

Europe starts search for shale gas

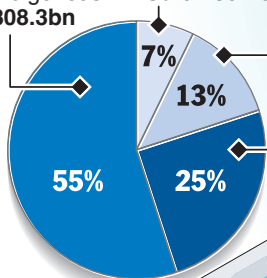
Advanced drilling technology could release huge amounts of natural gas trapped in black shale beds found deep beneath Europe. Exploration of this gas – believed just a decade ago to be out of reach – is just beginning

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

Total: 560.5bn

Indigenous:
308.3bn

Other: **39.2bn**



West Basin
NETHERLANDS

Algeria:
72.9bn

Russia:
140.0bn

Boulonnais
FRANCE

Shale
deposits



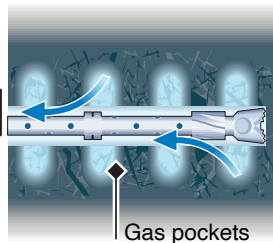
Not to scale.
Shale can be
as deep as
6,000m

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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