

Joint letter and call to action from BASRECCS to relevant ministries for Carbon Capture and Storage deployment in the Baltic Sea Region

During the Baltic Carbon Forum, an annual conference organised by BASRECCS¹ that took place in Riga, Latvia on 12-13 October 2023² speakers provided both global and local perspectives on Carbon Capture, Use and Storage (CCUS) developments. One of the conclusions of the event was that countries of the Baltic region need to take urgent action to enable CCUS deployment in order to achieve emission reduction targets, while maintaining their industrial base. This letter is a call to action to relevant ministries in the Baltic States with recommendations for a constructive industrial decarbonisation pathway to reach climate targets, avoiding regional disparities and loss of competitiveness and jobs.

Call to action:

1. Use existing national or transnational/intergovernmental platforms or set up a new one dedicated to CCUS development: These platforms and/or working groups should facilitate development of industrial transformation plans, aligning infrastructure development actions, processes and a funding strategy to reach climate targets in close consultation with municipalities, private sector and civil society stakeholders. They should survey CCUS needs for the largest emitters taking into account existing and planned short, medium, and long-term investments in production assets. Different modes of transport (pipelines, ships, trains, trucks) should be considered, the planning of infrastructure should allow for potential expansion to connect to other industrial clusters further inland and in neighbouring countries. Governments should make sure that the infrastructure is transparently regulated to ensure open access, prevent monopolies, and could be used for other future purposes, e.g. CDR solutions to achieve negative emissions.

2. Develop a legal framework in line with the EU legal framework and climate ambitions: Develop national plans with conditions under which responsible ministries would propose amendments to current regulations, lifting bans for industrial geological CO₂ storage in respective territories. Ratify the London Protocol and its amendment to Article 6, permitting CO₂ export for sub-seabed geological storage, and consider international and/or bilateral agreements for the transport of CO₂ across borders. Advocate for relevant amendments in the Helsinki Convention to enable safe and permanent CO₂ storage in the geological sub-seabed structures of the Baltic Sea. Develop transparent and effective liability regulations for leakage risks for CO₂ transport and long-term storage facilities.

3. Provide the necessary funding framework: Provide support for further appraisal of geological CO₂ storage opportunities in Latvia, Lithuania, South-West Estonia and the Baltic Sea. Provide CCUS support programs for hard-to-abate industries to reduce CO₂ emission to the atmosphere. On top of the EU funding (e.g. the Innovation Fund), ensure funding mechanism at the local, national, and regional level to address development of national and cross-border CCUS hubs and clusters in the BSR, CO₂ infrastructure needs, with public and private funding and/or co-financing.³ Define industrial

¹ BASRECCS is a network of CCS experts and stakeholders established to support the exploration and gradual implementation of CCS in the Baltic Sea Countries, see: <https://bcforum.net/index.php>

² <https://www.baltic-carbon-forum.com/2023/>

³ More detailed CCS deployment roadmaps for Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, see: <https://ccs4cee.eu/building-momentum-for-the-long-term-ccs-deployment-in-the-cee-region-ccs-national-roadmaps/>

sectors eligible for funding and ensure that CCUS solutions are used where other forms of emission reductions is not technically possible or realistic.

CURRENT STATUS:

The need to deploy CCUS has become increasingly relevant as a topic in the context of the European Green Deal, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the EU by 55% in 2030 and to reach net zero in 2050. Almost 20% of GHG emissions in the EU come from the production of basic materials like cement, lime, steel, ferro-alloys, aluminium and chemicals. These heavy industries are responsible not only for essential materials for society and contributions to local economies, but the materials they produce are indispensable for the deployment of climate change mitigation solutions (renewable energy equipment and energy efficient buildings, to name just a few). Therefore, it is crucial to support them through the decarbonisation pathways, including CCUS, to meet climate targets, and even achieve negative emissions with carbon dioxide removal (CDR) solutions⁴.

CCUS can effectively reduce emissions especially in heavy industries generally considered “hard(er)-to-abate” because of their so-called process emissions, which are technologically very difficult, or impossible, to be reduced by means other than CCUS. As such, CCUS can also facilitate a just transition for regions where heavy industry serves a backbone of local economy.

The European Commission (EC), International Energy Agency (IEA) and UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (see Annex 2) recognise that absence of CCUS infrastructure, including sufficient storage capacities, is a fundamental risk to the industrial decarbonisation and climate neutrality goals.

