Legislation

The new Mining Act (2003) replaced all previous acts and mining legislation. The Mining Act was amended on 1 January 2010 with respect to several topics that can be considered part of the ‘mining climate’.

Gas Act

An amendment to the Gas Act has been proposed (and approved) by the Dutch Second Chamber of Parliament. Gas Transport Services (GTS) is responsible for keeping the national gas transport system in balance. One of the most important changes in the Act is the introduction of a market-oriented balancing regime in the national gas-transport system, whereby all parties involved (in other words, both those supplying gas to the system and those withdrawing it) are granted straightforward access to the (virtual) trade point.

Fiscal measure marginal gasfields and prospects

A marginal gasfield is a gasfield or prospect that is marginal in gas production because the combination of three essential parameters—volume, productivity, and distance—are insufficient to make the gasfield commercially viable.

Gas Production & Storage

Gas production in the Netherlands is mainly divided into two categories: the Groningen field and small fields. GasTerra and GasTransport Services (GTS) are responsible for the guaranteed transport of gas produced from the Dutch subsurface. GasTerra and GTS are considered ‘staatscourants’.

Ministry of Economic Affairs

The Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs (MEA) is responsible for the exploration and production of oil and gas in the Netherlands. The MEA is also responsible for the supervision of mining activities.

Economic Affairs

EBN participates with a 40% share as a non-operator in the exploration for gas in the Netherlands, thus participating in the costs and risks common to the oil and gas exploration. Furthermore, once a new field is discovered and deemed economic, EBN will participate in the development with a fixed 40% share.

Exploration

In view of the desired increase in onshore exploration activities, the majority of operators active in the onshore territory have invited EBN to participate in exploration projects.

Small fields policy

Guaranteed off-take and transport of gas produced from the Dutch subsurface by GasTerra and GasTransport Services. All present and future fields are considered small except the Groningen field.

References:

Ministry of Economic Affairs, Natural resources and geothermal energy in the Netherlands. Annual review 2009.