# Supplementary information - Impact of small promoter amounts on coke structure in dry reforming over Ni/ ZrO<sub>2</sub>

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## S1 TPR analysis

Sample	Peak 1 [°C]	Peak 2 [°C]	Peak 3 [°C]
REF	350 °C	460 °C	510 °C
1K	350 °C	420 °C	520 °C
2K	340 °C	400 °C	490 °C
1Na	320 °C	390 °C	490 °C
1Cs	340 °C	410 °C	510 °C
2Cs	370 °C	440 °C	530 °C
1Mn	330 °C	380 °C	470 °C

**Table S1:** Reduction peaks observed during TPR profile deconvolution.

#### S2 TEM images



Fig. S1: Carbon fibres visible after 12 h of coking treatment (left - REF, right - 1Mn).



Fig. S2: Carbon clusters or agglomerates on sample REF in TEM (left) and HRTEM (right) after 12 h of coking treatment.



Fig. S3: Coke structure visible on sample 1Mn after 12 h of coking treatment.

#### S3 HRTEM images



Fig. S4: Example of Ni particles visible on sample 2Cs.



Fig. S5: Example of Ni particles visible on 1K.



Fig. S6: Example of Ni particles visible on 1Mn.



Fig. S7: Example of Ni particles visible on REF.

### S4 Catalytic activity



**Fig. S8:** CO<sub>2</sub> conversion over promoted and non-promoted Ni/ ZrO<sub>2</sub> as a function of time-onstream; 650 °C, 1 bar, 30 mg catalyst, 80 mL min<sup>-1</sup> (20 %CH<sub>4</sub>, 20 % CO<sub>2</sub> in N<sub>2</sub>).

#### S5 TGA-MS results



**Fig. S9:**  $CO_2$  signals measured during the TGA-MS analyses as a function of the sample temperature.

The CO<sub>2</sub> signals obtained during TGA-MS analysis did not allow for further insight into the carbons structure. For samples with more than  $5 \text{ mg}_{\text{C}} \text{ g}^{-1}_{\text{cat}}$ , the TPO profile is dominated by a peak at 450-500 °C. On the other samples, the development of this peak is already partially observable. We attribute this to the use of undiluted synthetic air during TGA, which prevents sufficient separation of the oxidation temperatures of the different carbon species.

### S6 XRD patterns



Fig. S10: XRD patterns of the freshly calcined samples.