

# **FRACK EU: UNCONVENTIONAL INTRIGUE IN POLAND**



## **A Preliminary Investigation of the Fracking Assault on Poland**



Conceived, researched, written,  
edited, produced and financed  
by Will Koop,  
Coordinator,  
B.C. Tap Water Alliance,  
([www.bctwa.org/FrackingBC.html](http://www.bctwa.org/FrackingBC.html))  
Vancouver, British Columbia

January 23, 2012

(For the complete report chapters index, refer to the B.C. Tap  
Water Alliance website, under *Stop Fracking British Columbia*)

## **CHAPTER 13: The Warsaw Incident**

### 13. Epi-Frack-Logue: The “Unconventional” Warsaw Conference Incident

*In spite of environmental concerns Poland says it cannot afford to ignore such a valuable reserve of energy.*<sup>1</sup>

*Let’s not forget the role of our authorities, who have the will of this society deeply up their arse. I will quote Mr. (Bernard) Blaszczyk, who under the guise of his role as vice-minister of the environment, recently said that the Polish authorities “will do everything to make sure that no protests are able to stop shale gas exploration in Poland.” So, when we talk about democracy in such a key moment, they enact a dictatorship.*<sup>2</sup>

The European and North American unconventional petroleum complex had busily planned and advertised a final gala international conference on unconventional shales to be held in Warsaw one month before the expiry of Poland’s six-month term at the EU Presidency - the final kick at the 2011 unconventional conference can. It was the second annual Shale Gas World Europe 2011 conference, November 28 - December 1, at the Hotel Intercontinental.

In 2011, a barrage of unconventional petroleum conferences were held throughout the EU member states (and one in Houston specifically about Poland), about half of which were convened in Poland alone. Many, many more were held in North America.

However, something really “unconventional” occurred at the final Warsaw conference event, something that never happened at any other unconventional conference before on Planet Earth!

**2nd annual**

# Shale Gas

## WORLD

Europe 2011

28 November – 1 December, Hotel Intercontinental, Warsaw, Poland

Foot on the gas

**Strategy, opportunity and growth for governments, operators and key stakeholders in shale gas development**

**Tackle environmental and regulatory issues impacting shale gas exploration and production.** Hear from the Polish Government, the Ukrainian Government and the European Commission about the regulatory framework for shale development. Learn how to address environmental issues associated with shale drilling.

**Meet and do business with North American and global shale gas operators.** Learn from pioneering North American companies such as Breitling Oil and Gas, St. Brendan’s Exploration Ltd, Quicksilver Resources, Nexen and Encana about the practicalities of developing shale gas.

<sup>1</sup> May 30, 2011: *Poland Committed to developing its shale gas reserves*, Poland Embassy in Copenhagen.

<sup>2</sup> November 29, 2011, audio comments from a demonstrator inside Warsaw Intercontinental Hotel conference room.



A YouTube video emerged on December 3rd, posted on the internet two days after the conference ended. In it were comments from Polish residents concerned about fracking in Poland, concerned about their water. In it was a Polish government official who didn't want to admit that the fracking industry was using toxic chemicals, while looking at a brochure by U.S.-based Chevron Corp.

As the video continued with a series of written statements in Polish translated into English, was footage on a series of demonstration events on November 29th at the Intercontinental Hotel.

**FACILITATING SHALE GAS DEVELOPMENT IN POLAND**

**17.00 Understanding the requirements of doing business in Poland**

- Doing business in Poland – an overview
- Understanding the Polish taxation system
- Experiences of shale gas companies operating in Poland

