

Carbon capture, utilisation and storage/carbon removals

Brief description and main aims:

Carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) involves the capture of CO₂, typically from large point sources such as power generation or industrial facilities that use either fossil fuels or biomass as fuel. If not used on site, the captured CO₂ is compressed and transported by pipeline, ship, rail or truck for use in a variety of applications or injected into deep geological formations.

CCUS can be retrofitted to existing power and industrial plants, allowing them to continue operating. It can tackle emissions in hard-to-curb sectors, particularly heavy industries such as cement or steel, which are widely used as construction materials.

The European Commission has published plans for 'industrial carbon management' in Europe, including the development of a dense CO₂ transport network. CCUS is seen as an integral part of the EU's strategy to reduce CO₂ emissions by 90% by 2040 (proposed target for 2040) and become carbon neutral by 2050.

Why FIEC is dealing with this topic:

CCUS can be retrofitted to existing power and industrial plants, allowing them to continue operating. It can address emissions in hard-to-abate sectors, particularly heavy industries such as cement or steel, which are widely used building materials. CCUS can therefore help the sector as a whole to reduce or even 'capture' its emissions, particularly the embodied carbon created in the production phase of building materials.

In addition, many construction companies provide services such as the construction of CO₂ transport networks and storage sites. A European framework for carbon management would therefore be a business opportunity for contractors.

Actions and key dates:

December 2023 → European Commission Communication on Sustainable Carbon Cycles.

30/03/2024 → European Commission proposal for an EU-wide voluntary framework to certify carbon removals.

06/02/2024 → Industrial Carbon Management Strategy and proposal for 2040 climate target.

20/02/2024 → Agreement on Regulation on a Union certification framework for permanent carbon removals.

25/03/2024 → [FIEC Position Paper](#) on the 2040 climate target, net zero and the role of CCU/S technologies.