Unconventional Gas in the European Union

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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

- Scope: "high volume hydraulic fracturing"
  - ≥ 1000 m³ water per fracking stage or
  - ≥ 10,000 m³ 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:
  o Identification of Best Available Techniques
  o 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