

P1-4 EU Low Carbon Strategy and Research Needs from the LCS-RNet

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The European Council has set the target of 80-95% GHG emission reduction by 2050 compared to 1990 level consistent with IPCC recommendations. EU also set up the Climate and Energy Package 2009 of climate policies and measures in place to reach 2020 targets. As its key instrument, the amended EU Emission Trading as cross-sectoral instrument builds on the results of economic research. Currently as ongoing work on a 2050 low carbon strategy, the EU constructs, as key element of its Europe 2020 strategy, a roadmap to reach EU long term targets . The publication of the roadmap is planned for early 2011.

Under such circumstances, research inputs are needed including on the combination of options which are technically, economically and socially feasible and types of actions and policies that are effective and efficient in reducing emissions. The EU low carbon strategy is developed in a participatory approach including a stakeholder consultation and with involvement of many EU institutions.

More policy-oriented research with stronger socio-economic component and dealing with governance issues are also required. Key examples for research topics are:

- Link between deforestation, agriculture and mitigation: Need for better understanding of the complex mitigation options involved in land use, land use change and forestry, and for progress on a lot of methodological issues such as monitoring or the possible inclusion in carbon markets.
- Gradual development of a global carbon market: Researchers also need to inform policy makers on efficient and realistic policies and its impacts by providing a real or implicit price of carbon that could create incentives. In Emissions trading systems, researches for gradual development of a global carbon market are required to analyse more realistic intermediate stages and to inform the policy debate e.g. how to move gradually towards a cap and trade system in many countries.
- Mitigation options and policies on a regional scale: The improvement of the link from top-down approach to bottom-up approaches is also important research topic with better understand and compare differences between models and ways of their combination and better assessment of cost and benefits of policies