



# **POWER CHOICES**

## **Pathways to carbon-neutral electricity in Europe by 2050**

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EURELECTRIC

**Geneva, 24 February 2010**



# **EURELECTRIC CEO Declaration**

*18 March 2009*

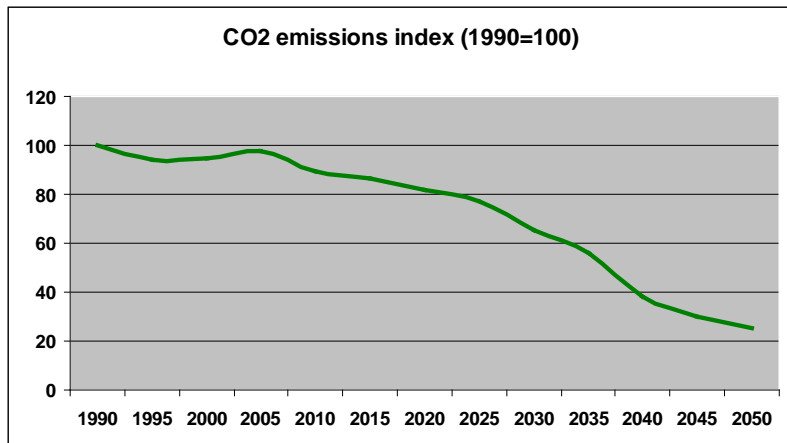


- 1. Carbon-neutral power in Europe by 2050**
- 2. Cost-efficient, reliable supply through an integrated market**
- 3. Energy efficiency & electricity use as solutions to mitigate climate change**



## Main assumptions for Power Choices scenario

### 75% CO<sub>2</sub> cut EU-wide

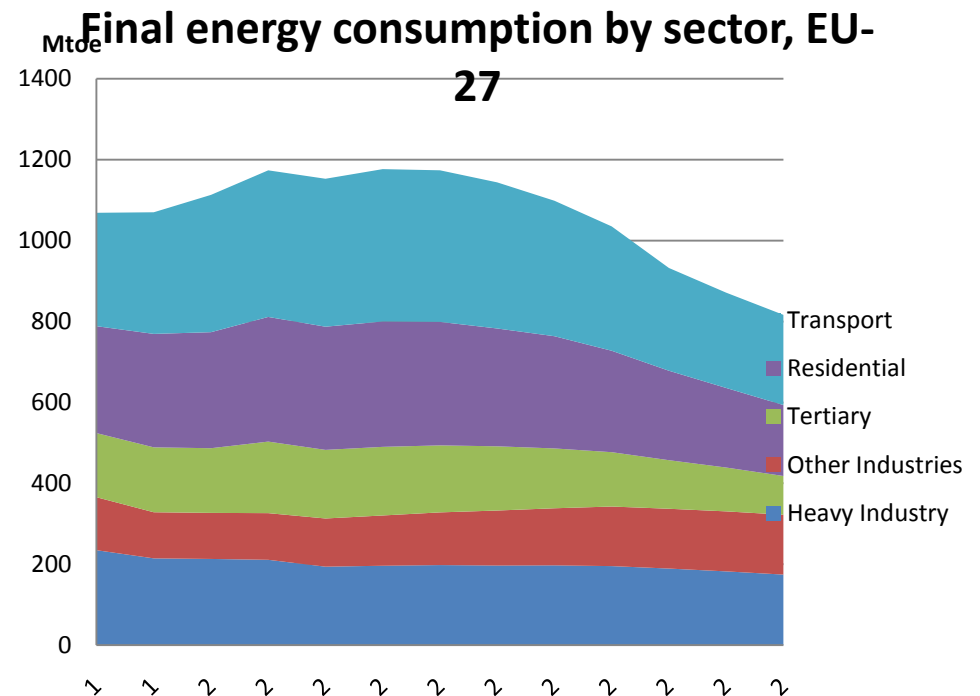


### *POWER CHOICES SCENARIO*

- 75% CO<sub>2</sub> cut across whole EU economy
- CO<sub>2</sub> price applied uniformly to all sectors
- Power becomes major transport fuel
- All power generation options available (with CCS commercially available as of 2025)
- Major policy push in energy efficiency
- No binding RES target post-2020
- CO<sub>2</sub> price is the only driver for low-carbon generation post 2030



