



## **CCS Legislation in Germany is Threatening Geothermal Energy Potential**

**April 13th;** The German government is preparing another attempt to create a law on CCS, in order to fulfil the requirement stipulated within the EU CCS Directive. Cabinet discussion on 13 April 2011 shall result in a draft to be submitted to the German Parliament, the Bundestag. In a press release of the same day, the law firm GGSC, specialised in renewable energy legislation, draws attention to the risk of squeezing out geothermal energy uses from large areas as a result of this law.

**Hartmut Gassner**, founding member of **GGSC** and past president of the German Geothermal Association GtV-BV, points out that “the draft needs to be improved in order to allow the priority of renewable energies also against CCS exploration licenses”. He continues that the draft still underestimates the risk for banning other uses of the underground already if valid exploration licenses for CCS are granted, and that there is no maximum area or a limitation to specific regions for such licenses for CCS given in the draft. As a result, the short-term interests of large power producers to keep coal-based electricity production running can hinder severely the medium-term development of geothermal energy.

GGSC urges in its press release to limit clearly within the new law the exploration for CCS to a few demonstration fields, unless the feasibility and economy of CCS might be proven.

In the light of this possible development in Germany, and with the date for adapting national legislation in the EU member states to the CCS Directive drawing closer (end of June 2011), **EGEC** calls on the legislators in the member states to secure that the clean geothermal energy potential will not be blocked out by planning for CCS deposits.

**For more information contact:** Sarah Keane, Policy & Communication Officer, [s.keane@egec.org](mailto:s.keane@egec.org).