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## One step further for CO<sub>2</sub> capture at Belchatow power plant

**PGE Elektrownia Belchatow has today submitted its application for €180 million in EU funding for building a large-scale demonstration unit for CO<sub>2</sub> capture and storage (CCS) at Belchatow, the EU's biggest CO<sub>2</sub> emission source. This is a key milestone in eliminating CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from coal-fired power plants all across the EU.**

The project had already been selected as the Polish candidate to share a total of €1.05 billion with six other projects from the European Energy Programme for Recovery, a key element of the EU's efforts to boost economic activity in the current downturn.

- With this funding application, the PGE shows it wants to do CCS even if public funding pays for only part of the cost, says Pawel Sliwinski, advisor of the environmental foundation Bellona Europa in Poland.

It is expensive both to build and operate the equipment to capture, transport and store CO<sub>2</sub> geologically. The funding gap for CCS at the new 858 megawatt unit at Belchatow would exceed €1 billion.

- The Polish government has a responsibility to make CCS attractive to PGE and other utilities. If it does not want to fill the funding gap with subsidies, the government could instead make CCS attractive by making clear that it will introduce regulation to require future coal-fired power plants to capture and store their CO<sub>2</sub>, Sliwinski continues.

The Polish Electricity Association PKEE (including PGE and other Polish utilities) called in March for EU policy-makers to create the rules to eliminate all CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from EU power generation by 2050. As coal-fired power plants operate typically for 40-50 years, the regulatory certainty should be introduced now that the only possible future for coal is with CCS. This has already been adopted as government policy e.g. in Hungary.

The deadline for applying for the funds is July 15<sup>th</sup>. As the money is intended to help boost economic activity in the current economic recession, it will only be disbursed if PGE is able to subcontract for the project by the end of 2010. While it is likely to be provisionally awarded the €180 million, it will know so for sure by October or November after negotiations with the European Commission.

For further information on CCS, an animation video can be found [here](#) and an overview of CCS projects (as well as much other information on CCS) at [www.bellona.org/ccs](http://www.bellona.org/ccs)

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