Laying Tracks for Shale Gas

Pressing on Policies and Regulations in Europe

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The crucial element that will re-

able a shale gas future in Europe is the existence of strong, structured and flexible regulatory frameworks. In the recent past, these have lacked clari-

ty, and there has been little po-
litical and public debate about how to reform them. However, there have been some changes in selected Eu-

ropean countries, and by analyzing the most recent trends, we have a new step closer to forecasting shale developments and their po-
tential future effects in Europe.

Over the past two years, drawing an accurate picture of the national prospects and regulatory environ-

ments of these European countries ready to open up to the exploration of unconventional gas has ap-

peared equally challenging. A surge of conflicting information and slow-

moving regulatory reforms has con-

tributed to the false impression of a fading pioneer ing. Powerful count-

countries such as the UK, Poland and

ugal territories, policymakers have

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