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the EC recently reported that CCUS industry experienced unprecedented 44% increase globally last year, however CO₂ storage locations and hard-to-abate energy intensive industries are not evenly distributed in the EU, and likewise in the Baltic Sea Region⁵ (BSR), noting that despite the adoption of the CCS Directive⁶ “several legal, financial and social barriers to the full deployment of CO₂ infrastructure persist”⁷.

This assessment is particularly pertinent for the Baltic states. European Commission’s recent report reveals an increasing gap between member states in their pace of CCUS deployment, including in the

⁴ Carbon capture, transport and storage are an integral parts of carbon removal technologies such as Direct Air Capture and Storage (DACs or DACCS), and Bioenergy CCS (BECCS).

⁵ Baltic Sea Region includes 8 EU Member States (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden) https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/cooperation/macro-regional-strategies/baltic-sea_en

⁶ Directive 2009/31/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the geological storage of carbon dioxide (the Carbon Capture and Storage Directive, or CCS Directive) establishes a legal framework for the environmentally safe geological storage of carbon dioxide (CO₂). The CCS Directive aims to ensure that there is no significant risk of CO₂ leakage or damage to health or the environment, and to prevent any adverse effects on the security of the transport network or storage sites. Implementation report 24.10.2023 available <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=COM%3A2023%3A657%3AFIN>

⁷ Itul, A., Diaz Rincon, A., Eulaerts, O.D., Georgakaki, A., Grabowska, M., Kapetaki, Z., Ince, E., Letout, S., Kuokkanen, A., Mountraki, A., Shtjefni, D. and Jaxa-Rozen, M., Clean Energy Technology Observatory: Carbon capture utilisation and storage in the European Union - 2023 Status Report on Technology Development, Trends, Value Chains and Markets, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2023, doi:10.2760/882666, JRC134999 https://setis.ec.europa.eu/carbon-capture-utilisation-and-storage-european-union-0_en

Baltic region (see Annex 1)⁸. There is a growing possibility that **delayed or insufficient action by national governments to remove barriers to CCUS deployment will put climate targets, industrial decarbonisation, as well as economic competitiveness (including increased reliance on imports) and jobs at risk.**

In the BSR we see the next and immediate steps would be to prioritise **decarbonisation of the energy and heavy industry sector, elaborate dedicated national plans for decarbonisation investments and infrastructure development, and provide national support for CCUS storage research and pilot projects.** Geological conditions potentially allow the storage of CO₂ underground in Latvia and Lithuania. There are several potential onshore and offshore structures for that⁹. According to preliminary estimates by researchers, the BSR also has a theoretical capacity to store CO₂ in the Palaeozoic sedimentary successions of the Baltic Basin, with the most prospective areas in Sweden, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland¹⁰.

This letter, signed by a BASRECCS members, civil society and private sector stakeholders from the BSR, **calls on the national governments of countries in the BSR, especially Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, to address our concerns regarding unequal readiness level for CCUS deployment in the BSR and the EU, and accelerate and deepen their collaboration on industrial transformation. Carbon capture, in combination with CO₂ transport and storage infrastructure, enables large-scale emission reductions, energy transition and survival of heavy industry in the BSR.**

However, **while industrial companies in the region are willing to invest in carbon capture and use, the lack of transport and storage infrastructure in the BSR creates a major hurdle, which cannot be overcome without the support from national governments.** Climate neutrality needs to be prioritized and addressed accordingly, as society and companies rely on the governments to ensure enabling regulations, adequate funding and deployment of CO₂ transport and storage infrastructure, both domestically and in cooperation with other states on cross-border connectivity.

While this letter focusses on CCUS as a part of the solution, the signatories acknowledge that companies are expected to continue to decarbonise their production processes as much as possible, with such measures as energy efficiency, electrification with renewable energy, emission free and/or circular production processes, however without deploying additionally CCUS solutions in hard-to-abate sectors it will not be possible to reach the 2030 and 2050 climate targets.

Sincerely,

(List of Signatories)

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⁸ Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on Implementation of Directive 2009/31/EC on the Geological Storage of Carbon Dioxide, 4th implementation report, October 2023

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2023%3A657%3AFIN&qid=1698140668357>

⁹ https://ccs4cee.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Latvia_final_summary-1.pdf

¹⁰ Alla Shogenova. Carbon neutral Baltic Sea Region by 2050. Baltic Rim Economies. 2022.

