

## CO<sub>2</sub> Value Europe inviting the Spanish presidency of the EU to finalise the Fit-for-55 package and prepare the ground for 2040 EU climate targets

CO<sub>2</sub> Value Europe is the European Association representing the Carbon Capture and Utilisation (CCU) community in Europe and working for the recognition of CCU as an essential pathway to reach EU climate goals in 2030, 2040 and 2050. We represent more than 85 stakeholders along the entire CCU value chain.

CCU refers to established and innovative industrial processes that aim at capturing carbon – either from industrial point sources, including from biogenic sources, or directly from the air – and transforming it into value-added products such as synthetic fuels, chemicals and building materials. CCU technologies lead to the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and eventually substitution of fossil resources by non-fossil resources.

As a CCU community, we will hold our member's annual event, the [CO<sub>2</sub> Value Days](#), on 5 and 6 October in Barcelona, and we look forward to engaging in Spain with local and national authorities, companies, start-ups, academics that are helping in boosting the climate transition in Spain and in Europe.

CO<sub>2</sub> Value Europe supports the [programme](#) of the Spanish presidency of the Council of the European Union for second half of 2023. We welcome in particular the following priorities:

**FIT FOR  
55**

**Finalising the Fit-for-55 package:** the Spanish presidency “*will continue to promote the legislative proposals on energy contained in the Fit for 55 initiative, related to the promotion of energy from renewable sources, energy and building efficiency, energy taxation and sustainable mobility and transportation*”. We fully support such priorities as the Fit-for-55 legislations will be crucial to boost the deployment of renewable and low carbon energy. Creating financial incentives to make fossil-free alternatives more accessible than fossil equivalents is crucial to move away from the use of fossil fuels in Europe – for example by having zero taxation rates for CCU fuels for aviation and maritime as proposed in the review of the Energy Taxation Directive.



**Fast-tracking the adoption of Net Zero Industry Act:** the programme lists that “*among the dossiers to which special attention will be paid are the Critical Raw Materials Act, the Net Zero Industry Act and the Ecodesign Regulation*”. We encourage in particular the Presidency to adopt rapidly the Net Zero Industry Act, and to include as strategic net zero technologies CCU projects which will be crucial to defossilise the hardest to abate sectors.



**Supporting the deployment of renewable hydrogen:** the Presidency strongly signals that *“renewable hydrogen will play an essential role in achieving the full decarbonisation of our economy, especially in the industrial sector and in heavy transport”*. We see this priority as essential for decreasing emissions in industry and transport, also through renewable hydrogen derivatives such as CCU fuels, for sectors where directly uptaking hydrogen is not possible, e.g., aviation & maritime.



**Reinforcing strategic, technological and energy autonomy:** the Presidency emphasises the need to *“reindustrialise the European Union and guarantee its open strategic autonomy”*. We commend this priority as reindustrialisation will be a centrepiece for the energy sovereignty and autonomy of the EU, in particular by supporting the production of fossil-free fuels, chemicals and materials.

**CO<sub>2</sub> Value Europe also invites the Spanish presidency to consider other important energy and climate policies and instruments that have not been explicitly mentioned in its programme:**



**Setting a clear horizon with ambitious 2040 climate target for Europe:** the European Commission launched a consultation for setting GHG reduction targets in the EU for 2040. We see as paramount the support from EU member states to set a clear horizon for long-term climate goals, including by preparing the ground for future legislations and policy instruments to be tabled to enable Europe to be on track to reach climate neutrality, for example by supporting the deployment of CCU projects.



**Supporting an EU Strategy for Industrial Carbon Management:** the European Commission launched a consultation on ‘Industrial Carbon Management’, which looks at the needed action to support the deployment of CCU, CDR (carbon dioxide removals) and CCS (Carbon Capture and Storage) with a view to publish an EU Communication on the matter by end 2023. We encourage the Spanish presidency to support this process and its completion by the end of the year.



**Promoting carbon circularity to defossilise everyday products:** as the EU is reviewing rules around waste, packaging waste, textiles, chemicals or eco-design for sustainable products, we see that a key missing part of the debate is where the carbon feedstock is coming from: whether we extract additional fossil resources to produce building blocks to manufacture everyday products, or if we reuse unavoidable carbon to reduce the climate impact of such products. While it is crucial to promote reduction, reuse and recycling as vital concepts for a circular Europe, we urge EU authorities to also embrace the concept of carbon circularity and address the upstream part of the chain, by promoting the uptake of alternative carbon feedstock to move away from fossil resources, e.g. by setting binding targets and incentives for the use of non-fossil carbon feedstock in chemicals and plastics.

**We look forward to contributing to the work of the Spanish Presidency and Spanish stakeholders in the coming months, including during our [annual event](#), and to show the progress made by CCU projects and how they contribute to defossilising the economy and reaching EU climate targets.**

**Tudy Bernier**

*Senior Policy Manager*

CO<sub>2</sub> Value Europe

**T** +32 472.11.90.36

**E** [tudy.bernier@co2value.eu](mailto:tudy.bernier@co2value.eu)

**A** Ave. de Tervueren 188A, 1150, Brussels (BE)

**W** [www.co2value.eu](http://www.co2value.eu)