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19 October 2009

EM 11448/09 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council - Demonstrating Carbon Capture and Geological Storage (CCS) in emerging developing countries: financing the EU-China Near Zero Emissions Coal Plant project

Sub-Committee C considered this document at its meeting on 15 October 2009 and cleared it from scrutiny.

The Committee has taken a great deal of interest in China recently, including on climate change and energy issues. In relation to the Commission communication, we were very concerned to learn of the slow progress of this project, given its importance in the global fight against carbon emissions and the pace of growth of high emission coal-fired energy generation in China.

After all this time and publicity we are still in the initial phase of this project, with no certainty of any funding for phase three. We are very keen to understand, therefore, what the realistic timescales are now likely to be for all three phases to be completed. When will sufficiently reliable results of the project be available so that Carbon Capture and Storage can actually be rolled out in China?

We would also welcome your views on the initial management of the project within the EU, and the degree of enthusiasm of the Chinese government for this project.

Given the importance of this project, we are issuing a press release tomorrow dated 20 October 2009, a copy of which is attached.

We look forward to hearing from you.

I am copying this letter to Michael Connarty, MP, Chairman of the House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee, Alistair Doherty, Clerk to the Commons Committee, Paul Hardy, Legal Adviser to the Committee, Les Saunders (Cabinet Office), Ahmed Ali (DECC EU Scrutiny Officer).

The Rt Hon the Lord Roper
Chairman of the Select Committee on the European Union