**Kenneth Morgan, Director, Trinity Corporate Services**

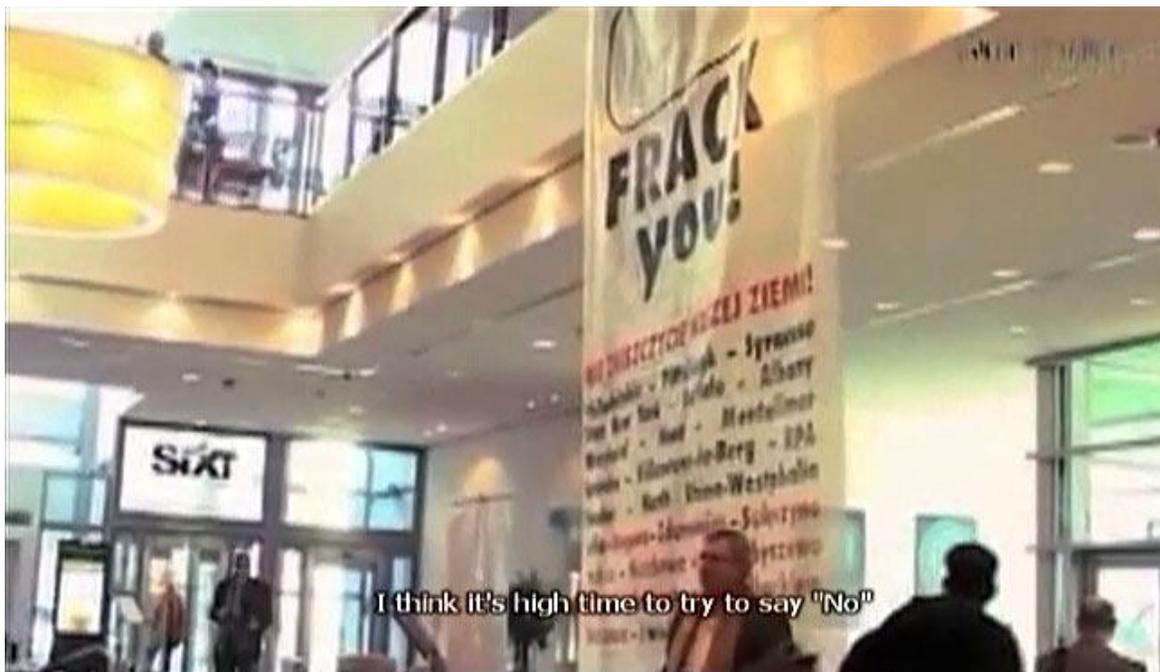
**17.25 Panel Discussion: effectively sourcing employees and understanding employment contracts in Poland**

- How to find the right people for the shale industry
- Hiring without having a legal entity in Poland
- What are the additional costs to hiring?

**Moderator: Kenneth Morgan, Director, Trinity Corporate Services**

**8 KEY REASONS TO ATTEND**

1. Hear from Government and Operator representatives about their strategies for maximising the shale gas opportunity in Europe.
2. Understand the regulatory framework for shale development from the European Commission, the Polish Government and the Ukrainian Government.
3. Listen to operator case studies from Ukraine, Poland, France, the Netherlands, Hungary and the United Kingdom.
4. Understand how to balance the public perception of fracking with the environmental reality.



A banner was hung from the upstairs balcony which said “FRACK YOU!”, under which were all the names of cities and places with fracking bans and moratoriums.

**09.30 The shale gas experience in North America: how can environmental lessons learned be transferred to Europe?**

- What are the critical environmental issues associated with shale gas development?
- How can we learn from our experience in North America to add value to shale gas projects in Europe and elsewhere, and help to avoid costly project delays?
- Key issues of stakeholder management, operator reputation and regulatory support

**John Damanti**, Vice President, Oil & Gas Pipelines Business Development, Europe-Middle East-Africa, **URS**

*Due to the social and environmental degradation that it causes, hydraulic fracturing has been banned in many regions of the world. A moratorium on fracking is in effect, amongst others, in Quebec, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and the Delaware*

*River Basin area, France, South Africa, etc. With an increasing number of moratoriums and a growing list of court summons in countries where significant environmental damage has occurred, multinational companies are moving production to peripheral regions, North Africa, China, Eastern Europe. In Europe, the largest stores of gas in shale rocks are said to lie in Poland. As a result, multinationals infamous for human rights violations around the world are turning up the pressure on Polish authorities and local communities in the aims of turning the law to their own advantage and maximizing their profits. Local protests are ignored.*

*From November 28th to December 1st, the CEOs and representatives of the largest multinational*

Package	Before 9 Sept	Before 21 Oct	Before 11 Nov	After 11 Nov
Platinum pass: 4 days 2 day conference + briefing day + shale gas workshops	£3415 + VAT £785.45 = £4200.45	£3795 + VAT £872.85 = £4667.85	£3985 + VAT £916.55 = £4901.55	£4175 + VAT £960.25 = £5135.25
✓ 28 November - 1 December	<b>SAVE £760!</b>	<b>SAVE £380!</b>	<b>SAVE £190!</b>	

*energy corporations flew into Warsaw to take part in the “Shale Gas World Europe 2011” conference. In the company of EU representatives and the Polish government, behind closed doors and away from the public eye, these corporations met to showcase the future profits of their shale gas investments in Poland. A group opposed to the fracking activities of these corporations interrupted the party, successfully blocking the keynote speech. The following film is not only a documentation, but also aims to inspire acts of civil disobedience against the erosion of democracy.*



About a dozen people ‘occupied’ the main conference room hall and sat on top of the podium up against the wall. Their faces were not made identifiable in the video, to protect their identities.

