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The 13th CO₂GeoNet Open Forum – Climate change and the science of geological CO₂ storage

To help address the pressing need to reduce CO₂ emissions, from 24 to 26 April, an international conference was held on the Island of San Servolo in Venice (Italy) to share the latest findings on CO₂ Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS).

Scenarios from the IPCC and IEA show that CO₂ capture and storage (CCS) is key to achieving our climate goals in time. The technology is proven and there are 17 large-scale projects worldwide. The cost per tonne CO₂ avoided is comparable with other climate mitigation technologies. It is now time to rollout the technology, as the theme of this year's Open Forum 'Growing CCS for a sustainable future' indicates, in order to realise the contribution that CCS can make to meet the Paris Agreement targets.

During the conference, many speakers highlighted the importance of local actions, and one of the aims of the event was to enable dialogue between people working on CCUS across the world, to help build the global solution for climate change. Early implementation of CCUS projects and networks will happen in urbanized, industrial regions. Applied research should therefore assist local and regional stakeholders in accelerating large scale CCS and getting CCUS projects off the ground, including offering civil society the opportunity engage more fully, so that the added value of CCS for society can be realised.

The president of the CO₂GeoNet Association, Ton Wildenborg of TNO, declared: "As the presentations and discussions have made clear, the science behind CO₂ storage is at an advanced stage and of high quality. Now all the elements that are necessary for large scale deployment have to be linked together and be made comprehensible to all stakeholders, including civil society, NGOs and the media".

The CO₂GeoNet Association, a network of 29 research organisations from 21 European countries, organized the Open Forum. In addition to scientists working on CCUS, the Open Forum was attended by representatives from the European Commission, national governments, industry, NGOs and the media. Around 120 experts convened from 27 countries inside and outside Europe.