## Decrease in energy demand



➔ Paradigm shift to efficient electric technologies

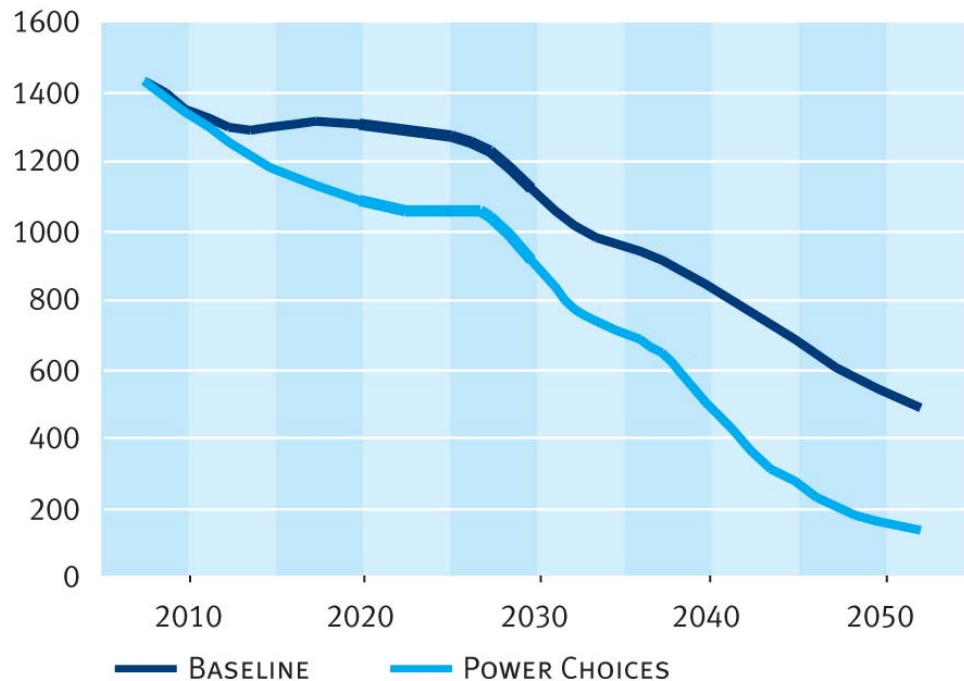
➔ More electricity = less energy





# Carbon emissions from power fall by 90%

CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS (IN MT CO<sub>2</sub>)



