

Switzerland eager to join EU ETS

(Montel Powernews) - In a few years, Switzerland may join the EU's emissions trading scheme.

"We are in the first technical discussions with the EU over our new CO2 tax [that will be introduced next year]. On that basis it will then be easier to switch over to the EU ETS, which we hope will eventually happen," Walter Steinmann, director of the Swiss federal office of energy, told Montel Powernews on the sidelines of the Green Power Marketing conference in Lausanne.

He refrained from giving any guesstimate on when he believed Switzerland could become part of the carbon scheme, but said "it is our goal".

This goal is shared by one of Switzerland's largest power companies, Energie Ovest Suisse (EOS). "We would like to be part of the EU ETS as soon as possible. But this is a political question, so we can only wait and see what happens," said CEO Hans E Schweickardt.

When presenting its long term energy strategy back in February, the federal energy department (UVEK) said it would take up negotiations with the EU over linking Switzerland to the EU ETS. Other non-EU states like Norway are also hoping to be linked to the EU ETS at some point.

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