



## Newsletter

Dear readers,

Welcome to our second edition of the Eastern Lights newsletter!

It's been a busy few months for us, with the Eastern Lights project partners organising several **workshops in Bulgaria and Romania to strengthen cooperation between governments, academia and industry** and help unlock carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) in Eastern Europe.

In particular, these discussions helped identify what **legislative framework for deploying CCUS technologies** is already in place, what is missing, and what can be learned from other countries that are further ahead in developing CO<sub>2</sub> storage.

Building on this work, Eastern Lights partner Eurogas organised a **webinar with the European Commission** in December 2025, linking EU-level policymaking with national experiences of funding and rolling out CCUS technologies.

This month we were also delighted to contribute to a **joint technical webinar** with other EU-funded projects (COREu, ENCASE and HERCCULES) focused on the impact of CO<sub>2</sub> impurities across the CCUS value chain.

Read on for more news on Eastern Lights.

### Regulatory workshops: strengthening dialogue with authorities



In June and September 2025, Holcim Bulgaria held two workshops in Sofia with policymakers, regulators and project partners to explore how CO<sub>2</sub> storage can work in practice. Experts from the Ministry of Environment and Water, the Ministry of Energy and regional authorities looked closely at how the Eastern Lights project operates, how today's regulatory framework can already help scale up CCUS, and where it needs to evolve.

These exchanges helped authorities to better understand our project and its next steps, while giving project partners direct insight into regulatory expectations and requirements for future permitting.

In Romania, GeoEcoMar hosted a similar workshop, focused on funding for cross-border CO<sub>2</sub> storage and transport. The event showed that aligned rules and coordinated funding play a vital role in building shared CCUS infrastructure.

## Joint webinar: impact of CO<sub>2</sub> impurities on the CCUS chain deployment from different perspectives

The banner features a dark blue header with the title in white. Below the title, logos for Encase, COREu, HERCCULES, and Eastern Lights are displayed. A blue box on the right contains the word 'WEBINAR' and the date 'Online 06 Mar 2026 - 9.30 | 12.30 CET'. At the bottom right, the European Union flag and the text 'Funded by the European Union' are visible.

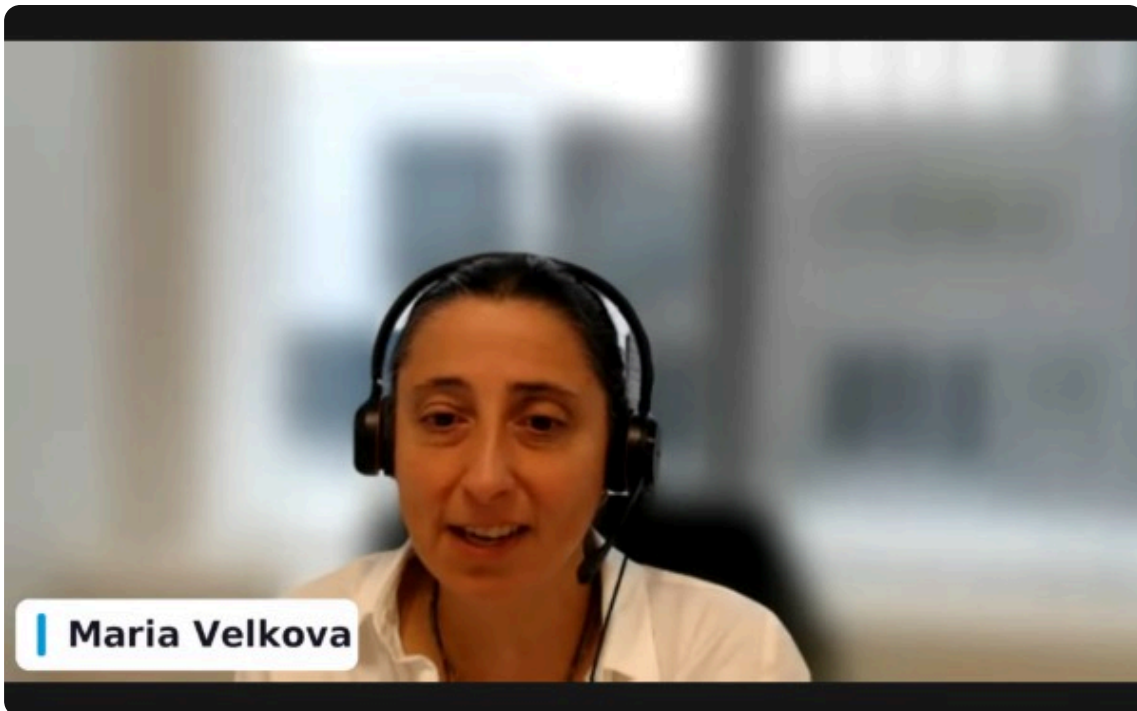
We were very excited about our collaboration with other EU funded projects (COREu, ENCASE, HERCCULES) for a [technical webinar](#) on CO<sub>2</sub> impurities and their impact on implementing CCUS projects.