**Deep emission cuts  
take place between  
2025-2040.**

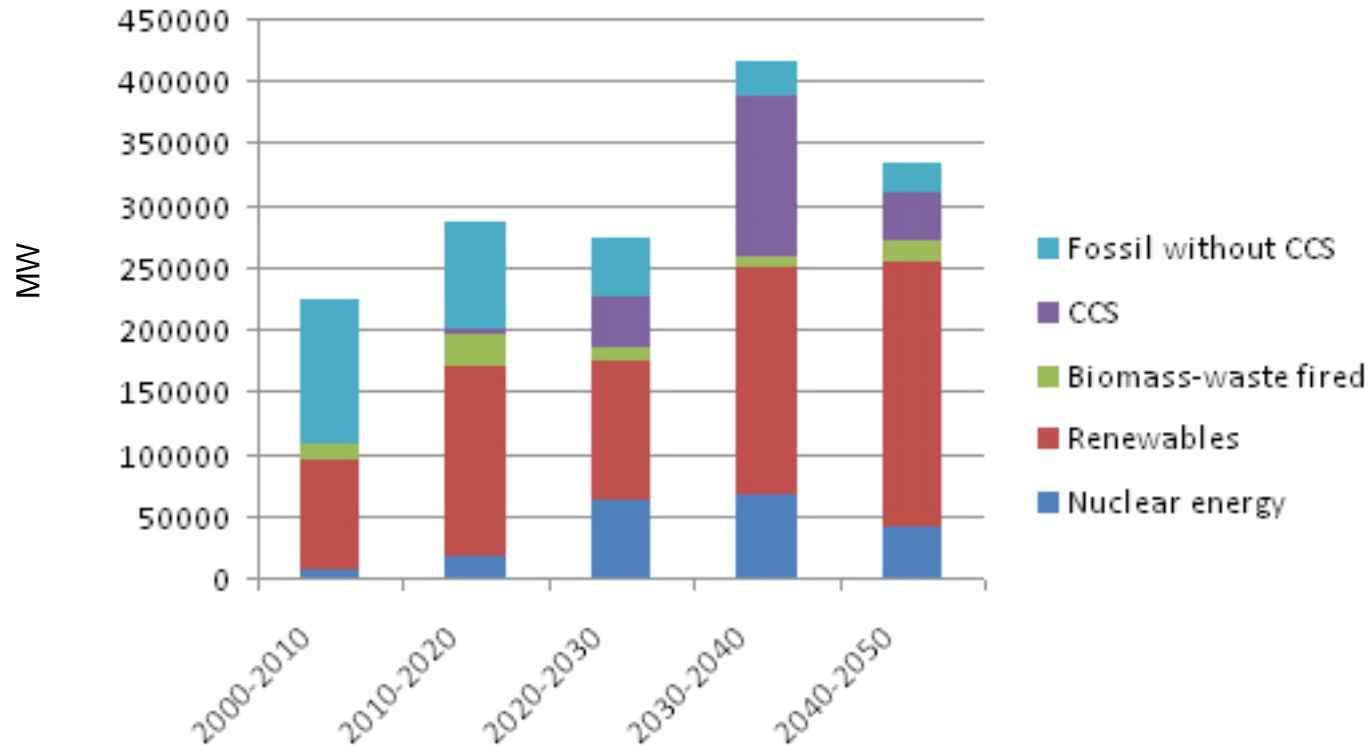
**But investments are  
needed NOW!**

**NOW: 1423 MtCO<sub>2</sub>  
2050: 128 MtCO<sub>2</sub>**



# Investment needed across the period

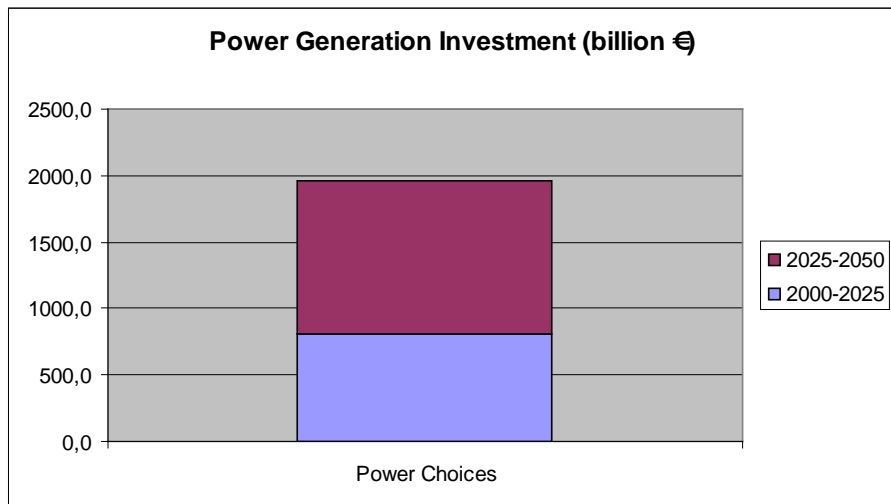
Gross investment in generation capacity



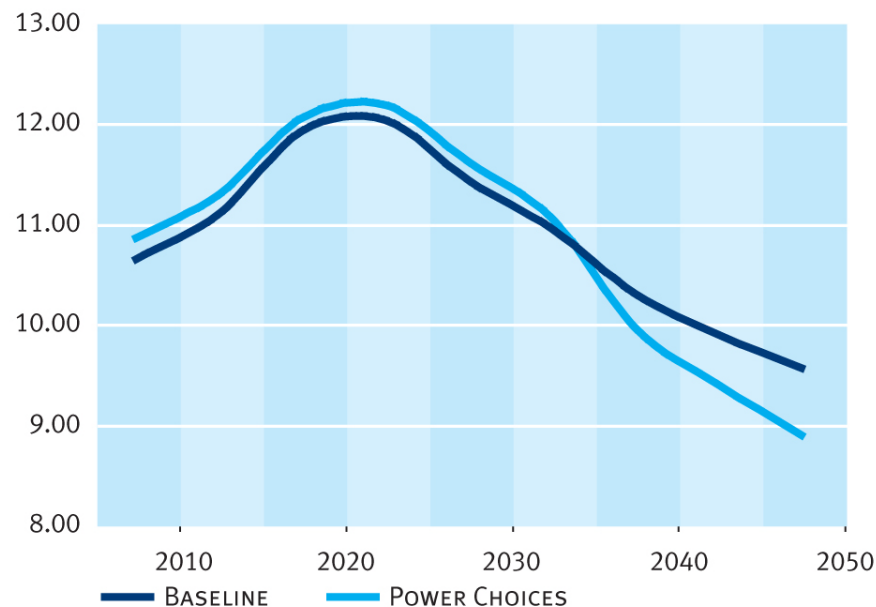


# Significant investments... ... but a reasonable cost for society

Investment needed in power generation by 2050: €2 trillion



TOTAL COST OF ENERGY AS % OF GDP







