

Public consultation on Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) – 2027 call

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Dear participant,

Through this survey, VLAIO aims to gain a better understanding of the Flemish landscape for CO₂ capture, transport and storage (CCS). The results will be used to further develop a future support measure and align it with the needs and opportunities of companies in Flanders.

VLAIO has been tasked with organising a one-off call for large-scale CCS projects in basic industry, with an indicative budget of EUR 1 billion. The support call will be designed on the basis of the CEEAG Guidelines (Guidelines on State aid for climate, environmental protection and energy 2022, Official Journal of the EU C 80/1 of 18 February 2022). It must be notified to and approved by the European Commission in advance. This survey also serves as the public consultation provided for in point 99 of the CEEAG.

The call targets large-scale, structural industrial projects in basic industry with a high absolute and direct CO₂ impact, for which investment decisions do not arise naturally in the current economic context. The call will be launched no earlier than the second quarter of 2027.

Support through a CCfD (Carbon Contract for Difference) will operate in both directions. If market conditions are unfavourable, the company will receive a higher subsidy. Under favourable conditions, subsidies will be lower. If circumstances change to such an extent that the investment becomes sufficiently profitable, the payment flow may be reversed, from the company back to the government.

The input provided by your company or organization through this questionnaire helps us substantiate our application to the European Commission with high-quality information and shape the call in line with the ambitions and expectations of the target audience. Thanks to your contribution, we gain a better understanding of the market, project plans, and the conditions required for the successful deployment of CCS in Flanders. The input from your company or organization will be used solely for this purpose.

Participation is entirely voluntary and has no impact on any future support application by your company.

The information provided in this questionnaire will be used by VLAIO exclusively to analyse and process the results. Individual company data will be treated as confidential commercial and industrial information and will not be reported separately or disclosed to third parties. Results will only be communicated in aggregate form so that individual companies cannot be identified.

VLAIO takes the necessary measures to process the data securely and confidentially. More information on how VLAIO processes personal data is available at www.vlaio.be/privacybeleid.

To make this survey more accessible, an English-language version was prepared with the support of artificial intelligence. Although this translation was reviewed with due care, minor discrepancies with the Dutch version may occur. In the event of differences in interpretation, the Dutch version shall prevail.

Questions?

If you have any questions while completing this questionnaire, please contact bart.decaesemaeker@vlaio.be.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

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Respondent identification

* 1. Name of the company/organisation*

* 2. What is your name?*

* 3. What is your position within the company/organisation?*

* 4. What is your email address?*

* 5. Do you have the appropriate information to answer this survey on behalf of your company/organisation, and do you have management approval to complete it?*

☐ Yes

☐ No

* 6. You are completing this survey on behalf of:*

☐ A company considering a CCS project.

☐ A stakeholder wishing to provide feedback on the future CCS call.

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6. You are completing this survey on behalf of:*

is gelijk aan A stakeholder wishing to provide feedback on the future CCS call.

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Project identification

* 7. In which sector does your company operate?*

☐ Chemical industry

☐ Petroleum refining

☐ Non-ferrous metals

☐ Rubber and plastics industry

☐ Building materials

☐ Other:

☐ Petrochemical industry

☐ Steel industry

☐ Primary metals industry

☐ Food industry

☐ Construction industry

* 8. Is your company considering collaboration, for example in a consortium, to capture, transport and store CO₂?*

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Not yet decided

9. What is the main reason why your company would consider collaborating with other CO₂-emitting companies?*

*** 10. Does your company intend to submit a project proposal for support?***

- ☐ Yes, under the next call ☐ Yes, but only under a later call
☐ Maybe ☐ No

*** 11. What are the main reasons for your company to submit or not submit a project proposal?***

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10. Does your company intend to submit a project proposal for support?*

is gelijk aan No

*** 12. What is the name of the project your company would submit?***

*** 13. Which technologies will be used?***

*** 14. Briefly describe the project your company would submit in this context and the business processes to which your company intends to apply CCS.***

*** 15. The capture rate of a CCS project is the percentage of the CO₂ present that is removed from process gases or flue gases by the capture installation before it enters the atmosphere. What is the expected approximate CO₂ capture rate of your company's CCS project?***

- ☐ 0% to 20% ☐ 21% to 40%
☐ 41% to 60% ☐ 61% to 80%
☐ 81% to 100%

*** 16. What total annual CO₂ emissions does your company expect to avoid through implementation of the project after the start-up period, expressed in tonnes of CO₂ per year?***

- * 17. What annual tonnage of fossil CO₂ does your company expect to capture?
Please estimate in tonnes of CO₂ per year.*

- * 18. What annual tonnage of biogenic CO₂ does your company expect to capture?
Please estimate in tonnes of CO₂ per year.*

- * 19. To what extent are the following aspects sufficiently in place for the project to be implemented successfully?*

