



Source: Energy Transformation

Unconventional Gas in the European Union

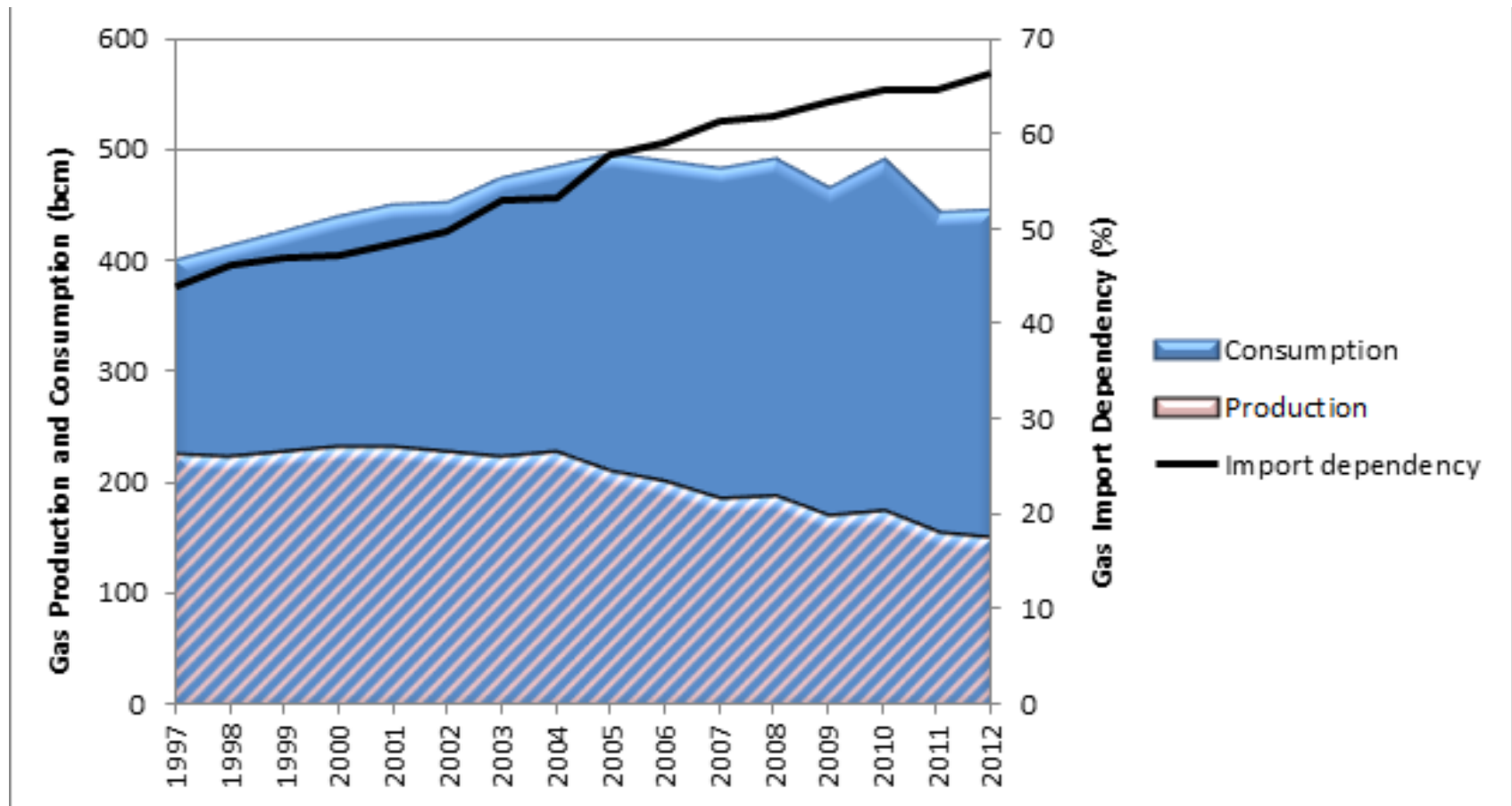
Michael Schuetz

**Policy Officer
Directorate-General for Energy
European Commission**

Michael.Schuetz@ec.europa.eu

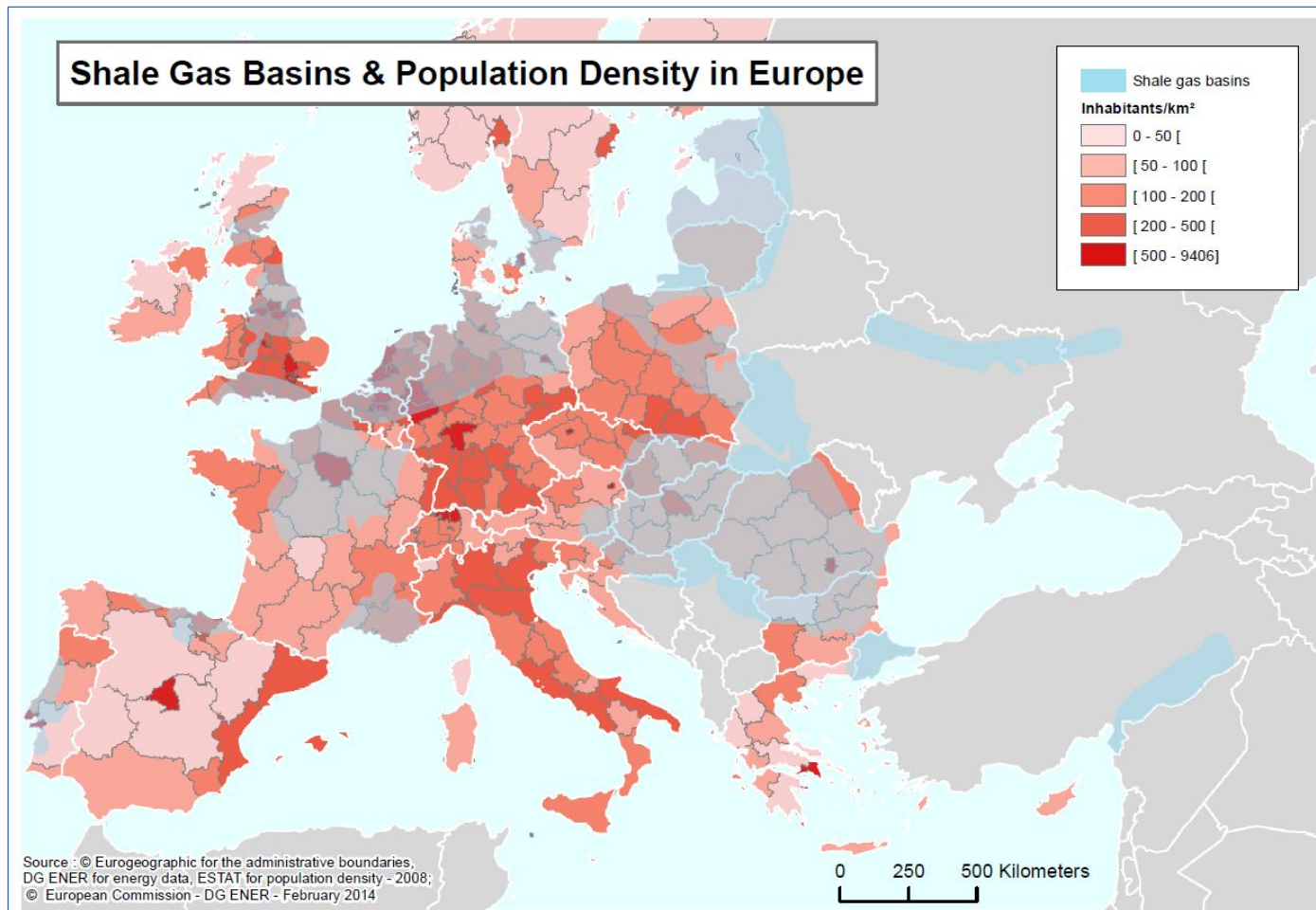
London, 8 April 2014

EU: Rising Import Dependency



Source: Eurostat, BP Statistical Review of World Energy 2013

Shale Gas: Potential in Europe?



- **Technically recoverable resources:**
Best estimate: 16 trillion cubic metres
- **Economically recoverable potential unclear**

European Commission Initiative

- **Adopted by European Commission on 22.1.2014:**
 - **Communication: policy context**
 - **Recommendation: minimum principles**

[\[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/energy/unconventional_en.htm\]](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/energy/unconventional_en.htm)

- **Scope: "high volume hydraulic fracturing"**
 - **$\geq 1000 \text{ m}^3$ water per fracking stage or**
 - **$\geq 10,000 \text{ m}^3$ water per well**

Proposed Measures (inter alia)

- **Strategic environmental assessment**
- **Underground risk assessment**
- **Avoiding flaring, venting only for safety reasons**
- **Use of best available techniques**
- **Independent verification of well integrity**
- **Baseline study, monitoring and reporting**
- **Transparency**

Follow-up and Next Steps

- **Exchange of information:**
 - **Identification of Best Available Techniques**
 - **Good regulatory practices**
- **European Science and Technology Network**
- **Assessment of European Resources**
- **Assessment of implementation of Recommendation and review of the effectiveness of the approach by August 2015**