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## **Fight against Climate Change: Italy catches up Europe in CCS innovative technology**

**The CO<sub>2</sub>-Capture-and-Storage (CCS) Porto Tolle project has today been submitted by ENEL for a € 100 million grant from the European Energy Programme for Recovery (EPR).**

### ***Italian steps ahead***

Italy seemed in the recent past among the laziest EU countries on Climate Change policy, but the G8 meeting on Energy in May and especially the summit of L'Aquila has put Italy in the centre of the debate.

A first visible action is the request, submitted today by ENEL to the European Commission, for €100 million from the EU's EPR for the construction of a CCS unit in Italy: in a coal-fired energy plant of more than 2.500 MW, planned to be set up in Porto Tolle next year, ENEL proposes to build up a CCS unit for abating CO<sub>2</sub> emissions coming from a 300 MW power production line. The €100 million from the EPR will cover about 12,5% of the total costs of the CCS: to receive the money, ENEL has to subcontract this amount by the end of 2010.

"We are happy of this concrete step ahead made by the main Italian energy utility, but we have to underline that it is just a drop in the ocean, and it's not clear where they will find all the funds for finalizing the project", Luca Santarossa, Bellona Europa Italian Contact Point, says.

### ***Funding gap: public subsidies are not the main way for CCS deployment***

It's a matter of fact that it is expensive both to build and operate the equipment to capture, transport and store CO<sub>2</sub> geologically. Porto Tolle CCS project indeed will cost around 800 Million, and ENEL hopes to receive another 300 million from a distinct EU funding scheme for CCS. But who will pay the missing 400 Million for finishing the CCS plant in Porto Tolle?

"Private sector is not willing to invest huge amounts of money in CCS as long as they don't have to: of course they prefer to build fossil fuels-fired power plants without expensive CCS", Santarossa continues.

"Following the polluter-pays principle, it should not be that tax-payers pay instead of ENEL to reduce its emissions. Therefore we ask for other tools for phasing out polluting power generation, like regulatory frameworks for imposing CO<sub>2</sub> abating systems on all the existing and planned power plants. In that case, CCS technology would become commercially available already in 2015 when the first demonstration projects are up and running", Santarossa concludes.

### ***ENEL must achieve social acceptance for Porto Tolle CCS project***

There is an opposition at local level on the deployment of a big coal-fired electric power plant in Porto Tolle. This is because it is a reconversion of an existing oil-fired power plant located in

a Natural Park of national value, that was expected to be decommissioned. The operation of a huge coal-fired power plant instead raises the risk of a number of environmental impacts at local level.

“We expect ENEL to take these issues seriously. CCS cannot and should not be deployed against local communities. So it is crucial that ENEL gets his first CCS project effective not only technically but also socially,” Santarossa affirms.

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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