**Focus Group**

**Bridging the CDR funding gap: design options and policy choices**

***This meeting is under Chatham House Rule***

***Speakers are being confirmed***

**Date**: September 9, 2025

**Time**: 15-16:30

**Location**: Online

This Focus Group is designed to examine how the European Union can accelerate the deployment of permanent CDR solutions by designing effective funding mechanisms. The discussion will begin with an exploration of the current landscape of CDR financing in the EU, acknowledging that while CDR is increasingly recognized as a strategic tool for achieving climate neutrality by 2050, the existing funding frameworks remain fragmented and complex to navigate.

Key topics will include the potential of a public purchasing programme for permanent carbon removal credits, the design and application of Carbon Contracts for Difference (CCfDs), and the role of other mechanisms such as competitive tenders and voluntary markets. The event will encourage debate on the advantages, risks, and trade-offs of each approach, and seek input on policy choices that can ensure high-quality, verifiable removals while mobilizing both public and private investment.

The goal is to identify actionable pathways for the EU to lead in the development and scaling of robust CDR solutions as part of its climate neutrality strategy.

**15:00 Welcome and introduction**

* Andrei Marcu, Director of ERCST

**15:10 Initial inputs**

* Marino Varricchio, ERCST

**15:20 Panel discussion**

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| Panelists will have ten minutes each to address the following two questions:   1. Should the EU focus funding on a broad portfolio of CDR technologies or concentrate resources on the most promising solutions? 2. Should EU CDR funding prioritize projects within Europe or include global removal opportunities?   This will be followed by Q&A with the audience. |

* **Christian Holzleitner, DG CLIMA**
* Fabio Poretti, CEWEP
* **Johan Borje, Stockholm Exergi**
* **Aymeric Amand, Zero Emissions Platform**
* Chris Sherwood, Negative Emissions Platform

**16:30 End of meeting**