environment of the Flemish Region and the federal Minister for the North Sea of Belgium and the Minister for Energy and Climate of the Walloon Region and the Minister of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy of the Netherlands on cross border transportation of CO₂ with the purpose of permanent geological storage, signed on 22nd of June 2023;
- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Minister for Environment of the Flemish Region and the federal Minister for the North Sea of Belgium and the Minister for Energy and Climate of the

Walloon Region and the Minister of Energy of Norway on cross-border transportation of CO2 with the purpose of permanent geological storage, signed on 15th of April 2024

Furthermore, Belgium (federal State and Flemish Region) has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Norway on the laying and operation of a pipeline for transportation of CO2 from Belgium to Norway, on the 18th of June 2024. Negotiations on a Convention between both States are underway.

For the Federal State:

The federal level has a facilitating and coordinating role in the both interactions with other EEA and EU member states as well as the UK, as well as intra Belgian officials and stakeholder-meetings.

For the Flemish Region:

Mapping of CCUS projects

In Annex 1, an overview is given of the CO₂ capture and transport projects in progress and under development in the Flemish region. For each project, information is provided regarding the project name, type of CCUS project, project leader, relevant stakeholders, estimation of the need for transport capacity, estimation of the need for storage capacity, the status of permitting, expected or actual Final Investment Decision date, and expected or actual date of entry into operation. It is important to note that this data is indicative and based on the information available today. The data can evolve in the future based on new developments.

Flemish CCUS measures and policies

The Flemish Region has established its long-term climate policies and additional measures in the draft update of the Flemish Energy and Climate Plan (2021-2030) and the Flemish Climate Strategy 2050. The Flemish Region recognizes CCUS as one of the promising avenues to reduce emissions. In this light, the Flemish Government has issued the CCUS Vision Note on the 26th of November 2021. It outlines the priorities of the Flemish Government regarding CCUS.

Following up on these policy objectives and priorities and under impulse from emerging Flemish CCUS projects, Flanders adopted in 2024 a legislative framework to regulate the transport of CO₂ by pipelines in the Flemish region. Multiple support mechanisms have also been put into place for CCUS projects in Flanders. Additionally, the recent governmental agreement of the new Flemish government has indicated various pathways for further support which may be explored. These ideas have been elaborated upon in the policy notes of the relevant ministers submitted to the Flemish Parliament.

Below, more information is given on the key Flemish CCUS policies and support measures.

- *CCUS policy priorities in the new governmental agreement*

In the new Flemish governmental agreement, general support for CCUS is expressed. The Flemish government supports the Flemish industry on the road to carbon neutrality and wants to seize on the opportunities provided by a frontrunner policy and supports a future-oriented sector that creates sustainable jobs.

Specifically, the possibility to work out the following support measures is mentioned:

- **Focus on infrastructure**
The Flemish Government is starting a participatory process within *Klimaatsprong* between infrastructure managers, large industrial clusters, large SME zones and the government to determine

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infrastructure needs, and to see how these can be realized through collective infrastructure (electricity, power grids, hydrogen grids, heat grids, infrastructure to liquefy and transport CO₂...).

- **OPEX-support**

The pilot project *bijpascontracten* (contracts for difference) to support the Flemish basic industry in the transition to low carbon processes was launched and is continuously monitored. Based on the foreseen evaluation, the Flemish Government will decide on the further implementation and execution of that instrument. A benchmark study about the deployment of that instrument by our neighboring countries will be initiated once the Flemish government is formed.

- **Project support**

The Flemish government is exploring support for major projects at its ports related to CO₂ capture with permanent storage (CCS) and the use of captured CO₂ (CCU).

In the policy note on energy and climate, the Flemish Minister for Energy and Climate indicated that the Flemish government will facilitate the capture, transport and use or storage of CO₂ (CCUS). In particular, the Flemish government will facilitate the transport of CO₂ through the conclusion of the necessary international agreements and the implementation of the CO₂ transport network decree. By 2028 at the latest, the Flemish government will submit an evaluation report on the implementation of the CO₂ transport network decree to the Flemish Parliament. The Flemish government will take into account the European evolutions, such as the elaboration of the European Industrial Carbon Management Communication and the revision of the ETS Directive. Support for major projects in the Flemish ports regarding CO₂ capture with permanent storage (CCS) and the use of captured CO₂ (CCU) will be explored.

The policy note on economy and industry clarifies that the Flemish Government is currently examining support for major projects at our ports related to CO₂ capture with permanent storage (CCS) and the use of captured CO₂ (CCU) for which the contracts for difference are a possible avenue of support.

