

Memorandum of Understanding to promote bilateral cooperation in the field of carbon capture and storage (CCS), and exploring future areas of energy cooperation related to the North Sea

Between the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy of the Kingdom of Norway and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy of the Netherlands (hereinafter “the Signatories”)

Acknowledging the importance of the bilateral relationship between Norway and the Netherlands and our shared values and interests.

Appreciating the long-standing energy cooperation and trade between Norway and the Netherlands.

Recognising the increased emphasis on the role of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) in achieving global climate goals.

Emphasising the important role of CCS in meeting national climate targets. CCS technology may help instigate emission reductions in hard to abate sectors and contribute to meeting our high ambitions in relation to the green transition and net zero emissions.

Appreciating the close cooperation in international fora such as the North Sea Basin Task Force, The Zero Emission Platform Government Group, the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum and the Clean Energy Ministerial CCUS Initiative.

Acknowledging the importance of regional cooperation among the countries around the North Sea in supporting cross-border energy infrastructure and subsea carbon storage facilities and deployment.

1. Political dialogue

Norway and the Netherlands have a long-standing energy dialogue on gas supply, electricity exchange, electricity interconnectors, market design and CCS. Bilaterally the Signatories will continue to engage closely on shared interests in energy, including exploring additional topics for cooperation.

2. Bilateral cooperation in strategic areas

The Signatories decide to promote mutually beneficial cooperation on the development and deployment of CCS, and further explore other relevant green energy topics for bilateral cooperation.

a. CCS

An objective of this Memorandum of Understanding is to jointly work towards establishing and formalising a bilateral cooperation on carbon capture and storage between the Signatories. This will be finalised in 2022.

The formalised cooperation will:

- promote the development of CCS and cooperation between Norway and the Netherlands in the field by creating a framework for cooperation between the Signatories to facilitate their sharing of technical knowledge, skills and expertise in the field of CCS.

- Overcome the technical and legal challenges concerning international CO₂ transport and storage activities between the two countries, in particular taking into consideration the requirements of the London Protocol and other relevant international and European regulations.

b. Green energy transition

The Netherlands and Norway take part in the North Sea Energy Cooperation together with nine other countries around the North Sea. The Signatories' energy systems are closely interlinked by the common regulatory framework shared within the European Economic Area and the establishment of the cross-border electricity interconnection NorNed since 2008.

Norway and the Netherlands are like-minded countries in the field of energy and will further explore possible areas of future bilateral cooperation related to the green transition, inter alia, topics related to hydrogen and offshore renewable energy.

Trondheim on the 11th of November 2021.

*The Minister of Petroleum and Energy of the
Kingdom of Norway*

Marte Mjøs Persen

*For the State Secretary for Economic Affairs and
Climate Policy of the Netherlands*

*Ben Knapen
The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands*