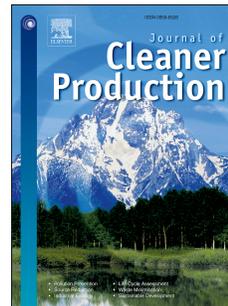


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Achieving carbon-neutral iron and steelmaking in Europe through the deployment of bioenergy with carbon capture and storage

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Abstract

The 30 integrated steel plants operating in the European Union (EU) are among the largest single-point CO₂ emitters in the region. The deployment of bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (bio-CCS) could significantly reduce their fossil-based CO₂ emissions. In detail, the results demonstrate that CO₂ emission reduction targets of up to 20% can be met entirely by biomass deployment. A slow CCS technology introduction on top of biomass deployment is expected as the requirement for emission reduction exceeds 20%. Bio-CCS could then be a key technology, particularly in terms of meeting targets above 50%, of CO₂ avoidance cost ranging between €60 and €100 t_{CO₂}⁻¹ at full-scale deployment. The future of bio-CCS and its utilisation on a larger scale would therefore only be viable if such CO₂ avoidance cost were to become economically appealing. Small and medium plants in particular, would economically benefit from sharing CO₂ pipeline networks. CO₂ transport, however, makes a relatively small contribution to the total CO₂ avoidance cost. In the future, the role of bio-CCS in the European iron and steelmaking industry will also be influenced by non-economic conditions, such as regulations, public acceptance, realistic CO₂ storage capacity, and the progress of other mitigation technologies.

Keywords:

BECCS; bio-CCS; blast furnace; industry; charcoal; CCS

Highlights:

- Bio-CCS can help iron and steel making become close to carbon neutral.
- Average bio-CCS avoidance cost in the EU is about €80 t_{CO₂}⁻¹.
- Netherlands, France, and Belgium have the lowest bio-CCS deployment cost.

1 Introduction

The European iron and steel industry annually generates over 200 million tons of carbon dioxide (Mt_{CO₂}) (Borkent and Beer, 2016), which amounts to 5% of all CO₂ emissions produced across EU-28 countries in 2016 (Eurostat, 2016). The majority of these emissions come from the 30 integrated steel plants that produce 60% of the European steel output (World Steel Association, 2017). Their high emission intensity is due to the nature of the iron and steel production process from iron ore, which in comparison to scrap recycling, is two and half times more emission intensive (Beer et al., 2000). As the steel scrap recycling rate is not sufficient to meet the increasing demand for steel, ore based steel production via a blast furnace-basic oxygen furnace (BF-BOF) route is expected to remain dominant until at least 2050 (Pauliuk et al., 2013). Therefore, to achieve the EU emission reduction targets for 2020, 2030 and 2050 (European Commission, 2017), the 30 integrated plants will have to implement breakthrough technologies for CO₂ emission abatement (European Commission, 2013). A key technology that can contribute significantly to deep emission cuts is carbon capture and storage (CCS) (European Commission, 2011a, 2011b; ZEP, 2013). A hybrid approach that combines CCS with biomass (bio-CCS) could provide even further emission reductions in this industry (Arasto et al., 2014). The average 2017 price of European emission allowances of €5.80 t_{CO₂}⁻¹ (Business Insider, 2018) and an absence of bio-CCS specific incentives, make its application in Europe unrealistic for the moment (EUROFER, 2013). However, the likely overshoot of the remaining CO₂ budget for limiting global warming to below 2°C (UNEP, 2017), in combination with the hitherto slow transition to low-carbon iron and steel making technologies, is increasing the need for the deployment of significant CO₂ emission reduction measures like bio-CCS in Europe in the near future (Mintenig et al., 2017; Scott and Geden, 2018).

Broadly speaking, the key role of negative emission technologies is to generate negative emissions that would compensate for CO₂ emissions from sectors that may have a hard time reaching carbon-neutrality (such as agriculture, aviation or industry) (Erbach, 2015). Specifically, bio-CCS offers a way to generate energy that is carbon neutral/negative, which makes it suitable for co-application during energy conversion or with energy intensive

71 industrial processes. Scenarios for the decarbonisation of the iron and steel industry generally
72 involve CCS, either on its own (Pardo and Moya, 2013; Solano Rodriguez et al., 2017), or in
73 combination with a top gas recycling blast furnace process (EUROFER, 2013; Remus et al.,
74 2013). Due to the technical role that fossil fuels play in the iron ore reduction process, only a
75 limited biomass substitution is feasible (Mousa et al., 2016; Suopajarvi et al., 2017).
76 Therefore, additional measures such as bio-CCS deployment would be needed to achieve high
77 levels of CO₂ reduction across an integrated steel plant. The introduction of bioenergy with
78 CCS could theoretically achieve carbon-neutral steelmaking (considering that bioenergy can
79 substitute over 40% of fossil-based CO₂ emissions (Mandova et al., 2018) and that CCS can
80 capture over 60% of the CO₂ emissions that occur on-site (IEAGHG, 2013)) without a
81 significant retrofit of a steel plant. However, this carbon-neutral iron and steelmaking
82 opportunity is currently being impeded by the challenges raised by any deployment of bio-
83 CCS.

84 Deployment of bio-CCS has so far been stagnant, with only a few small demonstration-scale
85 bio-CCS projects currently being operational (e.g., the Illinois Industrial CCS Project) (Global
86 CCS Institute, 2018). Any bio-CCS application within fully fossil fuel-based processes would
87 necessitate simultaneously overcoming barriers to both bioenergy and CCS implementation.
88 Issues related to the actual implementation and cost of CO₂ capture, transport and storage,
89 uncertainties in the long term response of the environment to CO₂ storage, and public
90 acceptance or ability to prolong reliance on fossil fuels, are the main arguments limiting CCS
91 progress (Fuss et al., 2014). As of 2018, there are only 30 Mt_{CO₂} stored annually worldwide
92 (Global CCS Institute, 2018). CCS deployment will therefore have a hard time reaching the
93 annual CO₂ storage volumes required by, for instance, the International Energy Agency (IEA)
94 2°C scenario of 400 Mt_{CO₂} by 2025 (IEA, 2014). Insufficient policy support to create a
95 business case for CCS, for example, in the EU Emission Trading System (ETS) (Purvis and
96 Vaghi, 2015), makes the required CCS expansion unrealistic over the next decade. On the
97 same note, sustainable biomass supply constraints, concerns associated with competition
98 between bioenergy and food production, the complexity of emission accounting, as well as
99 direct and indirect land use change, are major arguments against increased bioenergy use
100 (Sanchez and Kammen, 2016).

101 There is currently no commercialised application of bio-CCS in the iron and steel industry,
102 even though bioenergy and CCS independently, are commercialised (e.g., charcoal utilisation in
103 Brazilian mini blast furnaces (Machado et al., 2010) and a CCS facility in Abu Dhabi with an

104 annual capture capacity of 0.8 Mt_{CO₂} (Global CCS Institute, 2018; IEA, 2014)). The
105 suitability of bio-CCS is highly dependent on geographic location, which diversifies
106 opportunities for large-scale bio-CCS application across steel plants. Factors such as
107 industrial plant structure, the availability of CO₂ storage and transport options, sufficient
108 sustainable biomass resources, supportive regulatory frameworks, etc. (Gough and Upham,
109 2011), differ for individual plants across different countries and regions. There is currently no
110 comparison of bio-CCS opportunities for individual integrated steel plants, or evaluations of
111 bio-CCS as a strategy for carbon-neutral iron and steelmaking available for the iron and steel
112 industry in Europe. A few studies previously focused on either bioenergy or CCS for iron and
113 steel production in Europe, but to our knowledge, no other studies have considered combining
114 the two technologies. Specifically, both Mandova et al. (2018) and Suopajarvi and Fabritius
115 (2013) conclude that biomass deployment in European iron and steelmaking is limited by
116 economic feasibility rather than biomass availability. The CCS studies by Birat (2010) and
117 Remus et al. (2013) on the other hand, point out a lack of sufficient experience with this
118 technology. All of these studies, however, show that neither bioenergy nor CCS would
119 achieve a 100% emission reduction in the iron and steel sector on their own. Therefore,
120 research on combining both technologies as bio-CCS is important in order to understand their
121 compatibility, particularly if iron and steel industry aims to achieve carbon neutrality. Such
122 research is also significant to understand the role of other low carbon steelmaking processes
123 that are currently under development, including the use of blast furnaces with top gas
124 recycling (van der Stel et al., 2013), the HISarna process (Meijer et al., 2011) or hydrogen
125 based steel making (HYBRIT, 2017; Ranzani da Costa et al., 2013).

126 The objective of this work is to evaluate bio-CCS as a strategy for achieving carbon-neutrality
127 across European iron and steel plants that produce steel via the BF-BOF route. Using the
128 techno-economic *BeWhere-EU model*, the work (1) identifies the importance of bio-CCS
129 within the technology mix when meeting different emission reduction targets, (2) estimates
130 the CO₂ avoidance cost of the bio-CCS deployment, and (3) discusses the potential reduction
131 in CO₂ transport costs by large scale integrated CO₂ pipeline networks. This study bridges the
132 gap in the literature on bio-CCS opportunities in the iron and steel industry and increases the
133 general knowledge on bio-CCS deployment costs in Europe. The outcomes also provide an
134 opportunity to identify potential CO₂ clusters across integrated steel plants, as well as
135 knowledge about possibly integrated CO₂ transport networks.

136 2 Methodology

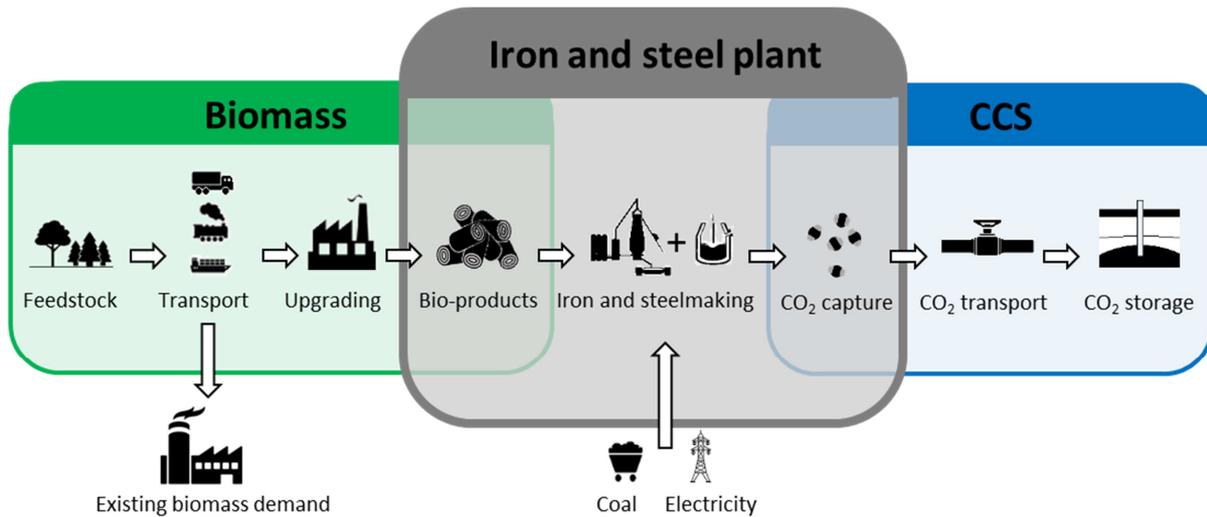
137 2.1 Modelling approach

138 Studying the potential of bio-CCS within a large system requires a modelling approach that
139 accounts for the biomass supply chain, the considered industry, and the CCS network. The
140 approach also has to be able to study the interaction between the three systems across the
141 studied time frame, and take into account the spatial distribution of elements as well as the
142 technical limitations that occur when they are applied within the same system. In our previous
143 work using the *BeWhere-EU* model (IIASA, 2015), we already linked biomass and iron and
144 steel plants in this way (Mandova et al., 2018). This work extends the *BeWhere-EU iron &*
145 *steel* model by adding a CCS framework for iron and steel, including CCS linkage to biomass,
146 which provides an opportunity to simultaneously study both the CCS and bio-CCS systems.
147 The section below gives a brief overview of the model, with further information provided in
148 the supplementary material.

149 The *BeWhere-EU iron and steel* model is written in the General Algebraic Modelling System
150 (GAMS), using Mixed Integer Linear Programming (MILP) and CPLEX as solver. The
151 concept of the model is to split the studied geographic region (EU-28) into equally sized grid-
152 cells, each covering an area of 40 km × 40 km. Each grid-cell then contains area-specific
153 information that is important for modelling the system, including:

- 154 • types, amounts and costs of available feedstock;
- 155 • existing biomass demand;
- 156 • distance, mode of transport and biomass transport costs between different grid-cells;
- 157 • annual CO₂ emissions and energy demand of integrated steel plants;
- 158 • CO₂ storage potential, as well as CO₂ capture, transport and storage costs.

159 The cost of biomass upgrading, the types of fossil fuels used in an integrated steel plant, and
160 different CO₂ transport network possibilities are also included in the model. Figure 1
161 illustrates all aspects considered in this work. Based on this information, the model minimises
162 the total cost of the system on an annual basis. The total system cost includes the cost of the
163 biomass supply chain, fuel used in iron and steel plants, as well as all expenditure related to
164 the deployment of CCS. The opportunities for bio-CCS implementations across different
165 plants are then studied by introducing a range of CO₂ emission reduction targets as one of the
166 constraints.



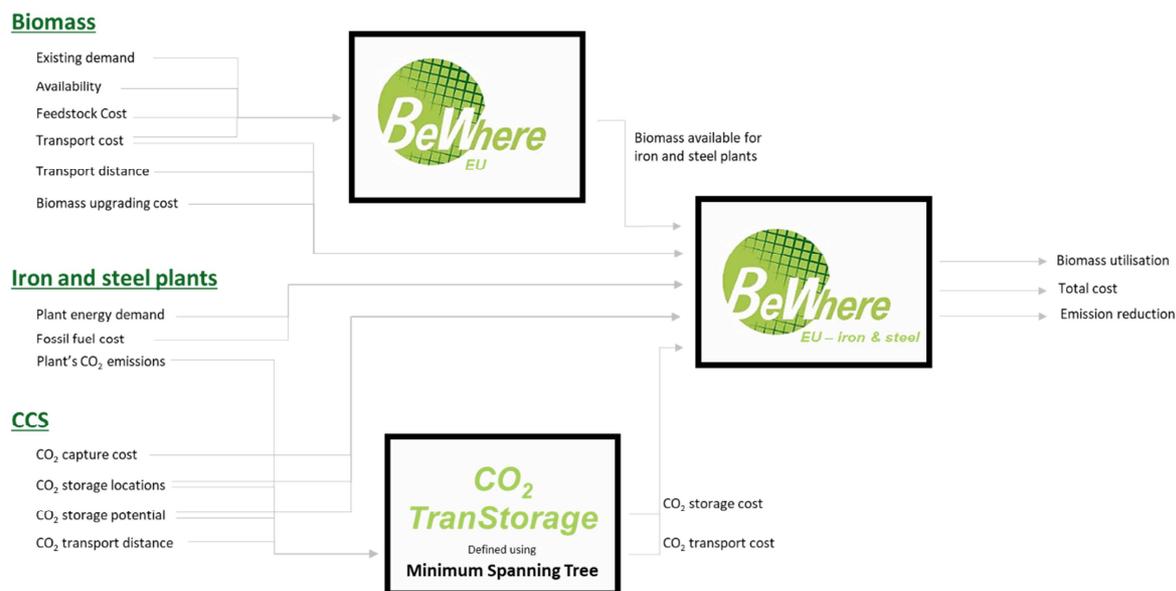
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168

Figure 1: Aspects considered within the bio-CCS supply chain in this study.

169 As shown in Figure 2, the complexity of the modelled system requires the inclusion of a
 170 variety of input data, constraints and internal data calculations. Specifically, the model is
 171 composed of three modules, where the core module *BeWhere-EU iron & steel* is using the
 172 outputs of the biomass module (labelled *BeWhere-EU*) and the CCS module (labelled *CO₂*
 173 *TranStorage*). In particular, the biomass module is used to subtract the biomass requirement
 174 of the existing industries from the total biomass potential. The CCS module has been
 175 developed to obtain different CCS infrastructure configurations connecting the plants to
 176 potential CO₂ storage sites using a minimum spanning tree algorithm (Hillier, 2012). The core
 177 – iron and steel – module connects the two modules and provides outputs specific to the iron
 178 and steel industry study. A mathematical description of each module can be found in the
 179 supplementary material. Table 1 presents a summary of input data values specifically for costs
 180 and the following sections give further details on the calculations performed.

181



182

183 *Figure 2: Summary of inputs and outputs considered for this study. Values used for each input parameter is*
 184 *provided in the supplementary material.*

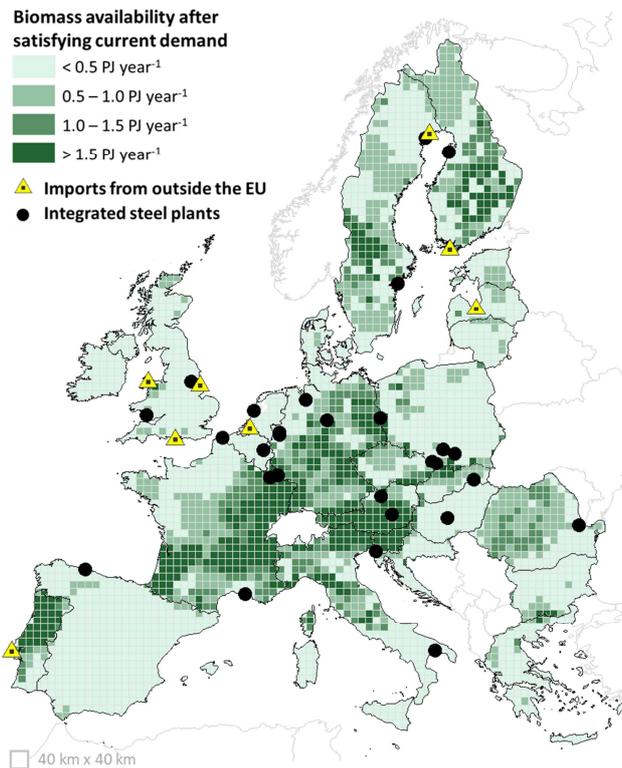
185 2.2 Biomass supply chain

186 The biomass supply chain considers feedstock supply, transport and upgrading. The total
 187 theoretical biomass potential within the EU in 2020 is estimated to be 8.5 EJ year⁻¹. This
 188 potential includes stumps, stemwood and logging residues of coniferous and non-coniferous
 189 trees, with costs ranging from €0.20 up to €8.30 GJ⁻¹ (with price depending on the type of
 190 wood and country of origin) (Dees et al., 2017). To incorporate biomass sustainability aspects
 191 in the modelling, only 70% of the theoretical potential is considered. The model allows inter-
 192 European biomass trade, as well as biomass imports from non-EU countries to specific
 193 harbour locations. The imported biomass from non-EU countries is assigned a cost 20%
 194 higher than the average biomass cost in the country where a specific harbour is located, in
 195 order to account for additional expenditure due to import taxes and long-distance transport.
 196 Biomass harvested outside the EU is generally imported already pre-processed, for example,
 197 in the form of pellets. However, as the current work assumes that biomass upgrading to the
 198 final product is done on-site of the iron and steel plant, the modelling approach required raw
 199 biomass import from outside of the EU. The cost of biomass imports from outside the EU
 200 ranges from €3.56 to €6.01 GJ⁻¹ (exact values are available in the supplementary material).
 201 Transport of biomass from supply points to demand points is considered by truck, train and
 202 ship, with the specific cost of each biomass type approximated on energy basis. Form of
 203 transport and the corresponding distances are obtained from spatial data using the network
 204 analysis tool in the ArcGIS software. The studied biomass demand includes the pulp and

205 paper industry (total of 1.4 EJ year⁻¹) (CEPI, 2017), sawmills (1.6 EJ year⁻¹) (FAO, 2016) and
 206 heat and power plants (1.0 EJ year⁻¹) (Platts, 2017). In total, 2.0 EJ year⁻¹ of available
 207 biomass potentially suitable for iron and steel production is identified from the biomass
 208 module (*BeWhere-EU*) after meeting the existing demand. The distribution of the available
 209 biomass in relation to the 30 integrated steel plants is shown in Figure 3.

210 *Table 1: Summary of cost input values considered for this study. Further details are given in the supplementary*
 211 *material.*

	Input value	Citation	Note
Biomass feedstock			
Domestic coniferous trees	€0.0 – €6.9 GJ ^l	(Dees et al., 2017)	Spatially explicit prices
Domestic non-coniferous trees	€0.1 – €8.3 GJ ^l	(Dees et al., 2017)	Spatially explicit prices
Non-EU feedstock	€3.6 – €6.0 GJ ^l		Value 20% higher than average biomass cost in the country of the importing harbour.
Biomass transport			
Lorry	~€0.00255 GJ ^l km ⁻¹		Average values dependent on the distance travelled, as defined in a work by Börjesson and Gustavsson (1996), and fuel cost in the country. Further details are provided in the supplementary material.
Train	~€0.00299 GJ ^l km ⁻¹		
Freight	~€0.00210 GJ ^l km ⁻¹		
Biomass upgrading			
Pelletisation	€1.03 – €2.98 GJ ^l	(Uslu et al., 2008)	Country specific values defined using purchasing power parities (European Commission, 2016).
Torrefaction	€1.28 – €3.72 GJ ^l	(Uslu et al., 2008)	
Slow pyrolysis	€1.15 – €3.34 GJ ^l	(Norgate et al., 2012)	
Fossil fuel cost			
Coking coal	€3.98 GJ ^l	(IEAGHG, 2013)	2017 values obtained using a 2010-2017 inflation rate.
Coke	€5.35 GJ ^l	(IEAGHG, 2013)	
PCI	€3.17 GJ ^l	(IEAGHG, 2013)	
Coke breeze	€5.35 GJ ^l	(IEAGHG, 2013)	
CO₂ capture cost			
CASE 1:	€54.4 – €93.4 t _{CO₂} ⁻¹	(IEAGHG, 2013)	2017 values obtained using a 2010-2017 inflation rate. Country specific values obtained based on the national 2017 non-household electricity prices (Eurostat, 2017). Further details on calculations performed are given in the supplementary material.
CASE 2:	€53.1 – €96.5 t _{CO₂} ⁻¹	(IEAGHG, 2013)	
CO₂ transport cost:			
Individual network	€0.523 – €36.7 t _{CO₂} ⁻¹	(IEAGHG, 2005)	2017 values obtained using a 2005-2017 inflation factor. Further details are provided in the supplementary material.
Collaborative network	€0.191 – €63.3 t _{CO₂} ⁻¹	(IEAGHG, 2005)	
CO₂ storage			
Saline aquifers	€15.8 t _{CO₂} ⁻¹	(ZEP, 2011)	2017 values obtained using a 2010-2017 inflation rate.
Depleted oil and gas fields	€10.8 t _{CO₂} ⁻¹	(ZEP, 2011)	