## What if...

**Nuclear phase-out is reversed in Germany and Belgium?**



**Commercial deployment of CCS is delayed to 2035?**



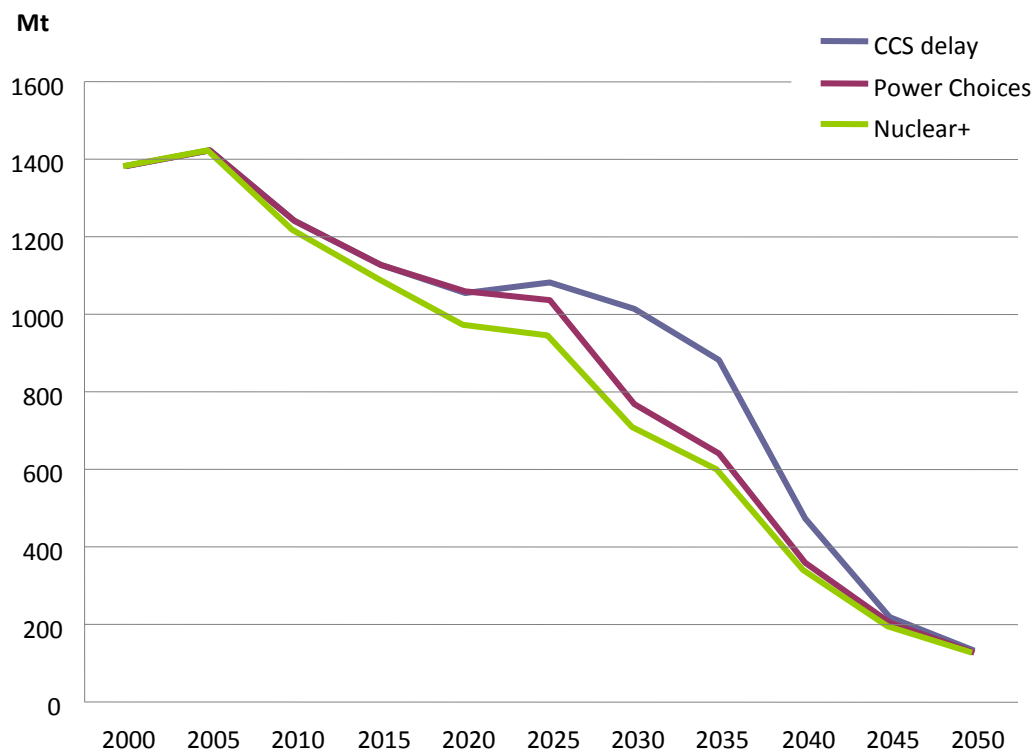
**One-third of onshore wind power is not built due to planning problems?**





## All technologies are *really* needed

CO2 emissions from power, EU-27



- 10-year delay of CCS = delayed CO<sub>2</sub> emission reductions from power & whole economy!
- More nuclear = more rapid reduction curve
- 1/3 onshore wind not built = more CCS & nuclear, off-shore wind not likely to fill gap.



