



# Commission's priorities for **Offshore Oil and Gas**

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# EU's connection with Arctic offshore oil and gas

*Indirect connection (Norway's membership in EEA, Greenland's connection with Denmark, Iceland's accession talks)*

*No clear legal powers (however, environment legislation most likely to apply in EEA)*

*Close cooperation with relevant countries and organisations (Arctic Council)*



# Clear Mandate for Union's involvement

*Protecting and preserving the Arctic*

*Promoting sustainable use of natural resources*

*Implementation of relevant international instruments*

*Addressed in Commission Communication from October 2010 as a particularly sensitive region*

*In offshore O & G policy: part of the effort to ensure global increase of safety standards*



## **Focus on identifying the best Union practice for offshore oil and gas**

*New legal proposal tabled by the Commission (now discussed in the Council)*

*DK PRES aims at finishing with a progress report, CY PRES to take over*

*EP yet to decide practicalities of dealing with the proposal (ENV and ITRE having primary interest)*



# New legal proposal I

*Regulation – directly applicable to the industry*

*Focus on major accident prevention (+ other EU acquis continues to apply)*

*Bringing all relevant Union regions up to the standards of the North Sea*

*Improvements even in the best regimes (inclusion of environmental assessment, better exchange of information, better sharing of information)*



# New legal proposal II

*Main principles:*

**Goal setting approach** – individual risk assessment for each installation or activity

**Consenting procedure** required for all risky projects (includes all drilling)

**Extended liability** for environmental damage (scope of the Env. Liability Directive)

**Minimum requirements** on the industry and as well as on the national authorities

**Independent third party verification**

**Improved emergency response** (both by the industry and the Member States)



# Enhanced cooperation between all stakeholders

## EU Offshore Authorities Group

*Already established by COM Decision (not linked to the legal proposal)*

*Chaired by the Commission*

*National authorities from all relevant regions around one table*

*Will involve all relevant stakeholders on regular basis (industry, NGOs, academia)*

*Coordination with other relevant fora (e.g. Health and Safety of workers)*



**Thank you for attention...**

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