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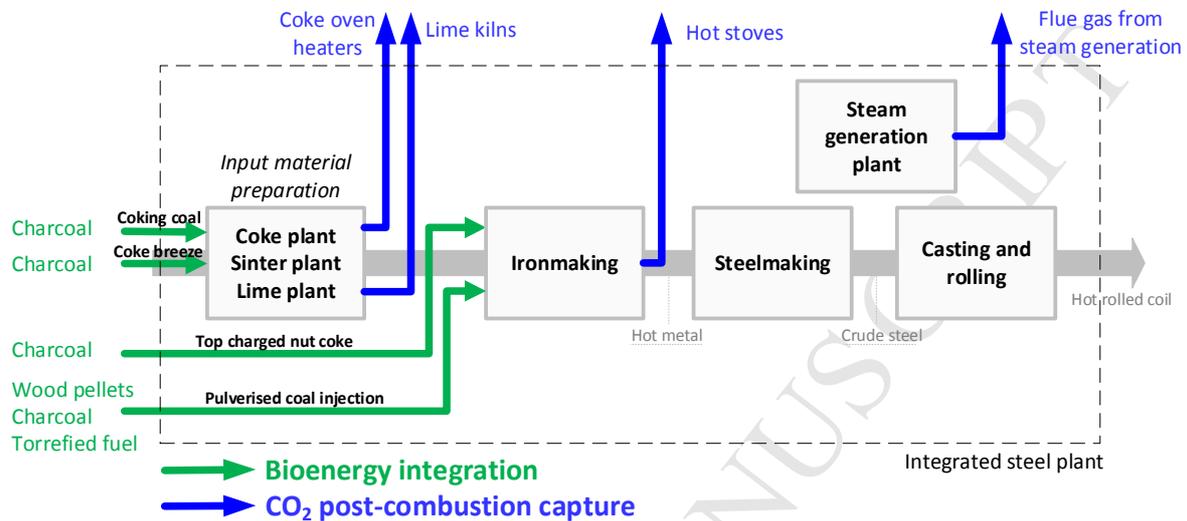
214 *Figure 3: Location-specific biomass availability (locally sourced) after the demand from existing bio-based*
 215 *industries has been met. Seven trade points for biomass supply from outside of the EU-28 countries were*
 216 *considered.*

217 Upgrading of any biomass to bio-products: wood pellets, torrefied fuel and charcoal, is
 218 assumed to take place on-site at iron and steel plants, at production costs of €2.15 GJ¹ for
 219 wood pellets (Uslu et al., 2008), €2.68 GJ¹ for torrefied fuel (Uslu et al., 2008) and €2.41 GJ
 220 ¹ for charcoal (Norgate et al., 2012). The production costs (both converted and original values
 221 as presented in the supplementary material) have been scaled up or down using purchasing
 222 power parity (European Commission, 2016). CO₂ emissions related to biomass harvesting,
 223 upgrading and transport are not included, as the study considers only direct emissions based
 224 on steel production.

225 **2.3 Technologies for CO₂ emission reduction in integrated steel plants**

226 In total, 30 integrated steel plants – the full number of currently operating plants using BF-
 227 BOF across EU-28 countries – are considered. In order to maintain transparency under limited
 228 data availability and confidentiality, this work assumes that each plant has the same
 229 technology and structure as a typical West European plant, as described in the IEA
 230 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) report (IEAGHG, 2013). The energy demand of each plant is
 231 estimated from the plants' annual hot rolled coil (HRC) production. This is obtained from
 232 each plant's data on hot metal production in 2016 (VDEh data exchange, 2017), which is then

233 further calibrated so that country specific crude steel production corresponds to data published
 234 by the World Steel Association for the same year (World Steel Association, 2017). In
 235 addition, it is assumed 1 t of hot metal produces 1.113 t of crude steel and 1.027 of hot rolled
 236 coil, as presented in the IEAGHG report (IEAGHG, 2013).



237

238 *Figure 4: Possibilities for bioenergy integration and post-combustion CO₂ capture in an integrated steel plant.*

239 Substitution of fossil fuels by biomass is considered on an energy basis. Figure 4
 240 demonstrates the bioenergy integration possibilities in a typical integrated steel plant for
 241 different coal-based fuels. It is important to note, that due to differences between fossil fuels
 242 and bio-products in terms of mechanical strength, reactivity, chemical composition, heating
 243 value, etc., only partial substitution opportunities are provided (Fick et al., 2014). Table 7 in
 244 the supplementary material provides further details on the maximum substitution possibilities
 245 of each coal-based fuel by the specific bio-product considered in this work. In the *BeWhere-*
 246 *EU iron & steel* module then, bioenergy is first integrated into the iron and steel plants based
 247 on the supply cost in comparison to that of conventional fossil fuels. Generally, the bio-
 248 products are not economically competitive with fossil fuel prices (ranging from €3.52 to €5.94
 249 GJ⁻¹ (IEAGHG, 2013)) and so, no fossil fuel substitution is experienced in the model.
 250 Therefore, the bio-products are also introduced based on the amount of emissions they could
 251 potentially offset, in order to meet the imposed emission reduction targets, while keeping a
 252 record of the additional costs incurred by each individual integrated steel plant. These aspects
 253 are at the core of the *BeWhere-EU iron & steel* module and follow the model development
 254 process presented in our previous work (Mandova et al., 2018).

255 The integration of CCS in iron and steel plants is considered in terms of the deployment of
 256 post-combustion capture, which can eliminate emissions from existing plants without

257 significant retrofit. The shorter shut-down time and lower capital investment in comparison to
258 other CO₂ capturing technologies (e.g., pre-combustion capture, oxy-fuel combustion capture
259 or capture from industrial process streams (IPCC, 2005)) makes it a more likely near-term
260 capture option. This work uses the specifications of the CO₂ post-combustion capture
261 technology that incorporates standard monoethanolamine (MEA) solvent for iron and steel
262 plants, as described in the IEAGHG report (IEAGHG, 2013). As per the report, two cases of
263 CO₂ capture possibilities are considered:

- 264 • Case 1: CO₂ is captured only from flue gases from the hot stoves and steam generation
265 plant. The net emission intensity of the final steel product (set to 2.09 t_{CO₂} t_{HRC}⁻¹) can
266 be reduced by a maximum of 50% (to 1.04 t_{CO₂} t_{HRC}⁻¹) (IEAGHG, 2013).
- 267 • Case 2: On top of capturing all CO₂ from the units listed in Case 1, additional CO₂ is
268 captured from flue gases coming from the coke ovens and lime kilns. The maximum
269 CO₂ avoidance potential would increase to 60% (resulting in an emission intensity of
270 0.828 t_{CO₂} t_{HRC}⁻¹) (IEAGHG, 2013).

271 Because of multiple CO₂ sources across the plant, CO₂ capture across an integrated steel plant
272 is more challenging than, for example, from a power plant. Therefore, despite assuming a
273 90% capture rate for all of the CO₂ absorbers, the other – uncaptured – sources of CO₂
274 emissions across the integrated steel plant and the increased CO₂ emissions attributed to the
275 extra energy demand from the CO₂ capture installation, results in a net emission reduction of
276 maximum 60%. The estimated CO₂ capture cost for each plant in 2017 includes the
277 expenditure related to retrofitting the plant and extra energy use. The cost varies across the
278 plants based on national electricity prices for the industry (Eurostat, 2017). In general, the
279 average CO₂ capture costs applied are €64.50 t_{CO₂}⁻¹ and €70.40 t_{CO₂}⁻¹ for the first and second
280 capture case, respectively. The calculations performed can be found in the supplementary
281 material. Integration of the different options for post-combustion CO₂ capture within
282 integrated steel plants is illustrated in Figure 4. As CCS avoids the release of CO₂ into the
283 atmosphere, this work assumes zero emission intensity of captured fossil-based CO₂, and a
284 negative emission value for captured bio-based CO₂.