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Summary of CCUS Developments in the BSR

According to the recent report on implementation of CCS Directive on the Geological Storage of Carbon Dioxide¹¹, currently geological storage of CO₂ is **prohibited by law** in the following EU Member States – **Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Finland, Germany**, Ireland, Cyprus, Austria and Slovenia, thus 5 out of 9 countries are from the BSR¹².

Geological conditions potentially allow the storage of CO₂ underground in Latvia, Lithuania, Poland¹³, Sweden, Denmark and Germany. Geological conditions do not allow CO₂ storage in Estonia and Finland¹⁴. However additional exploration and modelling are needed to explore CO₂ storage options at the South-West of Estonia.

Several BSR countries have procedures in place to ensure that potential users are able to obtain **fair and open access to transport networks and storage sites**¹⁵. There are legislative measures for that purpose in place in Denmark, Germany and Poland.

Several BSR countries have supported applications for Projects of Common Interest (PCI) or Projects of Mutual Interest (PMI) covering cross-border CO₂ transport, in accordance with the revised TEN-E Regulation (Denmark, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden).

Denmark and Germany have **programmes in place to financially support the development or deployment of CCS**. Sweden plans such support. Denmark, Germany, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden have reported that they have further plans to support the appraisal of CO₂ storage sites, to prepare for CO₂ transport infrastructure or for the establishment of CO₂ hubs and clusters. Those plans are at different stages of development.

According to **the Danish** report on implementation of CCS Directive¹⁶, Denmark has established legislation to open certain areas to permits for exploration and storage of CO₂, designating the national permitting authority and enabling state participation in every storage permit. Denmark has designated specific areas for potential geological storage of CO₂ and is currently conducting an assessment to select up to eight additional storage sites. Denmark has established the CCUS Fund of 16.6 billion DKK. Applicants can apply for funding for the entire value chain (capture, transportation and storage) of both fossil and biogenic CO₂. Based on the storage projects that have been granted exploration and

¹¹ Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on Implementation of Directive 2009/31/EC on the Geological Storage of Carbon Dioxide, 4th implementation report, October 2023 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2023%3A657%3AFIN&qid=1698140668357>

¹² Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on Implementation of Directive 2009/31/EC on the Geological Storage of Carbon Dioxide, 4th implementation report, October 2023 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2023%3A657%3AFIN&qid=1698140668357>

¹³ <https://ccs4cee.eu/summary-of-ccs4cee-project-all-documents/>

¹⁴ Prospects for application of CCS in Finland, S.Teira, E.Tsuparia, A.Arastoa, T.Koljonena, J.Kärkia, A.Lehtilää, L.Kujanpää, S.Aatosb, M.Nieminena, <https://sciencedirectassets.com>, Energy Procedia 4 (2011) 6174–6181

¹⁵ Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on Implementation of Directive 2009/31/EC on the Geological Storage of Carbon Dioxide, 4th implementation report, October 2023 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2023%3A657%3AFIN&qid=1698140668357>

¹⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/assets/clima/ccs/2023/policy_ccs_country_report_2023_denmark_en.pdf

storage permits, the annual injections can reach 13 million tonnes in 2030 with significant increase after.

According to the **Swedish** report on implementation of CCS Directive¹⁷, Sweden is also in the process of investigating and defining specific potential storage sites.

According to the **Lithuanian** report on Implementation of CCS Directive¹⁸, Lithuania has supported two applications seeking the PCI status within the scope of the Trans-European Networks for Energy on the establishment of the CCS transportation infrastructure in the Baltic region (Latvia, Lithuania, Poland):

- **CCS Baltic Consortium** project with partners from Lithuania and Latvia, which in 2022 was included among the candidates for the status of PCI¹⁹, potentially could be the first cross-border CO₂ infrastructure in Latvia and Lithuania.
- **ECO2CEE project** to create a CO₂ import and export terminal in Gdansk, Poland, with CO₂ transportation infrastructure from Poland and Lithuania to storage sites in the North Sea.

Lithuania is also a member of a research infrastructure project - the European CCS Demonstration Project Network (ECCSEL), funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 program.

Unfortunately, no reporting was provided by Latvia.

