

# Opening remarks

made by Andrzej Dycha, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Economy, Poland

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to warmly welcome all participants of to-day's conference which was jointly organized by the Baltic Sea region organization – BASREC and the Polish Ministry of Economy. I especially welcome Mrs. Eli Blakstad, State Secretary of the Norwegian Ministry of Petroleum and Energy and Mr. Peer Hoth, head of the CCS department in the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology of Germany.

Today's conference is, in particular, focused on two very important aspects of CCS technology, to which undoubtedly the transportation and safe storage of captured carbon dioxide belong. As regards the second component – the issue of gaining public acceptance for onshore geological storage of carbon dioxide – seems to be the most difficult in the whole chain of works carried out in Poland – in order to launch in 2016 the first in our country CCS demonstration plant. Therefore, in my opinion we should make every effort to provide the public with reliable information on all aspects of application of this technology.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I want to emphasize that the development of competitive and safe CCS technology is a challenge not only for the countries grouped in the Baltic Sea region, but for the whole world. At the moment we can not clearly answer the questions: whether CCS can be competitive now and in the long-term horizon - safe for humans and the environment. But I am convinced that the answer to these questions will be possible to obtain after putting into operation and testing the first CCS demonstration plants in the European Union, among which - I hope - will also be the installation in Belchatow Power Plant.

I would also like to point out that in relation to the storage component, there is considerable experience, primarily among natural gas producers such as in Norway, where there are two big projects of CO<sub>2</sub> injection into the seabed, and their interaction with geological structures is the subject of careful monitoring. Similarly, the issue of transport of carbon dioxide is well known in the United States on which territory more than 5,000 km of pipelines for transporting CO<sub>2</sub> is in operation.

When touching the subject of CCS worth mentioning is the issue that constantly becomes the subject of extensive discussion - the possible commercial utilization of captured carbon dioxide. In my opinion it is necessary to make every effort to change the currently existing approach to CO<sub>2</sub> as a waste in the direction considering its use as a potential raw material for the production of synthetic liquid fuels or biofuels. Directing our common efforts to the development of useful methods for the use of carbon dioxide - in my opinion - should significantly improve the currently not very favorable economic results for CCS.

Thanking all of you for coming to the conference, I wish you fruitful debates.