**11.10 Panel Discussion: assessing the ways for the unconventional gas industry to overcome environmental and public concerns**  
**Andrzej Kassenberg**, President, Institute for Sustainable Development, Poland  
**William Ramsay**, Senior Research Fellow, Director of Energy Program, Institut Francais des Relations Internationales  
**Brian Horsfield**, Research Department Director, German Research Centre for Geosciences GFZ  
**Darcy Spady**, Managing Director, St. Brendan’s Exploration

When the demonstrators began chanting a few words together, hotel staff forced the main entrance doors closed to the large conference room, and a manager came along and then locked the doors so that security and police could later enter by other doorways to video the protesters and then drag and escort them out in handcuffs. As the doors were being locked, and staff were holding the long horizontal door handles, a male voice began reciting the name of all the cities and areas around the world that have fracking bans and moratoriums. The names of these places were printed on the video as each was recited in the Polish language.



**09.05 Keynote Address: comparing the regulatory environment for shale gas development in Europe to North America**

- What are the main points of differentiation in regulation between Europe and North America?
- What do European regulators need to do to encourage shale gas development?
- Best practice in regulation of shale development

**Richard Dunn**, Vice President Regulatory and Government Relations, **Encana**



A Hotel/conference security negotiator invited the uninvited “guests” away from their podium seats and said the following in Polish: “Let’s talk. You can discuss all this with the corporate representatives. We’ve got a room set up for you upstairs, you can move there ....”

In turn, one of the young men responded in English: “Okay. We’ve got a proposition for you.”



The young man then said the following. “Our condition is a total moratorium on hydraulic fracturing in Poland. Why don’t you go out there and tell them about the moratorium.”

The Hotel/conference security negotiator had to bid ‘Plan A’ adieu. Next came ‘Plan B.’ A middle-aged male police officer wearing a police hat came and starting filming the scene. That’s when a young woman began saying to the police officer: “There are criminals here. They are standing just outside this conference room!”

**10.20 Balancing the public perception of fracking with the environmental reality**

- Analysing the conflicting information available on the environmental impact of shale drilling
- How will European population density affect shale exploration and production?

**William Ramsay**, Senior Research Fellow, Director of Energy Program, **Institut Francais des Relations Internationales**



The next series of events that took place leading up to the arrest and departure of the “guests” by about a dozen or more men and women police officers, a few security people held up their hands and nearby placards to prevent the person videotaping the events from recording what was unfolding. As this was happening, a young man’s voice could be heard saying the following in English:



*Let’s not forget the role of our authorities, who have the will of this society deeply up their arse. I will quote Mr. (Bernard) Blaszczyk, who under the guise of his role as vice-minister of the environment, recently said that the Polish authorities “will do everything to make sure that no protests are able to stop shale gas exploration in Poland.” So, when we talk about democracy in such a key moment, they enact a dictatorship.*



	<p><b>09.05 Ministerial Keynote Address: how the Polish Government is facilitating the development of the shale gas industry</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessing the time frame for shale gas production in Poland</li> <li>Understanding the regulatory and licensing requirements to develop Polish shale plays</li> </ul> <p><b>Mikolaj Budzanowski, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Treasury, Poland</b></p>
--	---

The ominous 1984-Big-Brother-Is-Watching-You style quote from Blaszczyk about curbing public protests in Poland originated from an article published on June 28, 2011, *Protesty społecznie nie powinny powstrzymać wydobywania gazu łupkowego (Public Protests Will not Stop Shale Gas)*. In the first paragraph of the article, Blaszczyk states that a program of education and information will be used to “convince” the Polish people that the developments of unconventional shales in Poland will not be harmful to the environment, etc., etc.<sup>3</sup>

According to a recent biography published on Wikipedia in the Polish language about Blaszczyk, he was trained as a lawyer and first served in the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Forestry from 1991-1993. After serving in various portfolios in this ministry, he became Poland’s consul general in Ostrava in 1996. From 2000 to 2001, he became Poland’s Secretary of State in its Ministry of Economy. In December 2007, the same year as the shale gas concessions were being dished out by the Ministry of Environment, he was appointed as the Ministry’s director general until August 2008, when he became the Ministry of Environment’s Undersecretary of State.

