

Voting Recommendations Related to the ENVI and ITRE Reports (FoEE)

The following are the recommendations from Friends of the Earth Europe for the votes related to the ENVI and ITRE reports. We urge you to support the highest possible environmental standards for fracking in Europe:

Please support the ENVI report in its current form, notably given its clear call to Member states to respect and implement current EU environmental legislation; its call to the European Commission to take new legislative measures (review of existing legislation to close gaps and launch of new specific legislation); its recognition of the main environment, climate and health impacts of shale gas activities; and its recognition of the importance of specific measures (baseline water monitoring data, environmental impact assessment, polluter-pays principle, full disclosure of chemicals, green completion, public information and participation).

These points should not be watered down through the split vote process, especially as they were approved by every group in the compromise amendments.

Please then support the following amendment to the ENVI report asking for a moratorium on the use of the hydraulic fracturing technique. The text of the amendment reads as follows:

“On the basis of the precautionary principle and on the principle that preventive action should be taken, taking into account the risks and the negative climate, environmental and health impacts involved in hydraulic fracturing and the gaps identified in the EU regulatory regime for shale gas activities, urges Member States not to authorise any new hydraulic fracturing operations in the EU”.

Please support keeping the two reports separated: Merging them would mix two radically conflicting views, would send a highly confusing message to the other EU institutions and Member States and would seriously water down the essential gains of the ENVI report, voted and unanimously accepted by the ENVI Committee.

Please reject the ITRE report, specifically given its unacceptable rhetoric about how shale gas could be a transition fuel that would contribute to achieve EU climate objectives (complete decarbonisation of the energy sector by 2050), notably thanks to the unproven and questionable CCS technologies; its overly-optimistic approach regarding the alleged economic benefits of the development of the shale gas industry in Europe; and its obvious green washing (support of the obscure chemicals-free fracking fluid).

If large-scale unconventional gas operations are allowed to go ahead in an unregulated way, this industry will repeat the same mistakes as in the US, with the same dramatic impacts for the climate, the environment and public health. It is therefore of the essence that these recommendations receive sufficient support.

Thank you.

Petition to Ban Hydraulic Fracturing for Shale Gas in Ireland (hard copy, 5,947)
(<http://frackingfreeireland.org/info-to-download/flyers/>)

We the undersigned call on the Irish government to place an immediate and permanent ban on the process known as Hydraulic Fracturing ('Fracking') and all related preparatory and exploratory work in the Republic of Ireland.

This horizontal drilling process involves the pumping of millions of gallons of water, mixed with hundreds of highly toxic chemicals, thousands of feet deep into the ground.

Already in the U.S.A and Australia, pollution caused by this process to land, to air, to surface water and to groundwater has resulted in a terrible health toll and catastrophic environmental damage.

Countless cases of death have been reported among wildlife and livestock. A litany of serious 'fracking' related health problems for people in communities in areas where this technology has been used have also come to light.

Because of this damning body of evidence, which includes academic reports (1), moratoria on 'fracking' have been put in place in the state of New York, in the state of New Jersey, in the North Rhine Westphalia (Germany), in South Africa and in France.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has only recently begun an investigation into the safety of the process. Their final report is not expected until 2014. At present in Ireland there is no regulation in existence that covers this extraction method, and there has been no research published into the potential consequences of such activity here.

Presently, a number of oil and gas companies who have already been granted exploratory licences, are preparing to use this process to profit from shale gas in the Lough Allen and Clare Basin Regions – an area which includes twelve counties (2).

If this is allowed the aftermath may be an irreversible disaster for us and our environment. It may result in the contamination of our water table, and of Ireland's most extensive and important river and lake network. We will not allow the safety of our water and the health of our children to be put at risk in return for temporary jobs and a quick-fix and unsustainable energy project.

1. See <http://nofrackingireland.wordpress.com/reports/>
2. Leitrim, Roscommon, Mayo, Sligo, Donegal, Cavan, Monaghan, Clare, Limerick, Cork, Kerry & Fermanagh (N.I.)



AVAAZ PETITION (10.877 signatures)
(http://www.avaaz.org/en/petition/Ban_Fracking_Ireland/?tta)

Why this is important

Wherever hydraulic fracturing for shale gas is practiced there are cases of groundwater contamination, soil and air pollution, sickness, disease, and death in humans, wildlife, and livestock.

Exploration licences have been granted to companies which intend to use Hydraulic Fracturing (fracking) to extract shale gas if given the go ahead to proceed further.

Two licences cover large areas of the North West and South West of Ireland – namely Leitrim, Roscommon Sligo, Cavan, Monaghan and Donegal. Fermanagh is also included in the project however that, of course, is licensed under a different jurisdiction.

A third licence covers an area including Clare, Limerick, Kerry and Cork.

These areas contain some of the most pristine and, beautiful natural environments in the world. The initial project area is also a UNESCO geo park and is unique in the world.

Pat Rabbitte TD has the power to stop this process from going ahead. Please let him know that the world will not accept anything less than a ban on hydraulic fracturing in Ireland and sign our petition.

We believe Ireland holds a special place in the hearts of people around the world please help us prevent the destruction of this beautiful island.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

The companies involved in the north west are Tamboran resources Ld, and Lough Allen Natural Gas Co and. In the South West the company involved is Enegi Oil.

The following link gives a brief explanation/ presentation of the process involved
<http://www.dangersoffracking.com/>

MINISTER'S CONTACT DETAILS:

Please feel free to contact the Minister, urging him to stop this process from going ahead.

Pat Rabbitte TD, Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources
Constituency Office 01 678 2011,
Constituency Office 01 618 3772,
Department Office 01 678 2000,
Department Office 01 678 9807,
Email Address: minister.rabbitte@dencr.gov.ie

Petition online on various websites: (over 6,000 signatures)

(<http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/ban-hydraulic-fracturing-for-natural-gas-in-ireland/sign.html>)

The screenshot shows the GoPetition website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Petition Tools', 'Join Now', 'Blog', 'News', 'Testimonials', 'Start a Petition', and 'Logir'. The GoPetition logo is on the left, and a search bar is on the right. Below the navigation bar, there are links for 'Home', 'Bookmark', 'Tell', and 'Active petitions in over 75 countries'. The main content area features the petition title 'Ban Hydraulic Fracturing for natural gas in Ireland' and a 'Join Now' button. The petition text reads: 'We, the undersigned, call on the Irish government to place an immediate and permanent ban on the process known as Hydraulic Fracturing ('Fracking') and all related preparatory and exploratory work in the Republic of Ireland.' Below the text, there are input fields for 'Title' (optional), 'First Name', and 'Last Name'. A 'Signature Display' section includes a checkbox for 'Display my name publicly on this website in the public signature list. (Recommended). If unchecked, your name'. On the right side, there are social media icons and a sidebar with an advertisement for 'Hydraulic Fracturing' and 'OFTEC oil boiler training'.