285 **2.4 CO₂ transport and storage**

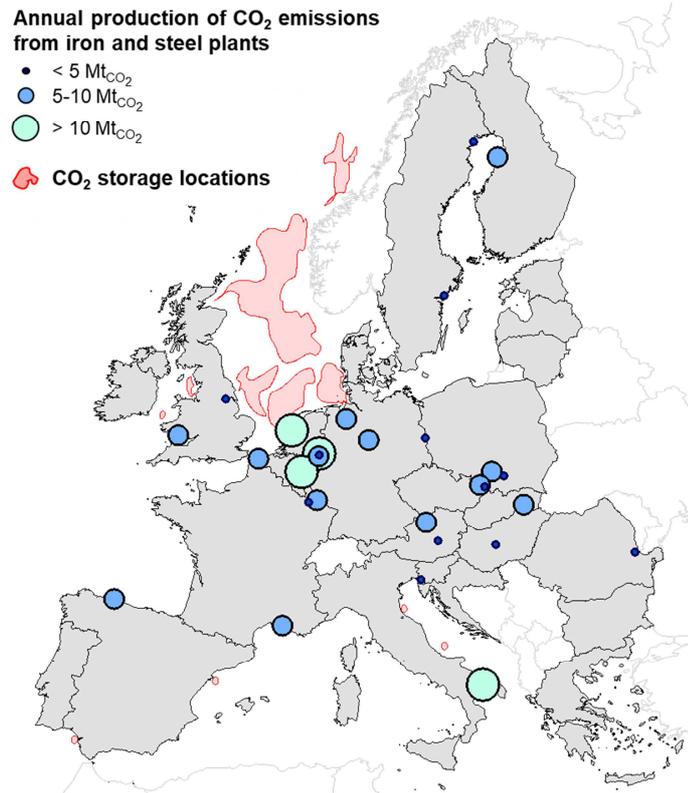
286 In terms of considering the transportation of large amounts of CO₂ and probable public
287 opposition to onshore CO₂ storage (Margriet Kuijper, 2011), this work focuses only on CO₂
288 transport using pipelines for CO₂ deposition in offshore storage locations. In the CCS module

289 (*CO₂ TranStorage*) the shortest pipeline network that connects all CO₂ sources with storage
290 locations, is defined. The connections are established by adapting an existing minimum
291 spanning tree algorithm (GAMS, n.d.), the idea of which is to connect all vertices without any
292 cycle, while minimising the total weight of all its edges (Hillier, 2012). To account for
293 obstacles related to the pipeline routing, an extra 10% and 20% are added to the distance
294 (measured as a straight line in ArcGIS) for offshore and onshore pipelines, respectively.

295 The cost of building the pipelines and the final CO₂ transport cost for each plant are
296 calculated using the IEAGHG CO₂ transport cost curves (IEAGHG, 2005), scaled by the 2005
297 to 2017 inflation factor of 1.2 (Official Data Foundation, 2018). A concurrent development of
298 the proposed CO₂ pipeline network is assumed, which is why the extra expenditure resulting
299 from gradual CO₂ network development that would likely evolve in practice, is not
300 considered. In addition, the network focuses only on connecting the 30 integrated steel plants,
301 excluding possibilities for network connection with other plants (such as power, heat, cement,
302 chemicals, etc.) and the corresponding possibilities for further cost reductions due to
303 economies of scale.

304 The key factors influencing the cost are the pipeline length and the specific CO₂ flow. The
305 CO₂ transport cost estimates also include the cost of compression up to supercritical pressure
306 (above 73.8 bar), investment, operational and maintenance costs, as well as whether it is an
307 onshore or offshore pipeline (IEAGHG, 2005). In addition, the calculation also takes into
308 account the extra CO₂ flow as a result of increasing the amount of CO₂ produced at a plant
309 due to the installation of CCS technology. A further description of the CO₂ pipeline cost
310 calculations can be found in the supplementary material.

311 As mentioned above, only offshore CO₂ storage in saline aquifers or depleted oil and gas
312 fields is considered, with locations around Europe shown in Figure 5. The storage/injection
313 capacities are obtained from the Chalmers CO₂ storage database (Kjärstad and Johnsson,
314 2007). The storage and injection capacities, particularly in aquifers, are highly uncertain. The
315 values listed in the Chalmers CO₂ storage database should therefore be considered as rough
316 preliminary estimates. The cost of CO₂ storage is set to €10.80 t_{CO₂}⁻¹ for depleted oil and gas
317 fields and €15.60 t_{CO₂}⁻¹ for saline aquifers (ZEP, 2011) (scaled by an inflation factor of 1.09
318 for 2010 to 2017 (Official Data Foundation, 2018)).



319

320 *Figure 5: Locations of CO₂ sources and offshore storage locations relative to the location of integrated steel*
 321 *plants. Data on storage locations taken from Chalmers CO₂ storage database (Kjärstad and Johnsson, 2007).*

322 2.5 Scenario setting

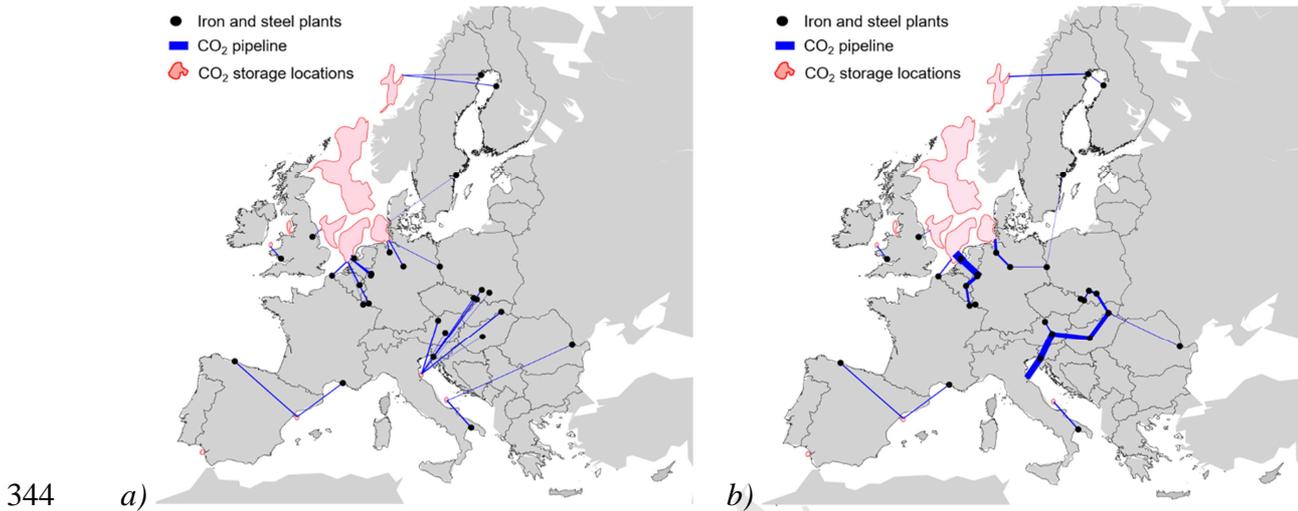
323 To help answer our questions, we explore a range of scenarios that vary across two
 324 dimensions: (1) the CO₂ emission reduction goal to be achieved, and (2) the configuration of
 325 the physical CO₂ infrastructure.

326 To study the increasing importance of bio-CCS in the technology mix, we impose European
 327 emission reduction targets ranging from 0 up to 100%, with a 5% step level. The analysis
 328 focuses only on the CO₂ emissions occurring on-site for the integrated steel plants, in other
 329 words, it does not consider the produced emissions during fuel transportation, upgrading or
 330 production as such a study would require a detailed Life Cycle Analysis (LCA). The follow
 331 up discussion takes place on both plant and country level, in order to evaluate whether any
 332 country has an outstanding opportunity for bio-CCS deployment that would be able to
 333 significantly reduce CO₂ emissions on its own.

334 To account for the possibility of several plants sharing a CO₂ pipeline system, two CO₂
 335 networks, classified as individual or collaborative, are considered (Figure 6). In both cases,
 336 the costs are calculated for a “plateau flow” of CO₂ (a CO₂ pipeline network where all plants
 337 start delivering their maximum CO₂ volumes from day one). It is important to note that

338 achieving the proposed collaborative network would be difficult in practice since it is unlikely
 339 that all plants will deploy CCS/bio-CCS at the same time.

340 A number of non-economic barriers that can potentially influence CO₂ pipeline construction
 341 can be identified. This includes, for example, the 1996 London Protocol prohibiting the
 342 export of CO₂ for storage (International Maritime Organization, 2006), expected local
 343 opposition (Margriet Kuijper, 2011) or previous studies disclosing certain pipeline networks.



