

Europe starts search for shale gas

Advanced drilling technology could release huge amounts of natural gas trapped in black shale beds found deep beneath Europe. Exploration of this gas – believed just a decade ago to be out of reach – is just beginning

Natural gas consumption, OECD-Europe*
(cubic metres, 2007)

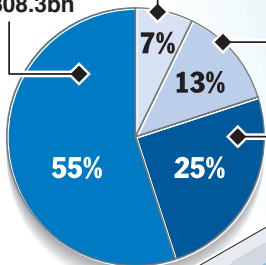
Total: 560.5bn

Indigenous:
308.3bn

Other: **39.2bn**

Algeria:
72.9bn

Russia:
140.0bn



West Basin
NETHERLANDS

Shale
deposits

Boulonnais
FRANCE

Groningen

NORWAY

SWEDEN

FINLAND

ESTONIA

Baltic Basin

POLAND

GERMANY

Mako Trough
HUNGARY

Vienna Basin
AUSTRIA

Molasse Basin
SWITZERLAND

Not to scale.
Shale can be
as deep as
6,000m

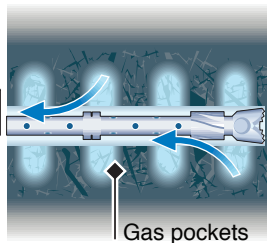
1 Vertical shaft
drilled down
to shale layer

5 Gas pumped
to surface

2 Well bore
drilled
horizontally
into shale

3 Water and sand
pumped down well
at high pressure

4 **Fracing:** Water
pressure fractures
shale. Sand keeps
fractures open as gas
expands into well bore



*OECD-Europe:
EU15 plus Czech
Republic, Hungary,
Iceland, Norway, Poland, Slovak Republic, Switzerland, Turkey.

Source: Gas Shale Research Programme

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