

## **Rotterdam: “Minds and Conditions are in Place”**

### **A table talk with Mrs. Alexandra Van Huffelen, Vice Mayor for Sustainability, the City Centre and Public Space in Rotterdam on Carbon Capture, Reuse and Storage in 2012**

Recently, CCS-Today had a table talk with Mrs. Alexandra Van Huffelen, Vice Mayor for Sustainability, the City Centre and Public Space, on the Rotterdam focus areas on Carbon Capture, Reuse and Storage in 2012.

The focus of attention in Rotterdam is energy conservation, sustainable energy and Capture, Reuse and Storage of CO<sub>2</sub>. Through knowledge development, innovation and sustainable area development, Rotterdam furthermore responds to the challenge of changing water levels as a result of climate change. Rotterdam enjoys national and international recognition as a leading climate city. This creates economic opportunities and provides a boost for innovation.

Still, challenges have to be met in order to achieve the goals set. Our table talk concentrated on the focus areas, the main challenges and the “Rotterdam-way” in which they are met.

An inspiring update by Mrs. Van Huffelen explained the twofold strategy of the Rotterdam municipality, stressing the pro-active attitude and support by the local government. The first important focus is reaching the CO<sub>2</sub> reductions, whilst at the same time offering companies opportunities for developing and unfolding successful green business models. Stimulating innovation and interacting with companies on how, from a business-perspective benefits can be achieved, are key-activities on the Carbon Capture, Reuse and Storage agenda for 2012.

Secondly, Rotterdam is in the process of developing a solid infrastructure, or hub, for Carbon Capture, Reuse and Storage. The hub connects sources, streams and storage locations, in Rotterdam, the Netherlands and later Europe. An important project is ROAD2020. The Rotterdam Capture and Storage Demonstration project is a joint project by E.ON Benelux and GDF SUEZ Energy Nederland. The project is one of the first industrial scale projects set to realize the overall CO<sub>2</sub> capture, transport and storage chain.

At the core of these focus areas is the close interaction with businesses in Rotterdam. Supporting and driving innovation, stressing and creating business opportunities combined with the collective will for a cleaner city and world, appeals to companies, many of which are large multinationals.

Challenges for the Rotterdam initiatives are to be found in the demystification of the, now and then, biased attitude towards Carbon Capture, Reuse and Storage by clearly explaining what it is all about and by stressing that the transformation in both thinking and acting is business wise the best choice. The actual launch of industrial scale projects as ROAD2020 will evidently support this transformation even further.

It is clear that the “Rotterdam-way” of catalysing and supporting individual and overarching projects is taking hold on businesses offering an optimum base for deployment on a European level. An assessment of this European deployment will be part of a number of white papers to be published by CCS-Today as part of a series on the “Rotterdam-way” of Carbon Capture, Reuse and Storage.