- *Flemish vision note*

The CCUS Vision Note outlines the Flemish Government’s priorities regarding CCUS, focusing on seven key areas:

- **Cost-Effective Climate Policy with attention for competitiveness of the industry is crucial**
The Flemish government prioritizes cost effective climate measures, focusing on reducing greenhouse gas emissions while maintaining industrial competitiveness.
- **Positive Stance on CCUS**
The Flemish government recognizes CCUS as a useful technology to reach the climate targets in a cost-efficient manner. The storage of CO₂ in the underground relies on existing technologies and is reliable. CCU opens possibilities to consider CO₂ not as a waste products but as a circular raw material.
- **Enabling European policies for the industrial climate transition and the application of CCUS**
An enabling European framework for CCUS is essential and should be based on the deployment of European support mechanisms, an ETS system that stimulates both CCS and CCU, and European state aid and other rules that allow sufficient support for large-scale CCUS projects.
- **Ensuring a maximum success rate in EU Funding in Flanders**
To maximize access to European funding, the Flemish Government commits to co-financing promising CCUS projects, increasing their likelihood of receiving EU subsidies and creating leverage through this Flemish support.
- **Developing suitable CCUS Infrastructure**
The Flemish government support the development of a CCUS backbone. CO₂ pipeline transport between industrial clusters and ports both within Flanders and in cooperation with neighboring countries will be expanded.
- **Developing a regulatory framework for CO₂ Transport**

Updating existing and adopting new legislation around CCS, focusing on the framework of CO₂ transport via pipeline. This has already been accomplished with the newly adopted decree on CO₂ transport by pipeline that is currently being implemented (*see infra*).

- **Strategic Partnerships with frontrunner countries**

The Flemish Government aims to secure international agreements for cross-border CO₂ transport and storage, fostering collaboration within the North Sea Basin to strengthen regional CCUS efforts.

- *Target and measures within the draft updated NECP*

In the draft updated NECP it is stated that, based on initial projections, the industrial installations in Belgium will capture around 5 Mt of CO₂ by 2030, entirely in the Flemish region. After 2030, this capture will further develop in the Flemish and Walloon regions.

The Flemish contribution to the draft updated NECP explicitly refers to the CCUS Vision Note for the vision of how Flanders intends to exploit its CCUS potential. Flanders is committed to supporting CCS networks and CCU facilities through multiple measures. In addition to the measures mentioned under the CCUS Vision Note, the draft updated NECP adds that in the framework of the support mechanism *Klimaat sprong*, there is a working group on infrastructure (with four sub-working groups: “Port and import infrastructure”, “Electricity networks”, “Pipelines” and “Permit”). This working group will identify infrastructure needs for CO₂ networks as part of the Industrial Transition Programme. In consultation with the competent authorities and pipeline companies, the relevant routes and ways to build or reuse the infrastructure shall be studied. Efforts are being made to develop pipeline transport between industrial clusters and ports, both in Flanders and in cooperation with neighbouring countries.

- *Flemish legislation on CO₂-transport through pipelines*

For the transport of CO₂ on the territory of the Flemish Region, new legislation was adopted in the first half of 2024 to regulate different types of pipeline infrastructure in the Flemish region. The [CO₂-Decree](#) was voted in the plenary session of the Flemish Parliament on March 27, 2024 and was published in the Belgian Official Journal on April 25, 2024. The implementing decision of the Flemish government ([CO₂-Decision](#)) was definitively approved on June 7, 2024.

On October 25, 2024, the Flemish Minister for Energy and Climate signed the [ministerial decision](#) that initiates the procedure for the designation of a carbon net operator of the CO₂ transport network in the Flemish Region. Through this ministerial decree, published in the Belgian Official Journal on Nov. 6, 2024, the procedure for appointing the transport network operator is launched. The designation conditions, criteria, and procedure to be followed are included in the CO₂-Decree and CO₂-Decision.

- *Overview of support measures for CCUS projects in Flanders*

To achieve ambitious climate goals, the Flemish government encourages industrial innovation in reducing CO₂ emissions, among which CCUS is one of those solutions. The Flemish region provides various funding mechanisms to support CCUS projects at different stages of development.

- **Pre-FEED Feasibility Study Funding**

Supports early-stage feasibility studies assessing the technical and financial viability of CCUS projects. This initial funding enables industries to conduct research, evaluate risks, and explore the potential of CCUS initiatives.

- **Strategic Ecological Support (STRES)**

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