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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Timmermans  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(5.5.2020)

The in-depth analysis underpinning the communication “A clean planet for all” shows that to be climate neutral by 2050, the EU will have to rely on a substantial amount of carbon removals. Carbon capture and use (CCU) is one of several options for carbon removals. In some cases, carbon is only stored temporarily with limited climate mitigation potential and, as pointed out by the Scientific Advice Mechanism report, heavy reliance on resources, i.e. electricity and CO<sub>2</sub>. Other CCU projects have a greater potential to reduce emissions.

The Commission is committed to address CCU in the wider context of establishing a regulatory framework on carbon removals. In the recently adopted Circular Economy Action Plan<sup>1</sup> the Commission announced:

“To incentivise the uptake of carbon removal and increased circularity of carbon, in full respect of the biodiversity objectives, the Commission will explore the development of a regulatory framework for certification of carbon removals based on robust and transparent carbon accounting to monitor and verify the authenticity of carbon removals.”

The Commission aims to propose such a regulatory framework in 2023. In the short term, the Innovation Fund under the EU Emissions Trading System, which is designed to support innovative low-carbon emission technologies in taking off and reaching the market, provides an opportunity to bring CCU projects that have potential to reduce emissions closer to market. The Commission aims to launch the first call under this fund in 2020, followed by regular calls until 2030.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1583933814386&uri=COM:2020:98:FIN>