



Datar



COESIONET
RESEAU D'ETUDES ET DE RECHERCHES SUR LA COHESION ET LES TERRITOIRES EN EUROPE

Workshop synthesis
December 6, 2012
10h00 – 12h00

Perspectives on shale gas in Poland

Mr Wozniak, advisor to the minister of environment and to chief national geologist, presented four main points to discuss the perspectives on shale gas in Poland: the evaluation of the resources, the environment security, the stages of development and the expected regulations on shale gas.

1. Evaluation of the resources

Different reports presented various evaluations of the potential deposits of shale gas in Poland. The most realistic report evaluates the resources between 345-768 bcm. Despite the fact that the evaluations have been reduced, such reserves would give Poland around 200 years of gas consumption. This is an important issue that will either support or destroy the shale gas revolution in Europe.

2. Environment security

That is why it is important to be prepared and sensitive to the environmental issues. We need to assess the impacts of drilling on environment. Poland has ordered test drilling to observe the impacts on the environment before, during and after the drilling. This report is available on line: www.pgi.gov.pl. The results show that there are no major impacts on the environment (water, seismology etc.). The only problem might be the level of noise when the well is drilled. But Poland is continuing the monitoring over the next two years. A major study will be published in November 2013. This is important to get on site studies with freshly collected data.

3. Stages of development

The fracking technology is not new in Poland. Indeed it has been used since the fifties. The only new methodology is the horizontal drilling.

Three important phases are planned:



Ce programme est co-financé par l'Union Européenne dans le cadre d'Europ'Act.
L'Europe s'engage en France avec le Fonds européen de développement régional

- the prospecting phase: Poland is still in it to evaluate the resources
- the exploration stage: 112 shale gas concessions are granted, 33 exploration wells are completed, 270 other wells are planned by 2021
- the production stage.

We shall not forget that during communism: more than 9000 deep drillings have been made (3000-5000 meters). Poland positions itself as a leader of gas exploration in the EU, a leader of comprehensive environmental monitoring and welcomes all the biggest international and Polish companies of the sector.

Shale gas represents an important economic sector for the energy autonomy of the country and for the creation of jobs: if 500 wells are drilled every year, it could create up to 180 000 jobs.

4. New regulations

The government is preparing new regulations:

- to control the sustainable exploration
- to distribute profits between companies and the State
- to establish a hydrocarbon fund of generation for the long term economic security.

Therefore, Poland plans the involvement of the State as capital shareholder in all new concessions together with private investors.

The key change is the creation of NOKE a new equity shareholder that will represent the state owned operator.

The concession will be granted on the basis of a bidding procedure and only a list of pre-qualified companies.

New taxes on production and modified environmental fees will be introduced: the latter will be distributed among local governments: municipalities will get 60% share, powiats 15%, the regions 15% and The National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management 10%.

Streamlined, simplified procedures of environmental permitting are required.

Discussion:

- *how will shale gas be transported?*
- *Shale gas is not compatible with EU directive: will you adapt to get the money from EU funds or will you carry on with shale gas?*
- *How is local acceptability of shale gas?*
- *Why did Exxon withdraw?*
- *How will Gazprom react?*
- *Is your new regulation risk based or based on conformance with regulations?*
- *Isn't a risk of financial bubble over shale gas with the speculation over concession prices?*
- *How will shale gas affect solar and wind industry?*
- *What is the compatibility of CCS technology with exploitation of shale gas?*
- *What is the State share in the companies?*
- *Do you develop new procedures for the production of shale gas?*
- *What is the role of international agreement on shale gas?*

