

## PRESS RELEASE

# EU Industrial Carbon Management Strategy: Watershed moment for industrial decarbonisation, but clarity on projections lacking

**Tuesday, February 6, 2024 | Brussels, Belgium** - Bellona Europa welcomes the European Commission's EU Industrial Carbon Management Strategy (ICMS) published today alongside the [Communication on the 2040 Target](#), marking an important milestone for the EU's path towards climate neutrality.

A long-awaited Strategy, it marks a crucial step in the right direction to enable CCS to play its necessary role on the path to net-zero. The communication outlines a plan for a comprehensive policy framework kick-start a European market for CO<sub>2</sub> to reduce emissions from harder-to-abate emission sources with no or few alternatives to decarbonise.

The Strategy reflects many of the points that Bellona Europa has called for over the past three decades of working on industrial decarbonisation. A proposed regulatory package for transport and storage will aim to address ongoing challenges facing the development of a European CO<sub>2</sub> market, and planning mechanisms for infrastructure, information sharing, and clearer emission accounting rules are much-needed proposals put forward in this Strategy.

Despite for measures targeting the development of a market for low-carbon products, such initiatives seem to have been overlooked in the Strategy. Notably, while the Strategy outlines several important legislative initiatives it does not come with a mandate for implementation and follow-through, left to the next European Commission.

*"While this is a much-needed communication, it is of crucial importance that there is accountability to ensure that the legislative initiatives and plans set out in the Strategy are included in the next European Commission's Work Program with a clear mandate for timely completion."* – **Lina Strandvåg Nagell, Senior Manager, Bellona Europa**

The Strategy published today also lacks clarity on the underlying assumptions of the projections presented. Specifically, the strategy does not elaborate on how to limit the need for CCS in a wider energy system where other scalable options for timely decarbonization are available. There also seems to be an overreliance on CCU and CDR, without clarifying how climate impact is assessed and climate benefit is ensured for CCU. For both CDR and CCU, the strategy does not assess how to solve the massive increase in energy demand such an overreliance would bring.

*"There is a need for clarification on the assumptions in the modelling underpinning the Strategy, to ensure the projections are consistent with efforts to decarbonise our energy system to make best use of limited resources in an efficient and timely manner"* - **Hanna Biro, Policy Advisor, Bellona Europa**

### **Contact:**

Bellona Europa is an international, independent and non-profit organisation that meets environmental and climate challenges head on. We are solutions-oriented and have a comprehensive and cross-sectoral approach to assess the economics, climate impacts and technical feasibility of necessary climate actions. To do this, we work with civil society, academia, governments, institutions, and industries.

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