

Unconventional fossil fuels (e.g. shale gas) in Europe

Your profile	
Whom do you represent? -single choice reply- (compulsory)	I am answering on behalf of a company or organisation
Please enter the name of your company or organisation -open reply-(compulsory)	CEE Bankwatch Network
Please enter your e-mail address -open reply- (compulsory)	main@bankwatch.org
Are you answering on behalf of an EU-wide organisation? -single choice reply-(compulsory)	No
If not, please enter the name of the country where the headquarters of your organisation are located -single choice reply-(compulsory)	CZ - Czech Republic
Please select the option which best describes your organisation -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Environmental or social non-governmental organisation
Unless you specify otherwise, your contribution will be published on the Commission's website. Please indicate here if you wish your contribution to be anonymous. -single choice reply- (compulsory)	You can publish this contribution as it is.
Overall perception of unconventional fossil fuels (e.g. shale gas)	
Which of the following statements reflects your overall opinion about unconventional fossil fuels (e.g.shale gas) best? -single choice reply- (compulsory)	I believe unconventional fossil fuels extraction (e.g. shale gas) should not be developed in Europe at all
Main potential opportunities and challenges	
It could help diversify the EU energy mix -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Modest benefit
It could avoid increasing the EU's energy import dependency (e.g. imports of oil and gas from outside Europe) -single choice reply-(compulsory)	No benefit
It could strengthen the negotiation position of EU operators towards external energy suppliers -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Modest benefit
It could make energy cheaper for consumers -single choice reply-(compulsory)	No benefit
It could enhance the competitiveness of Europe's industry -single choice reply-(compulsory)	No benefit
It could attract investment -single choice reply- (compulsory)	No benefit

It could create employment -single choice reply- (compulsory)	No benefit
It could generate revenues for public authorities (e.g. taxes or income benefits) -single choice reply- (compulsory)	No benefit
It could lead to technological innovations -single choice reply-(compulsory)	No benefit
It could lead to a substitution of coal to the benefit of the climate -single choice reply- (compulsory)	No benefit
It could help balancing the EU electrical grid -single choice reply-(compulsory)	No benefit
It could have other benefits (please specify and indicate the level of benefits you expect: major/significant/modest benefit) -open reply- (optional)	Any temporary benefits that may appear are shadowed by the fact that development of the unconventional gas moves EU away from the objective to reach a zero-carbon economy and by the serious environmental impacts of unconventional gas drilling.
It could lead to new problems related to the quantity of used water -single choice reply- (compulsory)	Major challenge
It could lead to new problems related to water quality -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Major challenge
It could lead to new problems related to air quality -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Major challenge
It could lead to new problems related to soil -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Major challenge
It could lead to new problems related to land take -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Major challenge
It could lead to new problems related to nature and biodiversity (e.g. forests, vegetation, wildlife) -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Significant challenge
It could lead to new problems related to community disruption (e.g. noise, increased traffic) -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Major challenge
It could lead to new problems related to seismic activity -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Significant challenge
It could give rise to long term geological risks (i.e. after the cessation of the operations) -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Major challenge
It could increase risks to the climate (e.g. methane emissions) -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Major challenge
It could divert resources away from other energy options (e.g. renewable energy sources, energy efficiency) -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Major challenge
It could lead to health and safety risks for	Major challenge

workers at the exploration and extraction sites -single choice reply-(compulsory)	
It could be bad for local image, tourism, and the value of properties -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Major challenge
Lack of transparency and public information (e.g on the foreseen licences and permits, on the operations (such as chemical additives used), their potential benefits and risks) -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Major challenge
Inadequate legislation applicable to these projects (e.g insufficient level of protection of human health and the environment) -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Major challenge
Lack of level playing field for operators in Europe due to different national approaches -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Significant challenge
Lack of capacity of public authorities to supervise a large number of facilities -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Major challenge
Lack of public acceptance -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Major challenge
It could lead to other challenges (please specify and indicate the level of challenges you expect: major/significant/modest challenge) -open reply-(optional)	Unconventional gas development is likely to be far more challenging in Europe comparing to the US due to the higher population density, lower land availability, different geological conditions and need to drill a high number of wells. The development of shale gas will directly compete with the investments in renewables and energy efficiency thus locking EU in the use of fossil fuels.