	1 Not in place at all	2 In place to a limited extent	3 Partially in place	4 Largely in place	5 Fully in place	Not applicable
Regulatory framework	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Permits	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Contracts and agreements with project partners	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Detailed project schedule	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Financing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Access to infrastructure	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other: <input type="text"/>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

- * 20. What is your company's preference regarding CO₂ transport and storage?
Rank the options, with 1 as the highest preference and 4 as the lowest. Only rank routes you are genuinely considering.*

☐ 1
☐ 2
☐ 3
☐ 4

Transport by pipeline from Zeebrugge to Norway, the UK or elsewhere

☐ 1
☐ 2
☐ 3
☐ 4

Dispatch via the Antwerp terminal and by ship

☐ 1
☐ 2
☐ 3
☐ 4

Transport via pipeline to the Netherlands

☐ 1
☐ 2
☐ 3
☐ 4

Other

Bijkomende opties (vraag 20)

21. If you selected 'Other' in the previous question, please explain briefly.

* 22. If your preferred option is unavailable, would your company be willing to use another option?*

- ☐ Yes ☐ No
- ☐ Not yet decided

23. If you answered 'No' or 'Not yet decided', please explain your answer to the previous question.

* 24. Is your company considering switching from CCS to CCU?*

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

25. Under what circumstances could a switch to CCU become attractive to your company?

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10. Does your company intend to submit a project proposal for support?*

is gelijk aan No

Financing

* 26. If VLAIO were to organise a call for CCS projects through a Carbon Contract for Difference (CfD), up to what ETS price, in euros per tonne of CO₂ avoided or captured, would your company expect to request support? In other words, what would your approximate bid price or strike price be?
Please answer in euros per tonne of CO₂.*

* 27. This bid price:*

- ☐ Is sufficient for your company to cover the project costs. ☐ Is not sufficient for your company to cover the project costs.

☐ Allows the project costs to be exceeded.

28. Would it benefit your company if the bid price or strike price were indexed annually?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ No opinion

*** 29. Provide an average long-term price expectation (10 or 15 years) for the ETS CO₂ price on which your bid (strike price) is based.***

*** 30. What savings in EU ETS emission allowances do you expect to realise, expressed in euros?***

**31. What average price for carbon removal certificates does your company assume?
Please estimate in euros per tonne of CO₂.**

32. How much revenue from carbon removal certificates does your company expect to generate, expressed in euros?

*** 33. Has the project already been selected for European funding?***

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Decision not known yet

*** 34. Does your company expect European co-financing for this project?***

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Not yet known

*** 35. From which European fund does your company expect to receive co-financing?***

☐ EU Innovation Fund

☐ Connecting Europe Facility

☐ LIFE

☐ Other:

☐ None of the above

*** 36. What amount or percentage of European co-financing does your company currently assume?***

- * 37. What total amount of public support does your company consider necessary to implement this project?
Public support means all financial support provided by Flemish, federal or European governments and their agencies.*

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10. Does your company intend to submit a project proposal for support?
is gelijk aan No

Planning

- * 38. When does your company plan to take the final investment decision (FID)?*

- ☐ Q3 2027
☐ Q1 2028
☐ Q3 2028
☐ Q1 2029
☐ Q3 2029
☐ Other:

- ☐ Q4 2027
☐ Q2 2028
☐ Q4 2028
☐ Q2 2029
☐ Q4 2029

39. Which factors could influence the FID, and to what extent?

- * 40. What is the target date for your project to become operational?*

- ☐ 2030
☐ 2032
☐ 2034
☐ Other:

- ☐ 2031
☐ 2033
☐ 2035

- * 41. What is the latest possible date for your project to become operational?*

- ☐ 2031
☐ 2033
☐ 2035
☐ 2032
☐ 2034
☐ Other:

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Your input on the CCS support call

VLAIO has been tasked with organising a one-off call for large-scale CCS projects in basic industry, with an indicative budget of €1 billion.

The call, which will take place in the second quarter of 2027 at the earliest, is aimed at large-scale, structural, industrial projects in the basic industries with a high absolute and direct CO₂ impact, for which investment decisions do not arise naturally in the current economic context.

The call for proposals will be designed in accordance with the CEEAG Guidelines (Guidelines on State aid for climate, environmental protection and energy 2022, Official Journal of the European Union C 80/1 of 18 February 2022) and will need to be notified to the European Commission in advance and approved by it before implementation.

VLAIO aims to develop an approach that maximises the likelihood of successfully launching the CCS value chain. To launch a transport route, sufficient volumes of CO₂ must be available for transport. We therefore aim to allow projects to participate in the actual bidding process that, through sufficiently large combined volumes, can facilitate the establishment of a transport route. This must be demonstrated during the first submission phase.