<sup>3</sup> Zrobimy wszystko, żeby protesty społecznie nie powstrzymały wydobywania gazu łupkowego w Polsce - mówi Bernard Blaszczyk, wiceminister środowiska. - Poprzez działania edukacyjne i informacyjne będziemy przekonywali ludzi, że wydobywanie gazu łupkowego nie jest działaniem szkodliwym dla środowiska - mówi Bernard Blaszczyk, wiceminister środowiska.

Currently, Poland's Minister of Environment is Marcin Korolec. According to his curriculum vitae posted on his Ministry's website, Korolec is also a trained lawyer, and speaks fluent English and French. In November, 2005, he became Poland's under secretary of state in the Ministry of Economy, a position formerly held by Blaszczyk. The biography also states that since 2011, Korolec has been "a member of the EU Council for Gas European Union - Russia."

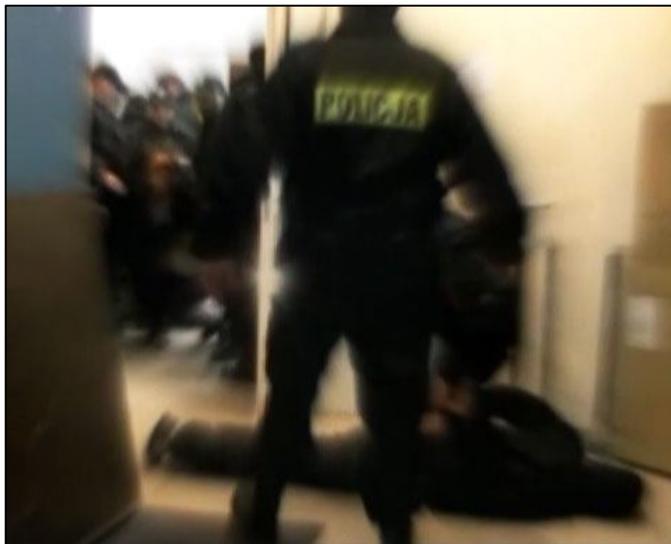


The next segments in the YouTube video inside the Hotel Intercontinental involved the "guests" being thrown on the ground, handcuffed, and removed from the Hotel premises, from the rear entrance of the Hotel.

**09.55 How Poland can use shale gas profitably for climate change and with low risk to the environment**

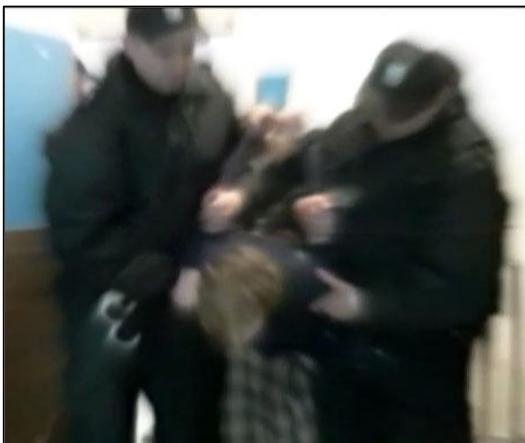
- Assessing the state of play in the development of shale gas in Poland and Europe
- Minimising the impact of shale development on the landscape and local communities

**Andrzej Kassenberg, President, Institute for Sustainable Development, Poland**



On the photo to the left, police line up inside the conference room leading to the doors inside a hall passage way, and then down a flight of steps leading to the delivery area in the rear of the hotel.

The top photo to the right are female police officers dragging a young woman away. Below, a young man is dragged down the stairs by male officers. They are carrying batons.





"The police protects the rich from the poor!"

**09.05 Keynote Address: understanding the regulatory and environmental requirements for shale gas development**  
**Shad Watts**, Director of Community Consultation and Regulatory Affairs, Nexen

The demonstration events at the Hotel Intercontinental cast a gloomy shadow on the conference event proceedings, and no doubt many things were being said in quiet during the refreshment breaks, gala dinners and parties afterwards.



**09.55 Shale gas and European Union energy policy**

- Explaining European Commission initiatives and their relevance to unconventional gas
- Clarifying the EU legal framework for hydrocarbon exploration and production
- Outlining challenges shale gas will have to face in Europe

**Michael Schuetz**, Policy Officer, Directorate-General for Energy, European Commission

**ASSESSING THE METHODS AVAILABLE TO REDUCE THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF SHALE DEVELOPMENT**

**11.45 Effectively operating in environmentally sensitive areas**

- Learning from North American shale completion and production methods
- Reducing footprint methods, how to operate in sensitive areas

**Darcy Spady**, Managing Director, St. Brendan's Exploration

On December 7, 2011, the *Frack Off: Don't Frack with the UK* website <sup>4</sup> posted a descriptive about the Warsaw demonstration event. "Last week Polish activists disrupted the "Shale Gas World Europe 2011" conference in Warsaw. Below we republish their press release in it's entirety:"