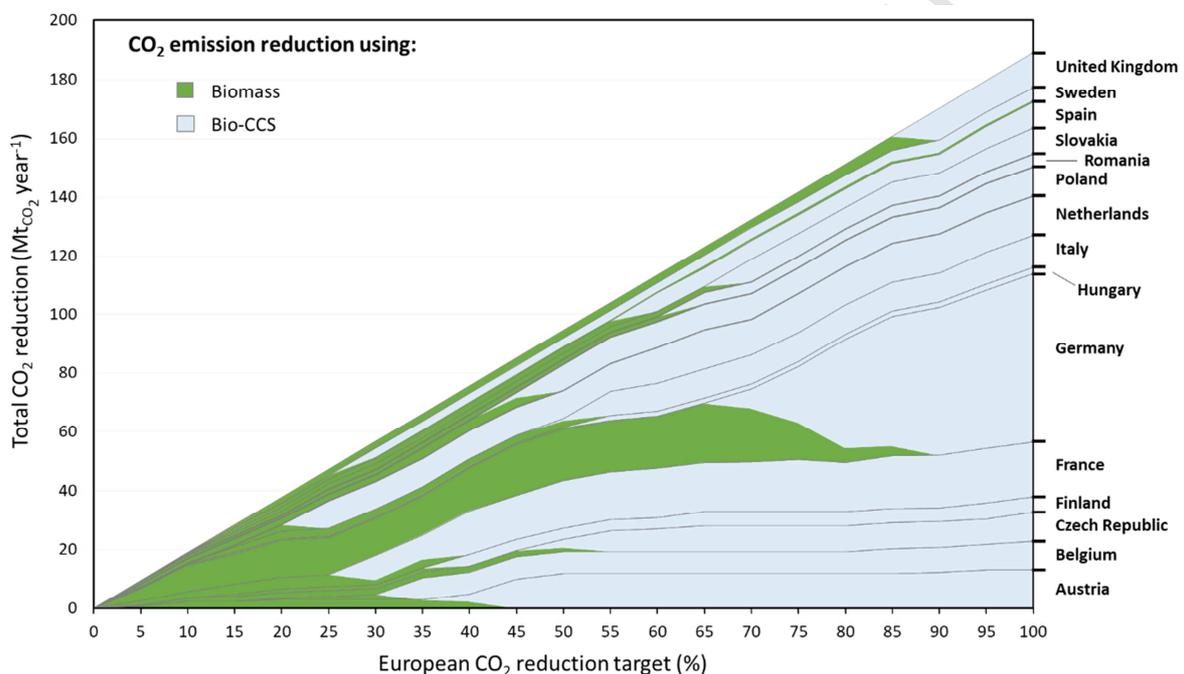
344 a) b)
 345 *Figure 6: Notional a) individual vs. b) collaborative CO₂ pipeline network based on minimum distance criteria*
 346 *and capacities of the CO₂ storage reservoirs.*

347 3 Results

348 3.1 The importance of bio-CCS for various CO₂ reduction targets

349 The optimal technology mix to meet different CO₂ emission reduction targets is shown in
 350 Figure 7. After considering the three technologies – biomass, CCS, and bio-CCS – it emerged
 351 that the application of bio-CCS is required across all plants to achieve a 100% CO₂ reduction
 352 (of 189 Mt_{CO₂} year⁻¹) within the European iron and steelmaking industry. However, the
 353 deployment of bio-CCS is not the most favourable technology for all plants in terms of
 354 meeting low EU emission reduction targets. As Figure 7 demonstrates, the deployment of
 355 biomass on its own is a key strategy to reduce up to 20% (38 Mt_{CO₂} year⁻¹) of the total CO₂
 356 emissions coming from integrated European steel plants. In addition, all countries provide a
 357 similar share of CO₂ emission reduction in relation to their total emissions for the lower
 358 targets. This demonstrates that no individual country would present an outstanding
 359 opportunity for the quick introduction of low-cost biomass that would in turn help to
 360 significantly reduce the total iron and steelmaking related emissions in the EU. Rather, the

361 results show that a collaborative effort from all plants is necessary. For targets above a 20%
 362 reduction, a new technology (CCS) is introduced on top of the old one (from here on referred
 363 to as bio-CCS), particularly for plants in the Netherlands, France, Sweden and Belgium. At a
 364 50% emission reduction target, the bulk of the reduction is met by installations of bio-CCS,
 365 which becomes the key technology for meeting any targets beyond the 50% mark. Germany
 366 and the United Kingdom (UK) are the last countries seen to introduce a shift from biomass to
 367 bio-CCS. The figure also shows that no country introduces CCS without also including
 368 biomass at any target. These results demonstrate that for European integrated steel plants,
 369 biomass or bio-CCS is preferable over the deployment of CCS alone.



370

371 *Figure 7: Changes in the technology mix based on different targets imposed on total CO₂ emissions from the*
 372 *European iron and steel plants. Pure CCS technology is not represented as it was never selected.*

373 Overall, the resulting maximum achievable emission reduction for the steel plants is 191
 374 MtCO₂ year⁻¹, which would lead to a negative emission potential of 2 MtCO₂ year⁻¹. This result,
 375 however, cannot be seen as significant due to the estimated error range of the obtained results,
 376 and so no negative emission opportunities across the European iron and steel industry are
 377 presented.

378 3.2 CO₂ avoidance cost of bio-CCS

379 Figure 8 shows that the CO₂ avoidance cost of emissions due to the deployment of biomass
 380 and of CCS within a bio-CCS system are comparable on plant level, particularly when
 381 comparing high levels of biomass substitution with the lowest costs of CCS deployment.

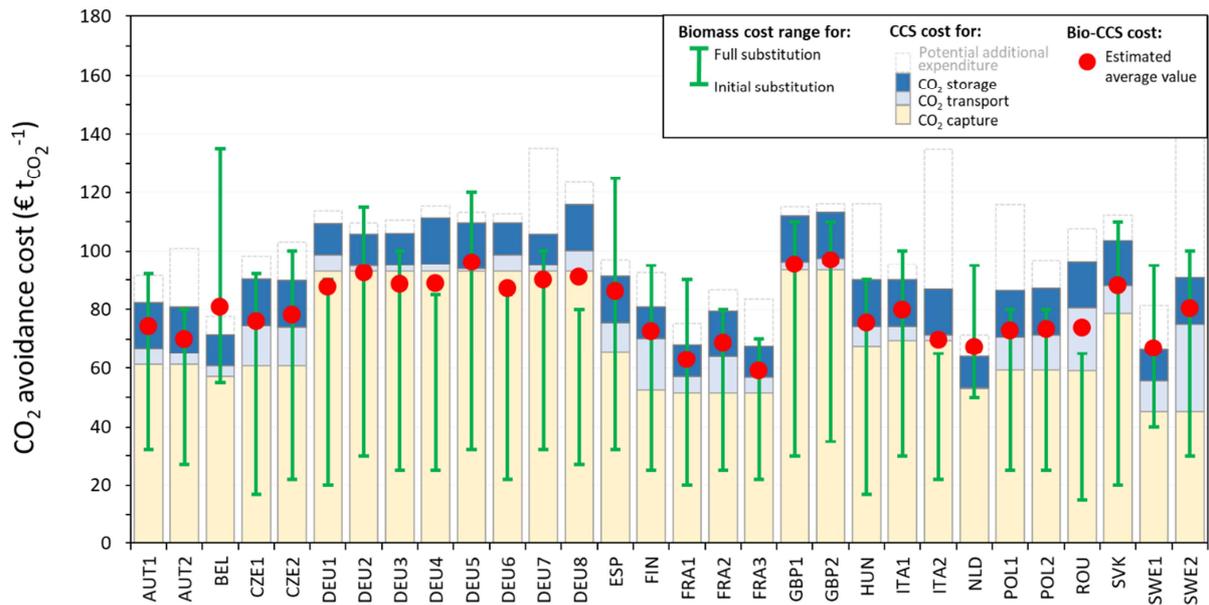
382 Complete CO₂ emission reduction across European iron and steel plants using bio-CCS will
383 cost on average €80 tCO₂⁻¹ avoided, ranging from €59 tCO₂⁻¹ for a plant in France to €97 tCO₂⁻¹
384 for a plant in the UK.