Two-phase call

The call will proceed in two phases. All interested companies will have the opportunity to submit a substantiated project proposal with an initial bid, expressed in euros per tonne of avoided CO₂ emissions, thereby gaining access to the negotiation phase.

Using predefined objective criteria, VLAIO will determine which projects may proceed to the second phase: the actual bidding procedure, in which companies can submit a final bid.

Project proposals that do not meet the criteria for access to the bidding process will have the opportunity to revise their proposal and bid in negotiation with VLAIO.

VLAIO will admit only sufficiently mature projects to the bidding process.

With this approach, VLAIO aims to maximize the likelihood of successfully launching the CCS value chain by concentrating the CO₂ volumes from supported projects as much as possible through a limited number of transport and storage routes. After all, the establishment of such a route requires the availability of sufficient CO₂ volumes.

Input from your company or organisation

To align the call as closely as possible with the needs and capabilities of the target group, we welcome your company or organisations input on the future CCS support call. The answers provided in this survey will have no impact on any support application submitted by your company.

The future support call

*** 42. VLAIO intends to award support through a competitive bidding procedure using Contracts for Difference. Do you consider this an appropriate method for awarding support?***

☐ Yes

☐ No

43. If you wish, you may further explain your answer here.

*** 44. Do you expect sufficient competition among the projects that will submit an application for support?***

☐ Yes

☐ No

45. If you answered 'No' to the previous question, please explain why you do not expect sufficient competition among applicant projects.

* 46. VLAIO intends to organise a separate CCS call in which CCS projects do not compete with other decarbonisation technologies. Do you consider this justified?*

☐ Yes

☐ No

47. Please explain your previous answer.

* 48. Which elements must be included in the support call to ensure that it adequately supports the European climate objectives?*

* 49. To what extent should supported projects demonstrate that they fit within a pathway towards climate neutrality by 2050?*

☐ This should be an explicit condition

☐ This should be encouraged but not mandatory

☐ This is not necessary

☐ No opinion

50. If you wish, you may explain your answer here:

* 51. Which of the following conditions do you consider desirable for supported projects?*

☐ Minimum capture rate

☐ Permanent geological storage of CO₂

☐ Mandatory monitoring and reporting of emission reductions

☐ Recovery of support if the intended emission reductions are not achieved

☐ Other, please specify:

* 52. Which measures do you consider appropriate to limit the risk that support leads to long-term dependence on fossil fuels or carbon-intensive production processes?*

- * 53. VLAIO is considering initially using predefined objective criteria to assess whether a project is suitable for admission to the bidding procedure. The criteria under consideration include at least the selected transport route, and possibly the willingness to remain flexible regarding that route, the intended start date and possible time window for starting the project, and the maturity of the project proposal.**

Please comment on the criteria under consideration.

Are there any additional criteria that you consider useful during the negotiation procedure?*

The contract for selected projects

- * 54. The Flemish Government intends to offer contracts with a term of 10 years.
What expectations or points for attention does your company have regarding this approach?***

- * 55. Do you believe that projects receiving support should comply with additional safeguards to ensure compatibility with the climate objectives of the European Union?***

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ No opinion

- * 56. Do you believe that supported projects should periodically demonstrate that the expected emission reductions are actually being achieved?***

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ No opinion

- 57. If you answered 'Yes' to the previous question, which indicators should at minimum be monitored?**

- * 58. VLAIO is examining ways to discourage improper project proposals, for example through a financial penalty if a submitted project proves not to be serious or feasible.
What expectations or points for attention does your company have regarding such an approach?***

- * 59. Down to what EU ETS CO₂ price level (floor price) do you consider it important for a CCfD (Carbon Contract for Difference) to provide protection against falling EU ETS CO₂ prices? In other words, from what price level is your company willing to assume this risk?*

- * 60. For clarity, the intention is to apply the same floor price throughout the entire contract term, for example EUR 70 per tonne of avoided CO₂ emissions. If the ETS CO₂ price falls, the decrease would in that case be compensated down to EUR 70 per tonne of avoided CO₂ emissions. At lower CO₂ prices, the subsidy would not be adjusted further. ETS CO₂ prices are expected to rise gradually over time. Consequently, the likelihood of the ETS CO₂ price falling below this value at the end of the contract term is considered very small.

What is your view on an alternative approach under which the floor price, meaning the price down to which decreases in the ETS CO₂ price are compensated, would be raised gradually and to a limited extent during the contract term, to for example EUR 100 per tonne by 2040?*

- * 61. Following this questionnaire, we may organise a number of short interviews with companies willing to participate further. Would you be interested in taking part?*

☐ Yes

☐ No

Your responses have been recorded!

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Your responses are extremely valuable to us.

If you have any additional questions about this survey or would like to provide further clarification, please feel free to contact bart.decaesemaeker@vlaio.be.