



## Public leadership: From Ambition to Action

Joost Hooghiem, Director CCS

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Thank you for being here today. It's a pleasure to speak at a moment **when CCS is moving from ideas on paper to real projects in the ground.**

Or, in our case, **under the seabed.**

My name is Joost Hooghiem and I'm the CCS Director at EBN, the state energy company of the Netherlands.

Today I want to talk about **why public organisations, like EBN, matter so much in this work.** What the Netherlands and Europe need from us, and **why we believe CCS will help us build a cleaner and stronger future together.**

Let me start with something simple:

**We are running out of time.**

Both the Netherlands and the European Union have made clear commitments.

**The Netherlands must cut emissions by more than half in 2030 and reach climate neutrality in 2050. Europe has set a 90% emissions-reduction goal for 2040.**

These are not just ambitions or dreams. **They are a necessity, a legal goal that we must reach. And want to reach, for our climate and for our children.**

And we all know the truth: some industries will continue to emit CO<sub>2</sub> in the coming years. Not because they don't want to change, but because their processes are complex, and clean alternatives are not yet fully ready. For these sectors, CCS is not a nice extra. **It is essential.** Without CCS, we will not meet our climate goals. **It's that simple.**

This is where public organisations come in.

Unlike private companies, **public partners carry a different kind of responsibility.** We are here to protect the overarching **public interest.** To **make sure the steps we take today are safe, long-lasting, and good for both people and industry.** We are also here **to give confidence,** to show that CCS can be done

- **safely,**
- **that it can work on a large scale,**
- **and that we can build this new market together.**

And that brings me to **EBN,** short for Energie Beheer Nederland.

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Many of you know our history. For more than **50 years,** EBN has worked on behalf of the Dutch State. We started in **oil and gas,** where we learned how to work with the subsurface, how to manage reservoirs, wells, and platforms, and how to run big projects with both public and private partners in joint ventures. **Today** we use that same knowledge and experience to support the energy transition and to fight climate change.

EBN is now the largest public investor in CCS in the Netherlands.

We hold 40% of all current **storage** developments.

We are one of the companies behind **Porthos,** alongside Gasunie and the Port of Rotterdam.

And we are one of the companies behind **Aramis,** together with Gasunie, TotalEnergies and Shell.

The red line across these partnerships is very clear:

**public companies working together — and working with industry — to build something that has never existed before.**

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CCS is not just a project. It is a whole new value chain. And building a new chain takes three T's: time, trust and teamwork. No single company can do this alone. Not EBN, not Gasunie, not any operator, not any emitter. We need to move as **one** system.

The good news is: the system is finally taking shape, moving and becoming real.

**Porthos is preparing for CO<sub>2</sub> injection later this year. (Dorus speaks later)**

**Aramis is moving forward toward its next milestone. (Annemarie speaks later)**

**Ten offshore storage sites are being developed and more on its way.**

And both politics, and companies across the country are taking CCS seriously.

To the emitters in the room: this is your time to act.

We know many of you are working hard to reduce your emissions. Some of you are close to making key decisions. My message is clear: do not wait for perfect conditions. Do not wait until others move. The sooner you commit, the more certainty you will have — on choice in transport, on choice in storage, on costs, and on your long-term licence to operate.

Those who move early and lead the way, will in my view benefit.

Those who wait risk falling behind.

And to the other players in the CCS market - from capture technology to engineering, regulators, ports and shipping - your role is also essential. CCS only works if every link in the chain works. And I am proud that, in the Netherlands, we are showing Europe how this can be done. And... in the same time embracing CCU and Carbon Dioxide Removal, aka negative emissions.

But moving forward is not a given. People see a lot of obstacles. We must keep pushing.

- We need stable policy making.
- We need long-term investment clarity.

- We need cross-border cooperation with our neighbours on the mainland and in the North Sea.
- We need monitoring and safety standards that everyone can understand and trust.
- And we need to continue sharing knowledge across industry and governments. Across borders.

**This is where public organisations like EBN make a real difference.**

**We connect.**

**We de-risk.**

**We bring knowledge.**

**And we stay — not just for a project phase, but for the long term.**

**We are not just helping build a CCS network.**

**We are building confidence.**

**Confidence for industry.**

**Confidence for society.**

**Confidence that we can meet our climate goals and keep strong, competitive industries in this country.**

**And that is why I am so optimistic.**

We stand on the edge of something important. A new chapter for the Netherlands, for Europe, and for our energy system. We are the first generation to build a CCS market, and we have the chance to do it right. For us, for our children, for our planet.

Let me close with this thought:

**We are not simply storing CO<sub>2</sub> under the North Sea.**

**We are creating space:**

- space for a better environment,
- space for cleaner industries,
- space for innovation,

- space for future generations,
- space for a climate-neutral Europe.

**EBN will continue to play its role.**

We will keep working **with** our public partners - Gasunie and the Port of Rotterdam.

We will keep working **with** our private partners - TotalEnergies, Shell, ONE-Dyas, Eni, Harbour Energy, and many others.

As we have one goal together: to give comfort to emitters, the ultimate customers of the CCS valuechain.

And most importantly, **we will keep working with all of you.**

Because the only way to build a new system like CCS, CCU and CDR, **is to build it together.**

Thank you.