¹⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/assets/clima/ccs/2023/policy_ccs_country_report_2023_sweden_se.pdf

¹⁸ https://ec.europa.eu/assets/clima/ccs/2023/policy_ccs_country_report_2023_lithuania_en.pdf

¹⁹ <https://ccs-baltic.eu/>

CCUS Endorsement by Key EU and International Institutions

The European Commission, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, International Energy Agency and many other organisations when providing solutions for energy transition and industrial decarbonisation identify CCUS as one of the key solutions for reaching net-zero emissions:

- **The European Commission** indicated that carbon capture, utilisation and storage are important for achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. The institution is currently preparing an **Industrial Carbon Management strategy**, which will assess the “role these technologies can play in decarbonising the EU economy by 2030, 2040 and 2050” and “measures needed to optimise their potential, including in the deployment of EU-wide CO₂ transport and storage infrastructures”²⁰. In the **Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA)** proposal, EC included CCUS technologies as one of eight strategic net-zero technologies which make²¹. To facilitate and enable CCUS projects and increase the availability of CO₂ storage sites the NZIA sets a target of 50 million tonnes of annual CO₂ injection capacity by 2030, as the emergence of a CCUS value chain in the EU is currently being hampered by a lack of CO₂²².
- The most recent report from the **UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change** “Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report”²³ again highlights the importance of CCS in addressing climate change. The report also confirms that “If the geological storage site is appropriately selected and managed, it is estimated that the CO₂ can be permanently isolated from the atmosphere”. The IPCC notes that “currently, global rates of CCUS deployment are far below those in modelled pathways limiting global warming to 1.5°C to 2°C. Enabling conditions such as policy instruments, greater public support and technological innovation could reduce these barriers”²⁴.
- **International Energy Agency** recognises that “carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) technologies are set to play an important role in putting the global energy system on a path to net zero” and provides legal and regulatory recommendations to policymakers regarding CCUS deployment, including assessment of CO₂ storage resources and accelerating administrative and permitting procedures.²⁵

²⁰ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13848-Industrial-carbon-management-carbon-capture-utilisation-and-storage-deployment_en

²¹ [The Net-Zero Industry Act \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13848-Industrial-carbon-management-carbon-capture-utilisation-and-storage-deployment_en)

²² Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on establishing a framework of measures for strengthening Europe’s net-zero technology products manufacturing ecosystem COM/2023/161 final

²³ <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-cycle/>

²⁴ IPCC, 2023: Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report, Summary for Policymakers, p.21, https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_SYR_SPM.pdf

²⁵ <https://www.iea.org/energy-system/carbon-capture-utilisation-and-storage/co2-transport-and-storage> and <https://www.iea.org/reports/legal-and-regulatory-frameworks-for-ccus>

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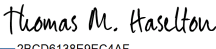
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Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:

Accepted: 3/21/2024 5:23:19 AM
ID: debedfb6-ce35-44cf-a91a-dbf7faeb2d0

In Person Signer Events**Signature****Timestamp****Editor Delivery Events****Status****Timestamp****Agent Delivery Events****Status****Timestamp****Intermediary Delivery Events****Status****Timestamp****Certified Delivery Events****Status****Timestamp****Carbon Copy Events****Status****Timestamp****Witness Events****Signature****Timestamp****Notary Events****Signature****Timestamp****Envelope Summary Events****Status****Timestamps**

Envelope Sent	Hashed/Encrypted	3/21/2024 4:28:09 AM
Certified Delivered	Security Checked	3/21/2024 5:23:19 AM
Signing Complete	Security Checked	3/26/2024 12:54:53 AM
Completed	Security Checked	3/26/2024 12:54:53 AM

Payment Events**Status****Timestamps****Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure**

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If you decide to receive notices and disclosures from us electronically, you may at any time change your mind and tell us that thereafter you want to receive required notices and disclosures only in paper format. How you must inform us of your decision to receive future notices and disclosure in paper format and withdraw your consent to receive notices and disclosures electronically is described below.

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If you elect to receive required notices and disclosures only in paper format, it will slow the speed at which we can complete certain steps in transactions with you and delivering services to you because we will need first to send the required notices or disclosures to you in paper format, and then wait until we receive back from you your acknowledgment of your receipt of such paper notices or disclosures. Further, you will no longer be able to use the DocuSign system to receive required notices and consents electronically from us or to sign electronically documents from us.

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Unless you tell us otherwise in accordance with the procedures described herein, we will provide electronically to you through the DocuSign system all required notices, disclosures, authorizations, acknowledgements, and other documents that are required to be provided or made available to you during the course of our relationship with you. To reduce the chance of you inadvertently not receiving any notice or disclosure, we prefer to provide all of the required notices and disclosures to you by the same method and to the same address that you have given us. Thus, you can receive all the disclosures and notices electronically or in paper format through the paper mail delivery system. If you do not agree with this process, please let us know as described below. Please also see the paragraph immediately above that describes the consequences of your electing not to receive delivery of the notices and disclosures electronically from us.

