

NON PAPER

**Meeting between
Norwegian Minister of Petroleum and Energy Ms Thorhild Widvey
and
Commissioner for Energy, Mr Andris Piebalgs**

**in
Oslo, Norway on 6 July 2005**

Subject: CO₂ capture and storage and enhanced oil recovery

At the meeting between Minister Widvey and Commissioner Piebalgs on 17 January 2005, it was agreed to undertake a bilateral effort to explore possible areas of cooperation to encourage the use of CO₂ for enhanced oil recovery (EOR). The joint effort should also include capture and geological storage of CO₂, the aim being to contribute to speeding up the progress towards more secure and sustainable energy production and use in Europe.

As a result of this work, Minister Widvey and Commissioner Piebalgs have today noted the following:

- The European Commission, represented by Directorate General for Energy and Transport, will join the informal forum that has been established by Norway, the United Kingdom and Denmark to exchange information and discuss issues in relation to the use of CO₂ for enhanced oil recovery and storage in the North Sea.
- The European Union's 6th framework programme for R&D encourages research activities and projects in the field of carbon dioxide capture and storage. A European research project lead by Norway on technologies for zero emission power generation, which includes enhanced oil recovery as part of the research, is currently in an advanced stage of preparation.
- The Norwegian Government strongly supports the important role that CO₂ capture and storage has been given in the Commission's proposal for its 7th research framework programme (FP 7).
- Norway intends to participate in the 7th research framework programme through the European Economic Area Agreement, and will actively use the

instruments provided in this agreement to support the Commission's proposal.

- The Commission and the Norwegian Government agree that international co-operation is needed to develop cost-efficient carbon dioxide capture and storage solutions, the long term goal being the realisation of full-scale solutions for carbon dioxide capture and storage.
- The Commission and the Norwegian Government will co-operate on promoting European industrial development based on technologies for carbon dioxide capture and storage. One important task is to keep this topic high on the general research agenda in Europe.
- Major challenges in relation to using CO₂ for enhanced oil recovery include the high cost of applying new technologies and the large amount of CO₂ needed at the project site for the economic viability of the investment. In order to make the use of CO₂ for enhanced oil recovery more attractive, and make this a cost-efficient climate change option in the future, the Commission and the Norwegian Government will jointly address these challenges.
- Geological storage of CO₂ needs to be accepted by European citizens as a safe and secure method of reducing CO₂ emissions. Consequently, the Commission and the Norwegian Government will give considerable emphasis to ensuring that potential demonstration facilities and sites are properly monitored, and that reliable public information from such projects are duly disbursed.
