



## Provision of data for national shale gas assessments

### Statement by the Directors of North Atlantic Group of the European Geological Surveys

At a recent meeting of the Directors of European Geological Surveys of the North Atlantic Group (NAG), held in Copenhagen on the 12 September 2014, reports were given on the varying situations of the NAG European Surveys, including for some, scientific advice to respective governments on the development of shale gas.

The Survey Directors are concerned that frequent misleading media messages regarding exploration and exploitation of raw materials and geo-energy have the potential to obscure scientific results and conclusions, and may ultimately lead to poor decisions for Society. Particular concern was expressed that the role of the national Geological Survey may be bypassed, resulting in the submission of poorly formulated geoscientific advice to governments.

The Survey Directors emphasise that their Surveys hold the majority of key sub-surface data for their Nations. They are thus best placed to objectively and independently inform decision makers, on shale and other georesource estimation exercises, and on some of the potential environmental risks of the operations.

Of course governments make the political decisions on the use of geo-resources and inclusion of shale gas and oil in a nations energy mix. However, Geological Surveys can supply them with geoscience data and knowledge so decisions will be based on the best available scientific evidence.

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