

Transatlantic Cooperation on Air Quality

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Combating Air Pollution and Climate Change: Bringing Solutions to Market

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Overview

- Action on Air Pollution and Climate Change is Urgently required
- Technological solutions are available but implementation is slow
- New technologies need to come to market more rapidly
- Technology developers and investors need clarity to develop products
- Government has a crucial role

Action on Air Pollution and Climate Change is Urgently required

- Air quality targets widely breached in EU members states (EU Café Project)
- Particulate Pollution (PM) and NO_x seen as especially difficult
- Many thousands of premature deaths arise from PM in Europe (WHO)
- Preventing dangerous climate change will require above 60% reduction in GHGs by 2050 (Stern)
- Measures on Air Pollution and Climate linked

Technological solutions are available but implementation is slow

- PM traps widely used in urban public transport but general fleet penetration low
- Alternative (CNG, e.g.) and bio-fuels have achieved only niche penetration in EU fleets
- Implementation of high efficiency energy technology (IGCC, e.g.) defeated by low replacement rate of old power stations

New technologies need to come to market more rapidly

- Transport Pollution: Joint PM/NO_x technologies await framework of regulation
- Estimate 50% of 2050 Carbon reduction target from new technologies
- New power technologies (CCS, e.g.) need favourable market conditions: price of allowances at annualised CCS cost

Technology developers and investors need clarity to develop products

- Investors and developers need to be sure markets will arise
- History of vacillation over standards and timetables reduces confidence
- Framework of challenging air quality goals and clear targets for climate change gases essential for further technology development
- Clear targets with tight allocations of allowances set C price to drive technology into market

Government has a crucial role

- Clear statement of what matters
- Support and create confidence in international management regimes (EU, UNECE, FCCC, Kyoto)
- Set demanding and complete targets, even if final target is remote (e.g. UK Government Aim of Policy on GHGs)
- Support demonstration projects
- Hold dialogue with environmental technology developers on potential performance and costs

Conclusions

- Action needed to accelerate implementation of current environmental technology
- Clear framework required for bringing new technology to market
- Standards/Targets and long-term Governmental vision crucial to market confidence
- Dialogue with environmental industries offers Governments knowledge of solutions