

Technology is an international commodity

E.F.M. Elewaut

TNO – The Netherlands

Brussels, 22&23 February

The Netherlands Reserves (?)

- Non developed gas fields:
 - 34 to be developed between 2005 – 09
 - 117 to be developed after 2009 (?)
 - Development after 2040: 146 billion Sm³
 - Non developed gas fields:
- Oilfields:
 - Schoonebeek: one of the largest Western European onshore oil fields: closed down.
- Energy is an international commodity:
 - Companies move away to less risk, lower investment, higher profit.

Present situation

- Small/complex fields, high risks, low profits:
DEVELOPMENT POSTPONED
- Installations fit for present day exploitation:
PRE-EOR ABANDONMENT
- Field or company oriented infrastructure:
NON(-OPTIMAL) DEVELOPMENT

How to remedy the situation

The governments should initiate, stimulate, oblige:

- Small, complex field development
- EOR (post plateau) exploitation plans from day one
- Pre-abandonment sell out
- Integrated infrastructures

The result:

- Added reserves
- EOR less expensive, no time wasted
- Post plateau life
- Infrastructure brought to the front door, at shared cost

Government actions

- Dynamic legislation,
- EU wide (scope for cooperation, not competition)
- Invest in research and technology development
(technology is an international commodity)
- Include EOR in earliest licencing evaluation,

European versus National

- Shared effort industry, governments;
- Pan-European approach: test facilities will be too expensive for one member state;
- Technology is an international commodity
- Security of energy supply, not vulnerability