How to contact Pal:

You may contact us to let us know of your changes as to how we may contact you electronically, to request paper copies of certain information from us, and to withdraw your prior consent to receive notices and disclosures electronically as follows:

To contact us by email send messages to: mayur.pal@ktu.lt

To advise Pal of your new email address

To let us know of a change in your email address where we should send notices and disclosures electronically to you, you must send an email message to us at mayur.pal@ktu.lt and in the body of such request you must state: your previous email address, your new email address. We do not require any other information from you to change your email address.

If you created a DocuSign account, you may update it with your new email address through your account preferences.

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To request delivery from us of paper copies of the notices and disclosures previously provided by us to you electronically, you must send us an email to mayur.pal@ktu.lt and in the body of such request you must state your email address, full name, mailing address, and telephone number. We will bill you for any fees at that time, if any.

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To inform us that you no longer wish to receive future notices and disclosures in electronic format you may:

- i. decline to sign a document from within your signing session, and on the subsequent page, select the check-box indicating you wish to withdraw your consent, or you may;
- ii. send us an email to mayur.pal@ktu.lt and in the body of such request you must state your email, full name, mailing address, and telephone number. We do not need any other information from you to withdraw consent.. The consequences of your withdrawing consent for online documents will be that transactions may take a longer time to process..

Required hardware and software

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Acknowledging your access and consent to receive and sign documents electronically

To confirm to us that you can access this information electronically, which will be similar to other electronic notices and disclosures that we will provide to you, please confirm that you have read this ERSD, and (i) that you are able to print on paper or electronically save this ERSD for your future reference and access; or (ii) that you are able to email this ERSD to an email address where you will be able to print on paper or save it for your future reference and access. Further, if you consent to receiving notices and disclosures exclusively in electronic format as described herein, then select the check-box next to ‘I agree to use electronic records and signatures’ before clicking ‘CONTINUE’ within the DocuSign system.

By selecting the check-box next to ‘I agree to use electronic records and signatures’, you confirm that:

- You can access and read this Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure; and
- You can print on paper this Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure, or save or send this Electronic Record and Disclosure to a location where you can print it, for future reference and access; and
- Until or unless you notify Pal as described above, you consent to receive exclusively through electronic means all notices, disclosures, authorizations, acknowledgements, and other documents that are required to be provided or made available to you by Pal during the course of your relationship with Pal.

Certificate Of Completion

Envelope Id: 3F11D06601E347799F72DDA2A767C031	Status: Completed
Subject: Complete with DocuSign: Complete_with_DocuSign_Final_Joint_Statment.pdf	
Source Envelope:	
Document Pages: 7	Signatures: 1
Certificate Pages: 1	Initials: 1
AutoNav: Enabled	Envelope Originator: Mayur Pal mayur.pal@ktu.lt
Enveloped Stamping: Enabled	IP Address: 78.56.147.153
Time Zone: (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)	

Record Tracking

Status: Original 3/13/2024 6:16:36 AM	Holder: Mayur Pal mayur.pal@ktu.lt	Location: DocuSign
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Signer Events

Mayur Pal (Program Manager - BASRECCS and Program Chair BCF 2023)
mayur.pal@ktu.lt
Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

Signature

DocuSigned by:
Mayur Pal (Program Manager - BASRECCS and Program Chair BCF 2023)
250738063154CE

Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style
Using IP Address: 78.56.147.153

Timestamp

Sent: 3/13/2024 6:17:49 AM
Viewed: 3/13/2024 6:18:24 AM
Signed: 3/13/2024 6:19:19 AM

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:
Not Offered via DocuSign

In Person Signer Events**Signature****Timestamp****Editor Delivery Events****Status****Timestamp****Agent Delivery Events****Status****Timestamp****Intermediary Delivery Events****Status****Timestamp****Certified Delivery Events****Status****Timestamp****Carbon Copy Events****Status****Timestamp****Witness Events****Signature****Timestamp****Notary Events****Signature****Timestamp****Envelope Summary Events****Status****Timestamps**

Envelope Sent	Hashed/Encrypted	3/13/2024 6:17:49 AM
Certified Delivered	Security Checked	3/13/2024 6:18:24 AM
Signing Complete	Security Checked	3/13/2024 6:19:19 AM
Completed	Security Checked	3/13/2024 6:19:19 AM

Payment Events**Status****Timestamps**