Economic benefits

200 250 50 100 150

Cheaper power generation

Capital cost to build a gas-fired power plant is less than half the capital cost of coal plants, and a fifth of nuclear.

- Gas - €
- Coal - €
- Nuclear - €

The adaptability of natural gas power generation makes it a perfect partner to intermittent sources like wind and solar.

EU infrastructure for increased domestic natural gas production in Europe is already in place.

1 shale gas well =
Supply daily needs of around 1,000 to 5,000 EU homes.

$+€3.8 trillion$

Shale gas development in Europe could
- Create an additional 1 million jobs by 2050.

Global natural gas demand

Demand projected to rise by 65% 2010-2040 and will overtake coal as the number-two energy source.

Shale gas development in Europe could allow the natural gas to escape into the wellbore and flow to the surface.

Hydraulic fracturing:

- Is not new and it has been used for more than 60 years with more than one million wells globally.
- High pressure pumps push the fracturing fluid down the well and into the shale to create small fractures in the rock allowing the natural gas to escape into the wellbore and flow to the surface.

By 2040 unconventional sources are expected to account for one-third of global gas production.

Global natural gas reserves will continue to meet current demand levels for more than 200 years.

Natural gas provides 23% of the EU's primary energy supply.

In 2012, dependency on gas imports reached 65.8%.

In 2010, dependency on gas imports reached 65.8%.
Shale gas

Shale gas is just one of several types of unconventional gas, which, unlike the production of conventional gas resources, requires the rock to be fractured to allow natural gas to escape from the low-permeability rock and flow through the wellbore to the surface. These special well completions made drilling for shale gas uneconomical for many years. Towards the end of the 20th century, the combination of new existing technologies—horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing—made extracting shale gas resources an economically viable option.

Exploratory drilling has shown new and promising estimates of European shale gas. Further exploration including through pilot projects could determine Europe's extraction capabilities. Shale gas production would provide Europe with an opportunity to diversify its supply of natural gas, meet its greenhouse gas emission reduction targets and boost economic growth.

The versatility, accessibility, abundance and lower carbon footprint of natural gas, relative to other fossil fuels, make it a secure and sensible energy solution for Europe.

As the world’s largest public natural gas producer, ExxonMobil brings supplies of this cleaner-burning energy source to global markets in a safe, reliable, and responsible manner. Shale gas is no different and we engage with stakeholders on a range of topics related to its production and transportation.

Want to learn more about shale gas in Europe? Open up this booklet!

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