

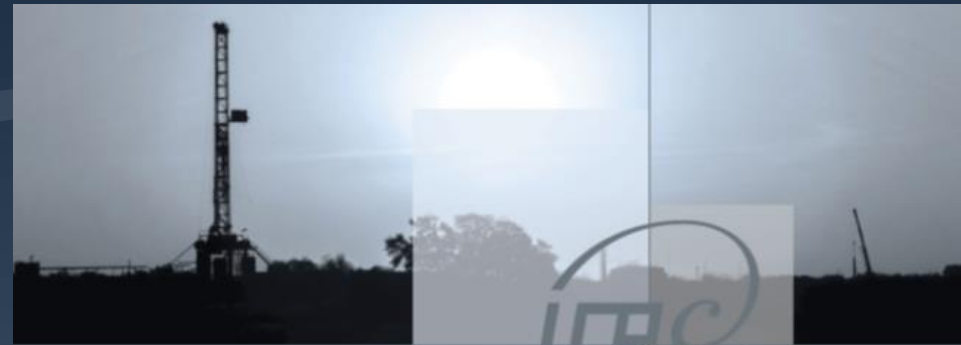


Process Recommendation:

Roundtable on Responsible Unconventional Gas

April 2014

www.irgc.org



Policy Brief

Risk Governance Guidelines
for Unconventional Gas
Development

Over the course of IRGC's project work on risk governance of unconventional gas development, we heard recurrently...

- Need to collect and share facts

- Need a place where this can be done



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What is RSB?

The Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials

The Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB) is an international initiative that brings together farmers, companies, non-governmental organizations, experts, governments, and inter-governmental agencies concerned with ensuring the sustainability of biomaterials production and processing.

Originally set up in 2007 to ensure the sustainability of liquid biofuels for transport, the RSB expanded its scope in 2013 to cover biomaterials.

Biomaterials are products derived from biomass. They include bioenergy such as liquid biofuels as well as biomass and biogas for heating and electricity generation. Bio-based products also include a range of biochemicals such as bioplastics and lubricants.

Participation in the RSB is open to any organization working in a field relevant to biomaterials sustainability. See our [membership page](#) for more information on how to join, or see the [certification section](#) for details of how to become certified and the tools to implement the RSB's environmental, social and economic principles and criteria.

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- ▶ What is RSB?
- ▶ Vision & Mission
- ▶ Governance

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- ▶ Members
- ▶ Secretariat

- ▶ Careers
- ▶ Contact Us

Please [contact us](#) for more information about the RSB.

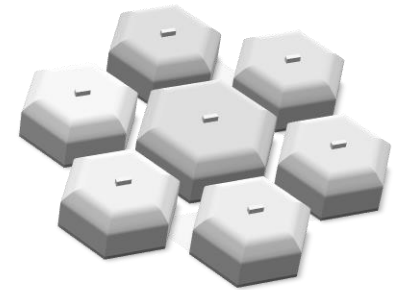
- *IRGC recommendation:* Roundtable for safe and sustainable unconventional gas development
- **In line with:** *EC communication 22 January 2014*

“It is also necessary to continue increasing our knowledge on unconventional hydrocarbon extraction technologies and practices also in order to further reduce potential health and environmental impacts and risks. In this context, it is also essential that information is open and transparent to the public. To facilitate this process, **the Commission will establish a European Science and Technology Network on Unconventional Hydrocarbon Extraction, bringing together practitioners from industry, research, academia as well as civil society.** The Network will collect, analyse and review results from exploration projects as well as assess the development of technologies used in unconventional gas and oil projects.”

- **Information sharing** on technical, economic, regulatory and political issues related to unconventional gas development (UGD).
- Contribute to the **implementation of appropriate regulation** on development as well as **practices** that assure the safe, efficient, sustainable and responsible development of unconventional gas resources.
→ build confidence
- Once the roundtable is firmly established, it may expand its mission to include **consensus building with regard to good practices** in UGD – whether those practices are technical in nature or relate to participation in UGD should be organized.



- A private, non-profit independent body, or consortium, of concerned stakeholders,
- A multi-stakeholder membership organization:
 - Scientists in research and academic institutions
 - Industry
 - Policy makers
 - Regulators
 - Civil society organisations
- It may be useful to establish chapters where stakeholders in a particular group meet separately to generate priority issues for discussion. Each chapter proposes participants to represent it in the regular global forum. In this way, the agenda and participants for the global roundtable would be generated in a grassroots manner.
- Regular meetings



1. **Dissemination** of reliable information and promotion of knowledge transfer
2. **Capacity building** for community and stakeholder participation, regulatory frameworks
3. Strengthening **safety cultures**
4. Clarifying how UG can serve as a bridge to a low-carbon, sustainable energy future