385 The range of the CO₂ avoidance costs of bio-CCS is due to different economics behind the
386 deployment of biomass and CCS in each plant. For example, avoiding CO₂ emissions using
387 biomass costs on average €61 tCO₂⁻¹ at the maximum technically-feasible substitution. For the
388 plant in Romania however, the CO₂ is avoided using biomass at costs as low as €40 tCO₂⁻¹.
389 The lower estimate of the CO₂ avoidance cost using biomass for certain plants can be
390 explained by a combination of factors, including the availability of cheap feedstock in the
391 plant vicinity, short transport distances between the feedstock supply locations and the plant,
392 or competitive prices for feedstock upgrading to the final bio-products in the countries where
393 the plants are located.

394 The economics of CCS on the other hand, are influenced by the distance of the plants to the
395 storage locations, the amount of CO₂ transported annually, the type of CO₂ storage reservoir,
396 as well as country-specific electricity prices. The resulting average CO₂ emission reduction
397 cost using CCS technology is estimated at €92 tCO₂⁻¹ avoided. This cost includes the
398 technology investment, as well as the operational cost related to CO₂ capture, transport and its
399 injection into the reservoirs. In general, CCS deployment is the most expensive for plants in
400 Germany and the UK, as the biggest expense related to CCS deployment is the CO₂ capture
401 cost (around 76% of the overall CO₂ avoidance cost), which is heavily influenced by the cost
402 of electricity in the country.

403 Initial biomass substitution is cheaper than the deployment of CCS, as the CO₂ avoidance cost
404 for CCS technology exceeds the CO₂ avoidance cost for initial biomass substitution, as
405 presented in Figure 8. However, plants in the Netherlands and Belgium have CO₂ avoidance
406 costs by bio-CCS that exceed the costs of CCS on its own (€67 tCO₂⁻¹ and €64 tCO₂⁻¹ for the
407 Netherlands, and €81 tCO₂⁻¹ and €71 tCO₂⁻¹ for Belgium, for bio-CCS and CCS, respectively).
408 In these cases, biomass is economically preferable to CCS for only very low emission
409 reduction levels, and the introduction of CCS on top of biomass is expected even at lower
410 emission targets, before the maximum technically feasible substitution by biomass is
411 achieved. It is important to note that zero emissions across European integrated steel plants
412 can only be reached at maximum biomass substitution in combination with full CCS
413 deployment.

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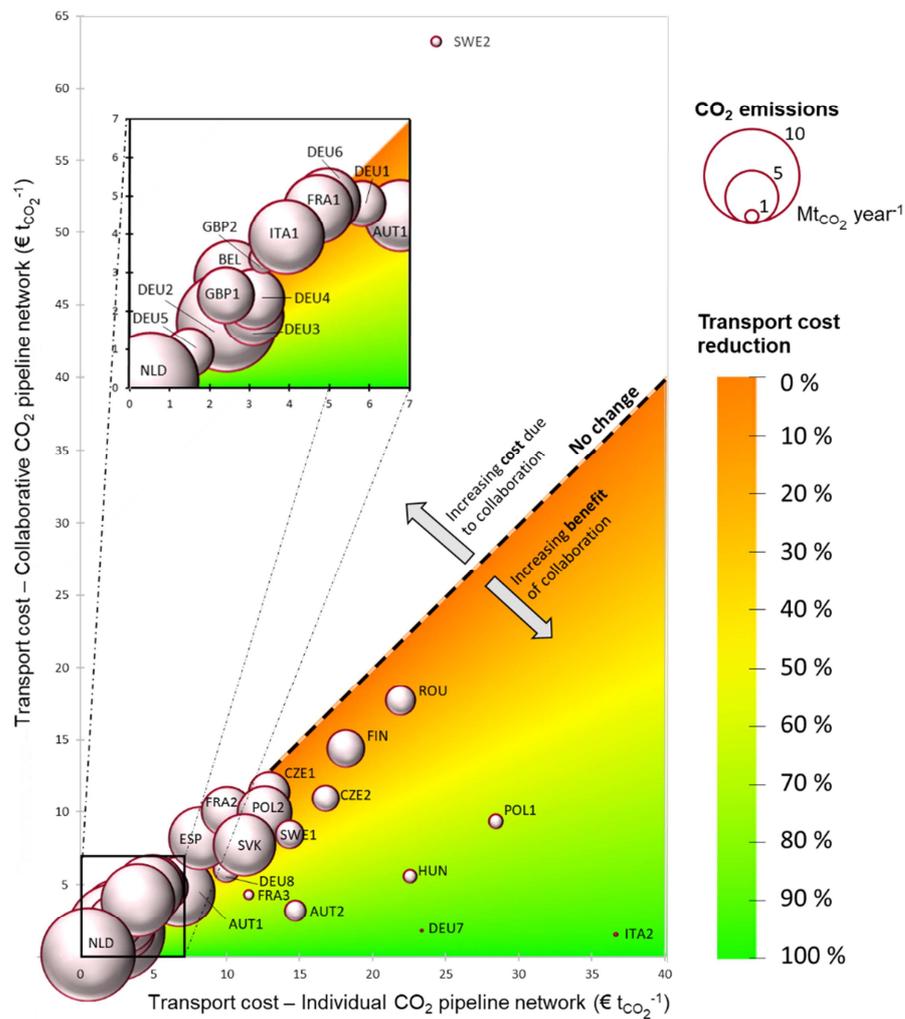
Figure 8: CO₂ avoidance cost of bio-CCS application for each plant achieved when meeting different CO₂ reduction targets across the whole European iron and steel industry.

418 3.3 The role of CO₂ transport and possibilities for cost reduction

419 CO₂ transport cost constitutes only a relatively small part of the CO₂ avoidance cost using
 420 bio-CCS, (on average 6% of the total cost). The potential reduction of the CO₂ transport cost
 421 when applying a collaborative CO₂ pipeline network instead of an individual one is studied in
 422 Figure 9. The figure demonstrates both plants for which collaborative networks will not
 423 provide any significant CO₂ transport cost benefits (plants located close to the central line),
 424 and plants for which cluster networks will result in significant reductions of the CO₂ transport
 425 costs (plants in the coloured area). As can be observed, the biggest iron and steel plants
 426 (located in the zoomed-in box of transport costs of €7 tCO₂⁻¹ or less) do not significantly divert
 427 from the central slope line. Hence, it can be seen that the big iron and steel plants would not
 428 gain a significant economic advantage from collaborative CO₂ pipeline networks, due to the
 429 large volumes that will be transported from these plants already. On the other hand,
 430 collaborative CO₂ networks would significantly benefit smaller iron and steel plants. Cost
 431 reductions exceeding 60% could be expected for the small plants in Austria, Hungary and
 432 Poland, while for the smallest plants in Germany and Italy, the results show possible cost
 433 reductions of over 90%. Medium plants in Slovakia, Czech Republic, Finland, etc. could also
 434 benefit from collaborative pipeline networks, with transport cost reductions between 10 and
 435 20%. The Swedish plant in Oxelösund (SWE2) is the only plant for which a collaborative

436 pipeline network would be unprofitable, due to a significant increase in the total CO₂ transport
 437 distance from this plant. Potential storage sites have been identified in the Swedish part of the
 438 Baltic Sea, just 250 km southeast of the Oxelösund plant but storage and injection capacity in
 439 these reservoirs are still highly uncertain due to a lack of data (Rokke et al., 2016). Moreover,
 440 both potential storage sites identified in the Swedish part of the Baltic Sea are classified as
 441 Natura 2000 areas which possibly could have effect on activities related to transport and
 442 injection of CO₂(Natur Vards Verket, 2018).

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Figure 9: Impact of collaborative CO₂ pipeline network on CO₂ transport cost, compared to individual networks. Plants located close to the bottom right corner would experience the greatest cost reduction from the collaborative pipeline network. The closer a plant gets to the central line the less cost reduction per tCO_2 transported can be expected from joining the collaborative pipeline.