From CO<sub>2</sub> capture to transport to storage, CO<sub>2</sub> impurities shape system performance, safety margins, and project costs - yet they are an underestimated challenge in the CCUS value chain.

Eastern Lights was delighted to be represented in session 1.3 "Short response inputs – MMV & value-chain considerations" with Gerardo Villamizar Plata, CIE Technical Integrity Director at Air Liquide.

[Watch](#)

## Webinar: unlocking CCUS in Eastern Europe: aligning EU policy, funding and national action



In December 2025, Eastern Lights partner Eurogas organised a webinar on “Unlocking CCUS in Eastern Europe: Aligning EU Policy, Funding and National Action”, bringing together more than 110 people from across Europe.

It was an honour to welcome Maria Velkova, Deputy Head of Unit for low carbon solutions, research & low carbon technology deployment from the European Commission’s DG CLIMA to our event and hear about how the EU policy framework is supporting the scale-up of CCUS.

The discussion connected EU policy direction with national experience, shining a spotlight on where progress is already happening and where clearer rules, targeted funding and stronger cross-border cooperation is needed.

[Watch](#)

## News from the Consortium



### 3rd Consortium Meeting in Brussels

In February, Eurogas hosted the project’s third consortium meeting in Brussels, bringing partners together to review progress and agree on next steps. Over two days of discussions, the consortium advanced work on CO<sub>2</sub> transport, storage and modelling, helping move the project from early research towards practical solutions that can support Europe’s industrial decarbonisation efforts.

## Victor Vilarrasa elected to EERA CCS Steering Committee



Victor Vilarrasa, Research Professor at the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), has been elected to the Steering Committee of the European Energy Research Alliance joint programme on CCS. EERA is Europe's largest energy research community, with the aim to support the transition to a climate-neutral energy system. Its Joint Programme on CCS plays a key role in coordinating CCS research across Europe by providing a common scientific voice to inform policy and innovation priorities on CCS.

## Upcoming events

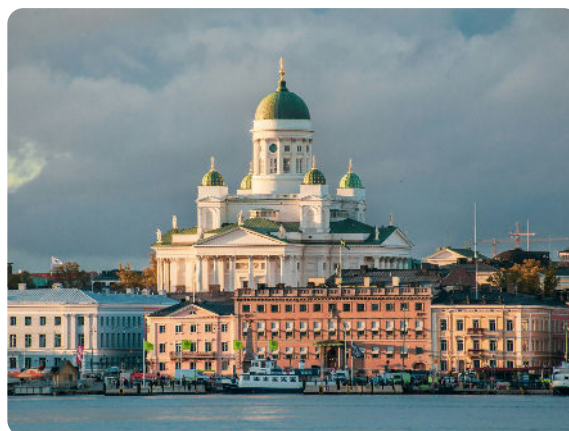


### CO<sub>2</sub>GeoNet Forum

**18-21 May 2026, Italy**

Jesús Carrera, Research Professor at CSIC, will present Eastern Lights at the 19th CO<sub>2</sub>GeoNet Open Forum. His presentation, "Modeling efforts at Eastern Lights project: addressing the low permeability challenge," will be delivered during the technical workshop on advances in modelling and monitoring for CO<sub>2</sub> storage assurance, highlighting modelling work carried out within the Eastern Lights project.

[Register](#)



### The 12th World Energy Congress

**22-24 July 2026, Finland**

Isabella Nardini from Fraunhofer IEG will represent the Eastern Lights project at the 12th World Energy Congress. The congress will bring together researchers, industry experts, and policymakers to discuss advances in energy technologies, energy storage, and renewable energy through exhibitions and scientific sessions.

[Register](#)



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**Eastern Lights**

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