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EU Bans Use Of Most Polluting Gases For Carbon Offsets

BRUSSELS (Dow Jones)--European governments agreed Friday to ban from May 2013 the use of certain polluting gases as offsets for CO2 credits within the European Union, in a move aimed at making the system more effective and credible.

"These projects raise concerns relating to their environmental integrity, value-for-money and geographical distribution," said Connie Hedegaard, commissioner for climate action.

Representatives of the 27 EU governments banned most projects abating polluting gases outside the EU from using that reduction to claim CO2 credits within the bloc. The European Parliament now has three months to raise objections to the ban, before it can become operational.

The ban will apply to projects destroying two industrial gases, trifluoromethane, or HFC-23, and nitrous oxide, or N2O from adipic acid production, the commission said.

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