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Answer given by Mr Jørgensen
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Connecting Europe Facility for Energy (CEF-E) provides financing for projects of common interest and projects of mutual interest, including cross-border carbon dioxide transport and storage infrastructure¹. The CEF-E award decisions follow a transparent and competitive process assessed by independent external experts and the Commission². Since 2014, CEF-E has provided financial support in grants amounting to EUR 973 million to Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) projects.

More than 20 CO₂ storage projects are under development in the EU, including three projects that already received storage permits³. Seven additional CO₂ storage projects are applying for a permit in the EU. In total, these sites could contribute more than 19 million tonnes per year in CO₂ injection capacity.

Demand for storage still exceeds the foreseen supply, making it urgent that Member States make full use of the framework established by the Net-Zero Industry Act⁴ (NZIA) and recognise all projects as Net-Zero Strategic Projects. Member States should also provide streamlined permit-granting and financial support from their emission trading system (ETS) revenues.

Without prejudice to the outcome of the negotiations on the next multiannual financial framework, strategic CO₂ infrastructure could also be supported through the national regional and partnership plans and the European Competitiveness Fund proposals. The latter also foresees support to net-zero strategic projects and to scale-up net-zero value chains.

The Commission is currently implementing and preparing a number of measures seeking to foster improvements to the investment and deployment of Industrial Carbon Management⁵ value chains. In that context it will engage with Member States and stakeholders.

¹ Falling under the energy infrastructure categories set out in point (5) of Annex II of Regulation (EU) 2022/869.

² In accordance with the CEF Regulation (EU) 2021/1153 which lays down the rules governing how EU financial support is awarded and managed.

³ The Greensand site in Denmark, the Porthos site in the Netherlands, and the Prinos site in Greece.

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2024/1735.

⁵ COM/2024/62 final, Towards an ambitious Industrial Carbon Management for the EU.