



## Joint position on Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA) trilogues

As [Alliance for Low-Carbon Cement & Concrete \(ALCCC\)](#), we are committed to accelerating the decarbonisation of cement and concrete, targeting net zero by 2040. We warmly welcome the proposal on the Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA) by the European Commission. Promoting cleantech technologies, including for cement and concrete, is critical in the race to net zero.

**Safe, scalable, and cost-effective low-carbon cement and concrete solutions already exist** today and can play a major role in reducing the EU's dependency on fossil fuels. We call upon the co-legislators to put two principles central in the final text of the NZIA to make it a success for cement:

- 1) **Restrict the use of CO<sub>2</sub> injection capacity and CCS only for unavoidable industrial emissions:**  
In line with the position of the European Parliament and the Aalborg declaration<sup>1</sup> recently signed by 5 Member States, we support the deployment of CCS only for unavoidable industrial emissions. Applied to the cement and concrete industry, this means that we should cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions as much as possible in the first place through technologies such as clinker reduction technologies and fuel switching.
- 2) **Qualify only those industrial technologies as strategic net-zero technologies that can help meet the European Green Deal objectives by 2030. Applied to the production of cement, clinker<sup>2</sup>-reduction processes and technologies should be an integral part of the final scope.** This is motivated by the fact that the mitigation potential of low and zero carbon cements is huge, with conservative estimates putting forward a reduction potential of at least 50% by 2050 for Europe<sup>3</sup>. Many scalable, safe and cost-effective solutions already exist today to reduce the need for high-clinker Portland cement significantly, but there is a need for additional support for the development and further improvement of these technologies.

**It is vital that the NZIA delivers on both principles. Otherwise, we risk locking-in European cement industry on a much more expensive and energy intensive decarbonisation route.** According to a recent report of the University of Oxford<sup>4</sup>, a high CCS pathway to net-zero emissions is expected to cost at least \$30 trillion more than a low CCS pathway. Governments putting CCS at the centre of their national decarbonisation plans for cement risk putting themselves at a competitive disadvantage.

Europe is home to a strong cement industry and world leading research institutes. With the right incentives and support in place, we can become the world's powerhouse for clean cement.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://en.kefm.dk/Media/638366861585598350/EU%20CCUS%20Aalborg%20declaration%20231127%20SEFR.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Clinker, the primary ingredient in conventional cement, is responsible for 94% of cement's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

<sup>3</sup> <https://alliancelccc.com/policy/report-fast-tracking-cement-decarbonisation/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.smithschool.ox.ac.uk/news/heavy-dependence-carbon-capture-and-storage-highly-economically-damaging-says-oxford-report>