449 **4 Discussion: Perspective for bio-CCS deployment across European** 450 **integrated steel plants – from modelling to reality**

451 The modelling results demonstrate that bio-CCS can achieve a 100% CO₂ emission reduction
452 across European integrated steel plants. However, these results are related to the emissions
453 occurring only on-site, and rely heavily on the assumption of carbon neutrality of biomass. As
454 emissions of the bio-CCS system are also produced off-site due to land use change, biomass
455 harvesting, transport and upgrading, as well as due to CO₂ capture, transport and storage, iron
456 and steelmaking in Europe would not be carbon-neutral from the whole system perspective.
457 For example, work by Fajardy and Mac Dowell (2017) calculated (for a specific case of US
458 switchgrass and BECCS application) that technically, only 45% of the geologically stored
459 biological-based CO₂ emissions could be considered as negative emissions. Therefore, the
460 deployment of biomass or bio-CCS in the iron and steel industry could still result in a
461 significant amount of emissions contributing to the total European carbon budget. A detailed
462 LCA specific to each plant would be required to estimate the real environmental benefits of
463 those technologies.

464 With increasing biomass demand from other sectors also looking to reduce their CO₂
465 emissions (e.g., as feedstock for transportation fuel production or for the chemical industry),
466 the biomass market can be expected to undergo significant transformations, which may in turn
467 lead to price increases. Olofsson (2018) analysed the impact on regional biomass markets of
468 introducing biomass to an integrated steel plant in Sweden (SWE1, in this study). He found
469 that while the total welfare effect in the region would be relatively small, certain market
470 segments, in particular regarding secondary biomass, could potentially be heavily affected,
471 leading to significant price effects for both the steel plant and other biomass users in the
472 region.

473 The introduction of bio-CCS can present a valuable opportunity for CO₂ emission reduction
474 and the defossilisation of the European iron and steel industry, which could also be
475 deployable on a relatively short term. The creation of an economic environment within the EU
476 and characterised by policy certainty (for example, giving extra credits under the EU-ETS
477 system for bio-CCS) that would make the investments in CCS/bio-CCS a strategic decision
478 for the industry (ZEP, 2018), is key for this transition. The average CO₂ avoidance cost of €80
479 t_{CO₂}⁻¹ identified in this work would translate to a noticeable increase in steel production cost.
480 Even though Rootzén and Johnsson (2016) argued that a carbon price of €100 t_{CO₂}⁻¹ would
481 increase the price of the final steel product (e.g., a car) by only a tiny fraction, the economic

482 disadvantage of European steel against cheap imports from particularly China, might be
483 further enhanced. This could in turn lead to plant shutdowns, which would also create a
484 significant impact further down the line of the value chain by, for instance, losing a high
485 number of steel-related jobs in Europe. Therefore, bio-CCS, especially in the European iron
486 and steel industry, will not be deployed without a valid economic case and a stable policy
487 regime.

488 Apart from economic barriers, the application of bio-CCS might not be possible due a variety
489 of social, technical and legislative issues, mostly related to CO₂ transport and storage. While
490 the inclusion of these aspects in the modelling was outside the scope of this work, it is,
491 however, still important to highlight them. The integrated steel plants would have to
492 overcome issues such as negative public perception, uncertainties in CO₂ storage capacities
493 around Europe, issues related to the 1996 London Protocol, and temporary bans on onshore
494 CO₂ storage in some countries, even though these issues are occurring outside of their
495 borders. However, as has been shown in this work, the costs of CO₂ transport and storage
496 constitute minor contributions towards the total cost of CCS/bio-CCS deployment, and non-
497 economic barriers related to those parts might be of decisive importance.

498 If bio-CCS is excluded as a technology option, the maximum emission reductions are limited
499 to 20% by exclusively using the best presently available technologies. The deployment of
500 innovative technologies that are currently in development or pilot scales would thus be
501 necessary to meet the targets for the iron and steel industry (Pardo and Moya, 2013). Of the
502 emerging technologies, top gas recycling, which requires the retrofitting of the existing blast
503 furnace fleet, is closest to application (Moya and Pardo, 2013). HIsarna or direct reduction
504 processes such as ULCORED, Midrex, HYL or ULCOWIN are also being discussed, even
505 though their deployment is currently facing either technology readiness issues (expected by
506 2030 or even 2040) or economic barriers (CO₂ avoidance costs of over €100 tCO₂⁻¹) (Pardo
507 and Moya, 2013). Opportunities for iron ore reduction using hydrogen, such as the HYBRIT
508 (HYBRIT, 2017) and H2FUTURE (“H2FUTURE Green Hydrogen,” n.d.) projects in Sweden
509 and Austria, respectively, are now also becoming available. By 2035, the industry hopes to
510 have a process in place (Vattenfall AB, 2018) that could play a leading role in European iron
511 and steel making from 2050 onwards (Sgobbi et al., 2016). It is not possible to predict which
512 technologies and/or combinations of technologies are likely to emerge, but emission
513 reductions beyond 40% will still mean their co-application with CCS (EUROFER, 2013).
514 Therefore, overcoming CCS barriers should be a priority if CCS were to become the key
515 technology for emission reduction in this industry in the near future (ZEP, 2018). The

516 introduction of bio-CCS could achieve high emission savings in a relatively short time, since
517 bio-CCS requires comparatively small retrofits to plants, while the more innovative
518 technologies still face considerable research and development before they will be ready to be
519 deployed.

520 **5 Conclusion**

521 This work explores the CO₂ emission reduction potential of bio-CCS in integrated steel plants
522 across the EU and compares opportunities for its deployment across the 30 operating plants.
523 Our findings show that bio-CCS can play a role in achieving carbon-neutrality across these
524 plants when considering only emissions produced on-site. However, bio-CCS would not be an
525 economically favourable option when aiming to reach specific CO₂ emission reduction targets
526 below 20% for which an autonomous deployment of biomass over full bio-CCS is more
527 favourable. Therefore, biomass can be considered a strategic solution for an initial
528 decarbonisation, of which the CO₂ emission reduction potential could be enhanced through
529 the additional deployment of CCS (resulting in bio-CCS), if required.

530 In this study, an average CO₂ avoidance cost using bio-CCS in European iron and steel plants
531 is calculated to €80 tCO₂⁻¹. This is indeed a large additional expenditure that would
532 significantly increase the steel production cost of the plants, even for the most suitable ones.
533 The work shows that an initial biomass substitution is cheaper than CCS deployment, but then
534 costs related to the high level of biomass utilisation are similar to the deployment cost of
535 CCS. Despite CO₂ capture accounting for the biggest share of CO₂ avoidance cost by CCS,
536 the opportunities in cost reduction actually emerge in CO₂ transport as plants start sharing
537 CO₂ pipeline networks. Especially for small integrated steel plants, the CO₂ transport cost
538 could be reduced by up to 90%. Opportunities for the reduction of CO₂ capture costs could
539 also occur in the future. Cost of a first-of-a-kind capture plant is usually significantly greater
540 than the cost of a mature nth-of-a-kind (Rubin et al., 2015). This has been demonstrated at, for
541 example, the Shand power plant, based on lessons learnt from the Boundary Dam, or
542 discussed in a work by van den Broek et al. (2009). Hence, there is a high likelihood that the
543 CO₂ avoidance cost of using bio-CCS could be even lower than €80 tCO₂⁻¹ in the future.
544 However, in the present, a significant cost reduction of bio-CCS is difficult, and the EU has to
545 propose stronger economic incentives that would ensure a competitive iron and steel industry
546 in the EU, if carbon-neutrality using bio-CCS is defined as the way to go.

547 From specifically a geographical viewpoint, no country presents an outstanding opportunity
548 for bio-CCS. In general, the technology is most likely to be developed in France, the
549 Netherlands, Belgium and in one of the plants in Sweden, since these plants achieve the
550 lowest bio-CCS deployment costs. On the other hand, the least favourable countries are
551 Germany and the UK due to the comparably high costs of CO₂ capture.

552 It is important to mention that if we want bio-CCS to be developed at a large scale in Europe,
553 non-economic barriers of a regulatory-social-environmental nature must also be resolved, or
554 at least accounted for in the policy agenda. Further study is necessary to identify the most
555 essential problems that the EU or specific countries and regions are facing. It is recommended
556 that a sensitivity analysis of the impact of overcoming barriers on the CO₂ avoidance cost for
557 each plant shown in this work be included in such a study.

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