## Key outcomes

- **EU carbon-neutral power by 2050 is realistic**
  - ➔ **-75% CO<sub>2</sub> on whole economy can be reached**
- **All power generation options needed**
- **Electrification of the demand side essential**
- **Significant investment but at acceptable cost to society**
- **The major CO<sub>2</sub> reductions in power are achieved from 2025 onwards**
- **CCS delayed &/or nuclear phase-out = slower CO<sub>2</sub> reduction**



## Policy recommendations

### CO2 reductions

- Support CO<sub>2</sub> market to deliver cap at least cost
- All sectors to internalise cost of GHGs
- Promote an international agreement on climate

### Technology choices

- Enable the use of all low-carbon options for power generation
- Encourage public support for modern energy infrastructure: onshore wind, CCS, smart grids...

### Cost

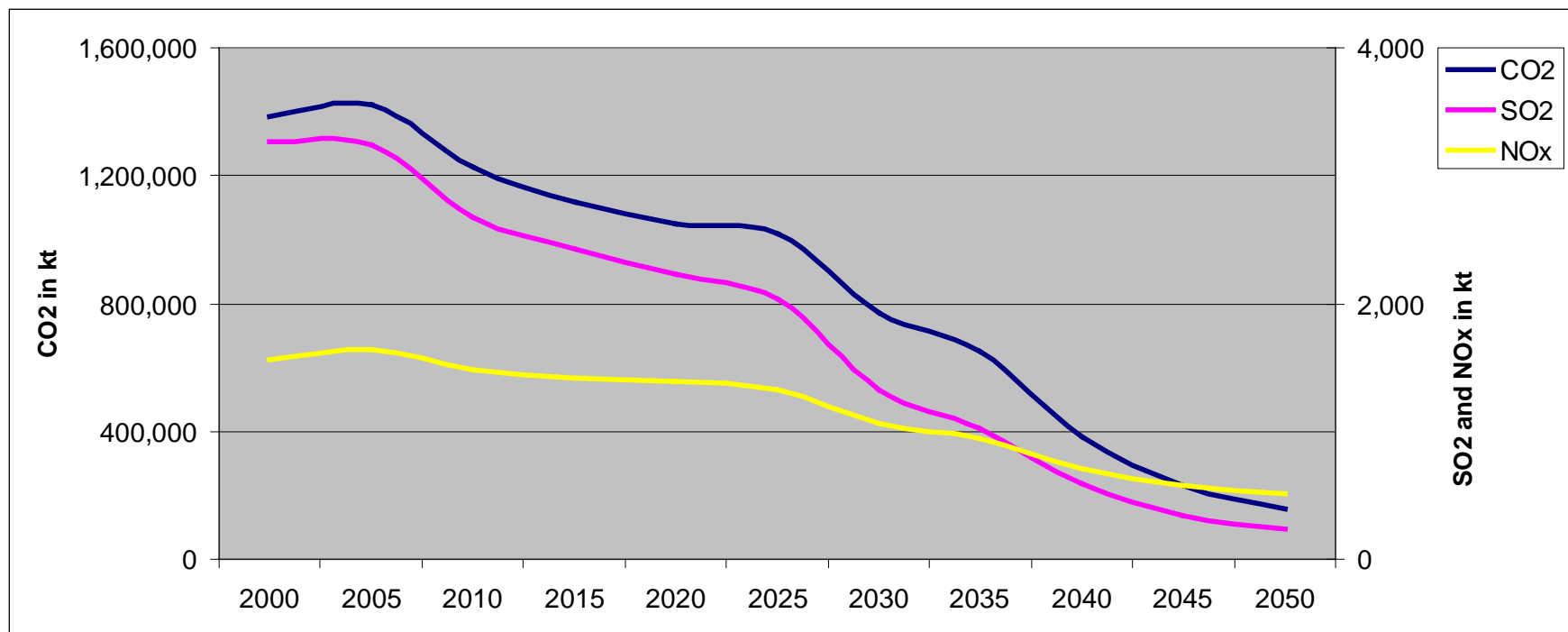
- Significant investment cost but reduction in share of GDP
- Recognise that cost of technology deployment differs substantially across the EU

### Demand-side

- Facilitate electrification of road transport and spatial heating & cooling
- Major policy push in energy efficiency



# Fall in SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from power sector





## EURELECTRIC's partner organisations in Power Choices study:



National Technical University  
of Athens



Verband der  
Großkraftwerks-Betreiber