



**G8 ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS MEETING
SYRACUSE, ITALY, 22-24 APRIL 2009**

ITALY AND AUSTRALIA SIGN ACCORD
on
CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE (CCS)

CCS technology

CCS is a technological process in which carbon dioxide contained in fumes generated by combustion processes is captured and then transported and deposited underground for storage in suitable geological formations, using on occasion areas where oil and gas have been extracted.

CCS is attracting growing interest because it is part of a process of technological innovation that is necessary to achieve a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. The International Energy Agency's global projections for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions highlight the decisive contribution the spread of this technology could make.

The agreement with Australia

With the signing of the agreement with Australia, the Italian Ministry of the Environment will join the Australian government's interesting initiative to create the **Global CCS Institute (GCCSI)**.

The institute aims to accelerate the development of environmentally sound technologies for capturing and storing carbon dioxide generated by large combustion plants. Among the institute's principal objectives is to enable and support the construction of industrial-scale demonstration projects in a time horizon to 2015 so that CCS technology can be commercially available by 2020.

The GCCSI, operational since February as part of the Australian Department of Resources, has received broad international support with founding members including various governments, international organisations and research institutes as well as some important companies operating internationally in the energy sector. The founding members held their first meeting on 16-17 April in Canberra.

Enel SpA Chief Executive Fulvio Conti will be present at the signing of the accord between Italy and Australia.

The Italian Ministry of the Environment and CCS

As regards research and experimentation of safe carbon capture and storage, the Italian Ministry of the Environment has already promoted a strategic co-operation accord between Enel and Eni with the aim of carrying out a national test of the technology.

This is important in view of the decision to provide European Union incentives for the construction of an expected 12 pilot projects, including one in Italy.