

Pre-COP Forum organized by ACP Energies Association

Managing the slow carbon cycle

Conference, debate, networking

Hybrid Format

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Organized by:

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Editorial



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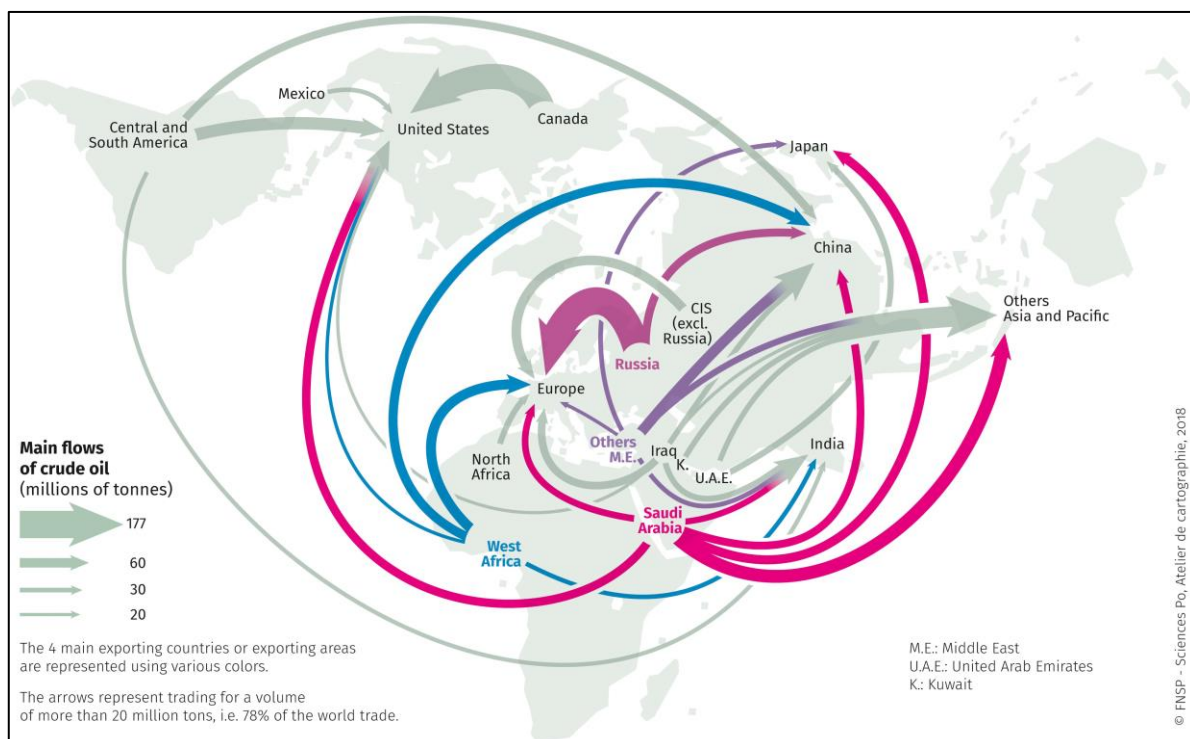
ACP Energies Association

In the run-up to the next COP28 in Dubai and its taking place in December 2023, carbon emissions into the atmosphere will once again attract the attention of the media and the public – rightly worried about the worsening climate crisis.

Decarbonizing energy and condemning fossil fuels to a rapid end are seemingly obvious measures advocated by many stakeholders at the COP, including IPCC scientists and research organizations from which they come.

And yet, is this really the best way to stop the worsening climate crisis? Will we act quickly enough on the net quantities of carbon emitted each year into the atmosphere to avoid exceeding 2°C of warming?

The heavy industrial chains of production-consumption of fossil fuels constitute the most serious obstacle to the implementation of these recommendations. It involves not only national or international producers of hydrocarbons, but also consumers and administrations that tax them by drawing significant tax resources. How can we ensure that these entities, which have consolidated their relations for decades in a close financial and economic symbiosis, mobilize to allow the immediate implementation of rapid and effective solutions to decarbonize the atmosphere?



The close interrelations between all these actors and the dominant position of upstream players have so far allowed them to shift their responsibility for the complete management of the slow carbon cycle onto the final consumer. Isn't this the main blocking factor in the management of the slow carbon cycle today? Would it not be appropriate to promote upstream fossil carbon management policies, directly involving states and oil production companies in the same way as end consumers?

Should we condemn emerging countries in high energy demand to move away from fossil or even biocarbon-based energy sources, while other countries, some of which claim to be exemplary in the management of their carbon emissions, will continue to use fossil fuels directly in their territory or indirectly via their imports?

Should we at all costs favor carbon-free energy sources when carbon-based energies currently constitute 91% of primary energy sources, 81% of which are of fossil origin? Is it not more reasonable to promote the substitution of fossil fuels by bio-based carbon fuels, especially since the latter are generated by atmospheric carbon capture. And since additionally appropriate local land management integrating local chains of production-consumption of bio-based carbon fuels could be put in place?

Hydrogen is now rightly attracting tremendous technical and economic interest. It is perceived as a cornerstone of the energy transition because it not only makes it possible to directly power all types of engines, combustion or electric, but it also offers a substitute for carbon for heavy industries that need a reducing chemical element (steel, metallurgy, chemistry). The production of "green" hydrogen, resulting from the electrolysis of water from so-called green or low-carbon electricity, is today the preferred solution for many players. Wouldn't biohydrogen, resulting from the microbial or chemical transformation of organic matter at an energy cost significantly lower than that of water electrolysis, also deserve the same level of attention from our financial and political decision-makers?

This Forum, organized in collaboration with the ACP Energies association in preparation for COP28, aims to provide a platform for exchanges on these issues.