*A meeting of the largest international energy corporations began on Monday, November 28th, in Poland's capital, Warsaw. The CEOs and representatives of Halliburton, Talisman Energy and Dow Chemical amongst others flew in to network with members of the European Commission and the Polish government behind closed doors and away from the public eye at the downtown InterContinental hotel (the cheapest "silver" entry pass cost 10,000 zlotys/2,500euros. Most Poles earn about 1,000 zlotys per month). Conference participants aimed to showcase the future profits of their shale gas investments, which thanks to the smooth politicking of Polish authorities, are to make Poland the next Niger Delta.*

*Just before the opening keynote speech, planned for 9 am on Tuesday, November 29th, a flash mob congregated in the downstairs lobby. While a group of drummers beat rhythms to the distraction of hotel security, a passerby dropped a suitcase full of golf balls that scattered all around the hall. In the meantime, a large banner was dropped from the upstairs banister displaying a raised middle finger resembling a drilling derrick complete with lighted gas flame on top. The banner read, "Frack You!" and listed over two dozen towns and regions around the world where fracking is being protested or has already been banned. Amidst this commotion, another group entered the main conference ballroom on the second floor. Linking arms and sitting down on the stage, they blocked the keynote, forcing the conference participants to leave and wait outside. During this time, the group organized an alternative conference in solidarity with the residents of Poland on whose land fracking is underway in spite of protests.*

*From Pomerania to Philadelphia, from Syracuse to Sulęczyno, from Lewino to Lancashire, residents of drilling towns have experienced the consequences of hydraulic fracturing and are demanding the same thing: an end to their dispossession and a halt to the tragic degradation of the environment. When their complaints and protests fall on the death ears of mainstream media and patronizing officials (As if the well water in Rogowo in the Lubelskie Region is contaminated due to the locals' "backward fear and lack of knowledge") people are forced to take matters into their own hands. In Opole Stare, Kraśnik and Kostry, disenfranchised locals have begun sabotaging drilling sites, removing over 300 m of otherwise worthless specialty seismic cables on one occasion, and an entire set of hydraulic fracturing machinery on another. The residents of Stężyca and Sulęczyno declared last week that they will block roads leading to drilling sites. Taking cues from their initiatives, we decided to interfere in Tuesday's undemocratic meeting.*

*After blocking the conference for two hours, we were forcibly removed from the ballroom by police and transported to arrest. We have all been charged with trespassing and are facing up to one year of imprisonment. This charge is peculiar. While we are accused of wrongful interference in InterContinental's possessory rights over their property, it is corporations who are forcing entry onto peoples' land, fracturing the earth under their homes, inducing earthquakes and contaminating their water supply. The most radical form of trespassing to which communities in Poland are subjected, involves the expropriation of land in the name of corporate profits. This practice has been legally sanctioned by the new law on geology and mining, according to which regional governments and local communities are excluded from decision making processes that concern gas and oil exploration. This same law renders geological resources a "public good" under the exclusive jurisdiction of the state, which sold shale gas concessions without consulting local people.*

*With a decreasing toolkit of legal instruments, endangered by corporations and abandoned by the state, the residents of Poland, just like their counterparts in other countries, are forced to take the*

---

<sup>4</sup> <http://frack-off.org.uk/poland-fracking-opponents-block-shale-gas-conference/>

*initiative. Despite absurd accusations of “acting against national interests”, direct intervention appears to be the only effective means of preventing local tragedies. Ultimately, it is grassroots protests that authorities like Vice Minister Blaszczyk and international corporations fear the most.*

*Eleven out of the twelve of us detained were released after 8 hours in arrest. One was additionally charged with aggravated assault of a police officer. She remained in arrest overnight and is facing up to three years in prison. Two drummers were fined 200zł (50euros) each for alleged disorderly conduct.*

*A solidarity fund for the group’s legal defense has been started. All contributions to the following account are warmly encouraged and greatly appreciated as the group’s initiative was entirely grassroots, as are their pockets in general.*

*Solidarity Fund Account: PL 08 1240 1024 1111 0010 2760 9063  
SWIFT (IBAN) code:  
PKOPPLPW*

Two days following the demonstration event at Warsaw’s prestigious Hotel, a demonstration was held in Dublin, Ireland, during the December 1, 2011 5th *National Water Summit* meeting.

Photographs of the demonstration events that day were posted on the Stop Fracking Ireland website (<http://what-the-frack.org/>).