Addressing the challenges

Plan ahead of developments (e.g expected number of wells; space between wells; distance to residential areas, aquifers, protected areas) -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Very important
Assess the risks of the underground (geological) formation before deciding whether to proceed with drilling and hydraulic fracturing -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Very important
Characterise operational risks before, during and after operations, including through the use of specific models -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Very important
Make sure the well is properly constructed, isolated and does not leak -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Very important
Monitor the quality of water, air and seismicity aspects before, during and after operations -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Very important
Disclose operational data (e.g volumes of water	Very important

<i>used; chemical additives used; waste characteristics; incidents</i>) -single choice reply- (compulsory)	
Minimise the use of fracturing fluids, and substitute hasardous ones with safer alternatives -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Very important
Minimise the use of water -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Very important
Manage fracturing fluids and waste appropriately -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Very important
Control releases to air, including of greenhouse gases such as methane -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Very important
Limit noise -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Very important
Minimise transportation needs -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Very important
Ensure clear and robust liability regimes, including for the post-closure phase -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Very important
Ensure that operators or permit holders have appropriate financial security in place (<i>e.g to cover possible accidents or post-closure requirements</i>) -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Very important
Provide for inspection of the wells and surveyance of the operations in the wider area -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Very important
Provide for independent evaluation and verification of the projects -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Very important
Ensure adequate responses in case of emergency -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Very important
I have further recommendations (<i>if so, please specify and indicate for each recommendation how important you consider it is to avoid or minimise environmental, climate and health risks of unconventional fossil fuels (e.g shale gas): very important/important/somewhat important</i>) -open reply-(optional)	Companies must assume liability for long-term environmental damages.
If the above measures were implemented according to your ranking, would this change your overall opinion about unconventional fossil fuels (e.g. shale gas)? (as indicated in section 2) -single choice reply-(compulsory)	No
Do nothing, the current framework is appropriate	No

-single choice reply-(compulsory)	
Develop information exchange, guidance on best practices and encourage voluntary approaches by the industry -single choice reply-(compulsory)	No
Clarify existing EU legislation through guidelines -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Maybe
Adapt individual pieces of existing EU legislation -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Yes
Develop a comprehensive and specific EU piece of legislation for unconventional fossil fuels (e.g. shale gas) -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Yes
I have further suggestions or details on the above options -open reply-(optional)	The highest possible standards must be in place before the shale gas industry is allowed to establish itself in Europe given the negative impacts of the shale gas boom in the United States. However, even updated regulations will not be sufficient to avoid or even reasonably limit the major cumulative environmental and health risks inherent in the drilling activities.
Planned developments (<i>e.g. number of wells and localisation</i>) -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Very important
Information about operators involved in unconventional fossil fuels (e.g. shale gas) activities, their licences and permits -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Very important
Baseline data (<i>e.g. data on water and air quality prior to operations</i>) -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Very important
Operational data (<i>e.g. volumes of water used; chemical additives used</i>) -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Very important
Information on incidents associated with unconventional fossil fuels (e.g shale gas) exploration and extraction -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Very important
Information on potential risks associated with unconventional fossil fuels (e.g shale gas) exploration and extraction -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Very important
Information on potential benefits (<i>e.g. employment and tax revenues</i>) -single choice reply-(compulsory)	I don't know
Thinking about the next 40 years, do you consider that the development of unconventional fossil fuels (e.g. shale gas) fits within the EU objectives towards a resource-efficient and low carbon economy? -single choice reply-(compulsory)	No

Are you satisfied with this survey? -single choice
reply-(optional)

I am satisfied

If you have further comments or suggestions, please write them in the box below. -open reply-(optional)

International Energy Agency considers that the development of the shale gas industry would put our CO2 emissions on a “trajectory consistent with a probable temperature rise of more than 3.5 degrees Celsius in the long term” that contradicts EU target of keeping below 2 degrees Celsius. It will also undermine the EU's own effort to improve energy efficiency and develop renewables as the most effective way to reach energy security. This is in conflict with Article 194 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU), which states that Union policy on energy shall aim inter alia "to promote energy efficiency and energy saving and the development of new and renewable forms of energy". Article 4 of the TFEU states that energy is a shared competence between the EU institutions and the Member States. The EU needs to take a strong lead in insisting on climate action as a major determinant of Member States' energy mix. CEE Bankwatch Network urges European Commission to state clearly that no public funding for unconventional gas and supporting infrastructure will be available. This should be true both for the EU budget and for financial institutions like the EBRD and the EIB. Those banks are public development banks, which should lend money only for environmentally sustainable projects in line with EU policies and targets including climate ones. As both banks are reviewing their energy policies, provisions to exclude funding for unconventional gas should be incorporated.