



**SDN** Schutzgemeinschaft  
Deutsche Nordseeküste e.V.

## Pressemeldung

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### **North Sea waste dump - first reading in the Bundestag - CO<sub>2</sub> to be pressed under the seabed**

**Schutzgemeinschaft Deutsche Nordseeküste e.V. (SDN) expresses strong concerns about the planned injection of CO<sub>2</sub> (CCS) under the North Sea floor as a misguided solution to climate protection**

**German North Sea.** Today, the Bundestag is debating the draft amendment to the Carbon Dioxide Storage and Transport Act (KSpTG) in the first reading. 'With the intention to dump CO<sub>2</sub> under the North Sea in the future, another type of waste disposal in the maritime habitat is on the horizon - in addition to the dumping of dredged material. Gerd-Christian Wagner, Chairman of the Schutzgemeinschaft Deutsche Nordseeküste e.V. (SDN), fears that this is a case of 'out of sight out of mind'. The RESCUE study has already shown that such underground injection (CCS) is not necessary to achieve greenhouse gas neutrality in Germany. According to the study, the utilisation of natural sinks such as forests and sustainable timber management alone would be completely sufficient. 'Instead, we need to do much more to combat the ever-increasing production of CO<sub>2</sub>.' It is important to reduce the production of greenhouse gases and not to store them in unsafe, costly and energy-intensive ways for future generations. 'Only this is truly sustainable and climate-friendly - and also completely risk-free.' What's more, the North Sea is already vastly overutilised as an industrial area, even without the window-dressing declared as a contribution to climate protection.

#### **A long-standing problem**

Back in 2011, the general meeting of the SDN in Husum passed a resolution against the storage of carbon dioxide from power plants and industry in the seabed under the North and Baltic Seas. According to the resolution, the only sensible way forward, and one that the population wanted, was a complete ban on CCS in Germany. Injecting industrial waste underground is dangerous and harmful to the environment - whether on land or at sea. The municipal environmental association also clearly criticised the liability risk associated with CCS technology. 'After 30 years, the liability risk will be transferred to the federal government and therefore to the taxpayers,' the SDN warned at the time.

#### **CCS technology**

Not only does CCS technology, with all its risks, not reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by a single gram. The separation of the gas, its risky transport through pipelines, by ship, rail or road to the storage site and injection underground also causes enormous additional energy consumption (according to the Federal Environment Agency, approx. 40 %) and high costs. In addition, a huge amount of land would be required for a network of separation plants, pipelines, intermediate storage facilities, transfer stations and harbours. And then there is the risk of a leakage with life-threatening effects on the groundwater, soil and neighbouring habitats and their inhabitants. And even the most technically adept monitoring system could only detect an accident, but not prevent it. 'The use of this technology gives more the impression of climate policy 'greenwashing' than a genuine search for a solution to the CO<sub>2</sub> problem,' fears Wagner, 'and everyone involved must always be aware that such a technical process cannot be sufficient to eliminate the pollution of the atmosphere caused by humans.' On the way to decarbonising our country, CCS could at best be a diversion, at worst a step backwards. By far the biggest success factor is simply producing less new CO<sub>2</sub>.



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### The alternative

And the fact that more and more companies from the energy sector - with a view to large German and EU climate protection funding pots - are currently coming forward with billion-euro investment ideas for CO<sub>2</sub> injection does not help to reassure him either, the SDN Chairman continued. There is clearly a market here that could see high growth rates in the future. For example, a pipeline around 900 kilometres long through the North Sea to Norway is planned, which should go into operation before 2032 and could transport 20 to 40 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year, around 20 percent of total German industrial emissions. 'The construction of new underwater pipelines would degrade the North Sea and the Wadden Sea even further into a hostile industrial area with land consumption, noise pollution and the risk of leaks,' the SDN Chairman points out. In addition, a potential conflict of utilisation should not be overlooked. The storage possibilities of natural gas and oil reservoirs on land and in the sea, which are almost empty, are physically limited in their capacity and are no longer available for the storage of energy sources such as hydrogen or natural gas. 'Once again, we are seeing a decision-making process in climate policy that is heavily overlaid by industrial interests. Instead of using the immense funding for energy savings in buildings, energy management in industry, the circular economy, reducing resource consumption, substitution and decarbonisation, for example.' This would avoid leaving another serious ecological and economic legacy for future generations.

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### Additional information:

#### The Schutzgemeinschaft Deutsche Nordseeküste e.V. (SDN)

is a supra-regional and non-profit environmental protection umbrella organisation that was founded in 1973 in response to extensive pollution of the North Sea. Since then, the conservation organisation has been committed to the protection of the North Sea as a living, economic and natural environment in a professional and cross-party manner. It serves around 200 municipalities, districts, nature conservation organisations, institutes, associations and individual members as a mouthpiece for the public as well as the ministerial administrations and parliaments of the federal government and the four North Sea coastal states. The common goal is to protect the unique features and beauty of the North Sea, the Wadden Sea and the neighbouring coastline from harmful human intervention and to find solutions to the problems of North Sea protection.

Some of the measures taken in recent decades in which the SDN has represented the interests of the coast as a lobby organisation and which are now considered to have been largely dealt with are the dumping of dilute acid, waste and sewage sludge, the emergency towing concept, antifouling, air monitoring, ballast water, tank cleaning, MARPOL I to IV and the acquisition of modern emergency tugs for the North Sea and Baltic Sea, as is currently the case for the Lower Elbe.

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