Working Group 5: What kind of platform for dialogue and cooperation on carbon offsets in Europe?

Berlin, June 20, 2015
Guiding Questions

1. What should be the main function(s) of a platform for dialogue and cooperation on carbon offsets? What are the specific needs to establish a platform?

2. Who should be the stakeholders involved? Who should be in the lead?

3. What should be the format of the platform? How should it be organized?
Guiding Question 1

1. What should be the main function(s) of a platform for dialogue and cooperation on carbon offsets? What are the specific needs to establish a platform?

Loose, cooperative approach:

Knowledge and best practice sharing; e.g. on

– steps taken to reduce emissions;
– carbon prices;
– methodological approaches towards calculating emissions and standards,
– capacity building activities
Guiding Question 1

1. What should be the main function(s) of a platform for dialogue and cooperation on carbon offsets? What are the specific needs to establish a platform?

Harmonized coordinated approach:

- *Enhance visibility* of voluntary offset mechanism
- *Technical dialogue* on a desirable regulatory approach
- *Joint AAU regulation* for voluntary offsets to ensure these are not counted towards int’l reduction obligations
- *Set a voluntary standard*:
  - Not in competition to existing standards in the market but to reinforce those that are robust and already exist
  - Promote transparency & standardization of emission reduction market.
  - Transparency and assurance against double-counting.
Guiding Question 2

2. Who should be the stakeholders involved? Who should be in the lead?

Loose, cooperative approach:

• Agencies responsible for managing domestic carbon offset regulatory framework
• Domestic offset initiatives (private sector driven)
Guiding Question 2

2. Who should be the stakeholders involved? Who should be in the lead?

Harmonized coordinated approach

- Facilitate inclusive, multi-stakeholder dialogue involving decision-makers from companies, policy, civil society, and science
3. What should be the format of the platform?
   How should it be organized?

Loose, cooperative approach:

- Informal association / exchange without a fixed structure
- Irregular meetings with changing participation
- Online discussion platform (incl. webinars etc.)
3. What should be the format of the platform? How should it be organized?

Harmonized coordinated approach

- *Formalized, institutionalized* platform
- *High-level political involvement*: Ministerial / national agency level (necessary for establishing a binding agreement on harmonized carbon pricing, AAU cancellation etc.)
- *Establish a steering committee*, composed of representatives of the member institutions
- Members and observers *meet personally on a regular basis*
- *Establish a secretariat* to coordinate day-to-day work; prepare background material and analysis/supporting documents