



OXFORD INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY STUDIES Natural Gas Research Programme



THE OXFORD
INSTITUTE
FOR ENERGY
STUDIES
A RESEARCHER-DEPENDENT CENTRE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD

Economics: BEG/CEE-UT Annual Meeting

Houston, 7 December 2011

Commentary: European Live Issues, Post-recession Demand

Dr Anouk Honore
Senior Research Fellow
OIES Gas Research Programme
Anouk.honore@oxfordenergy.org

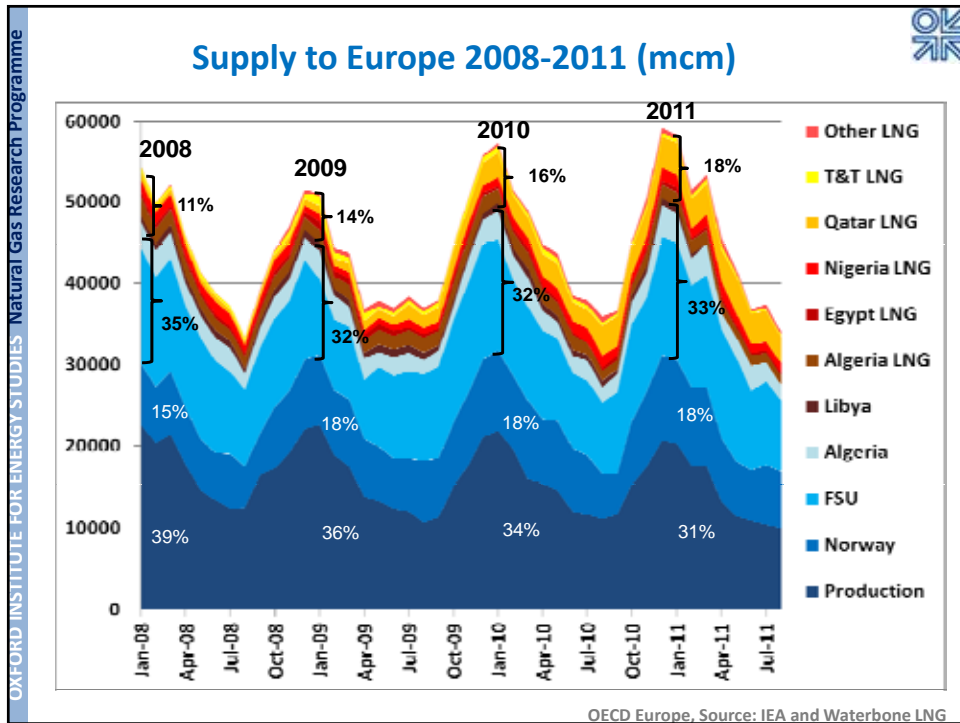
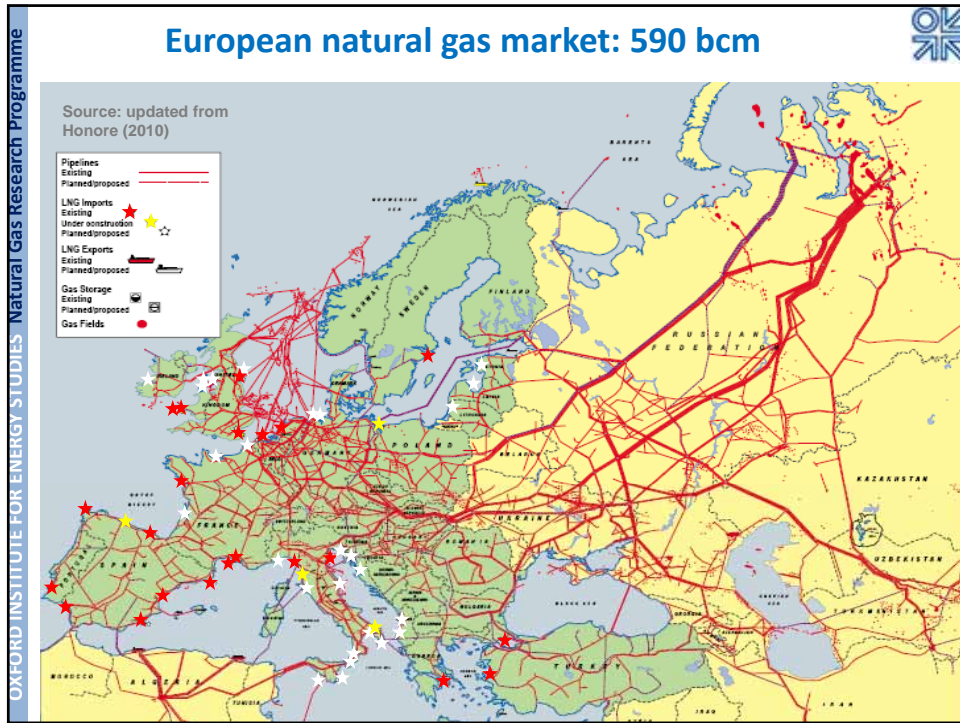
OXFORD INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY STUDIES Natural Gas Research Programme

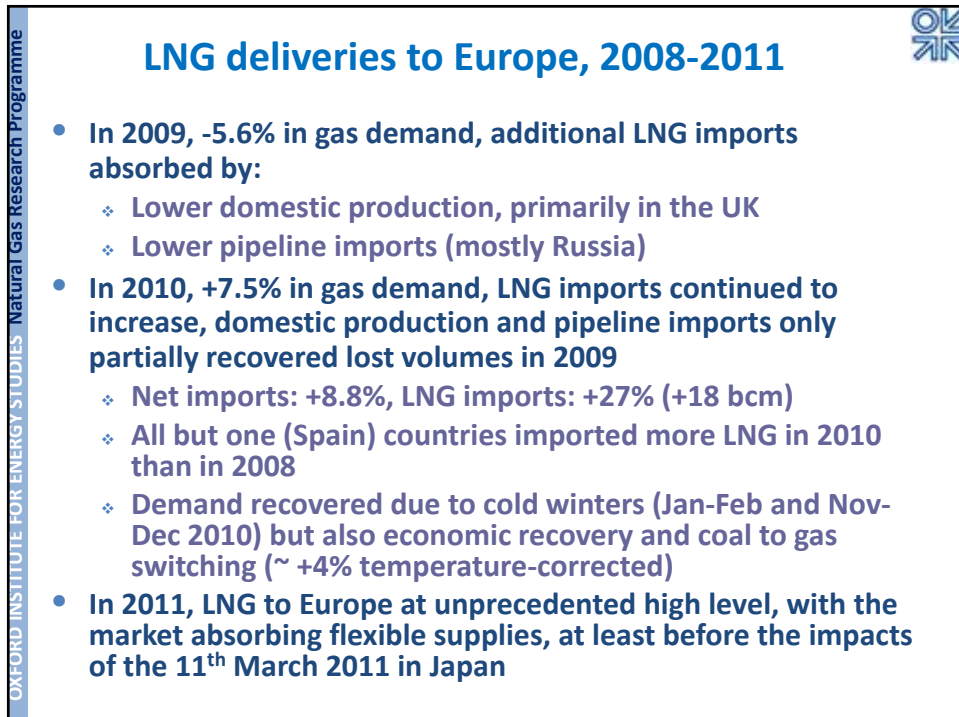
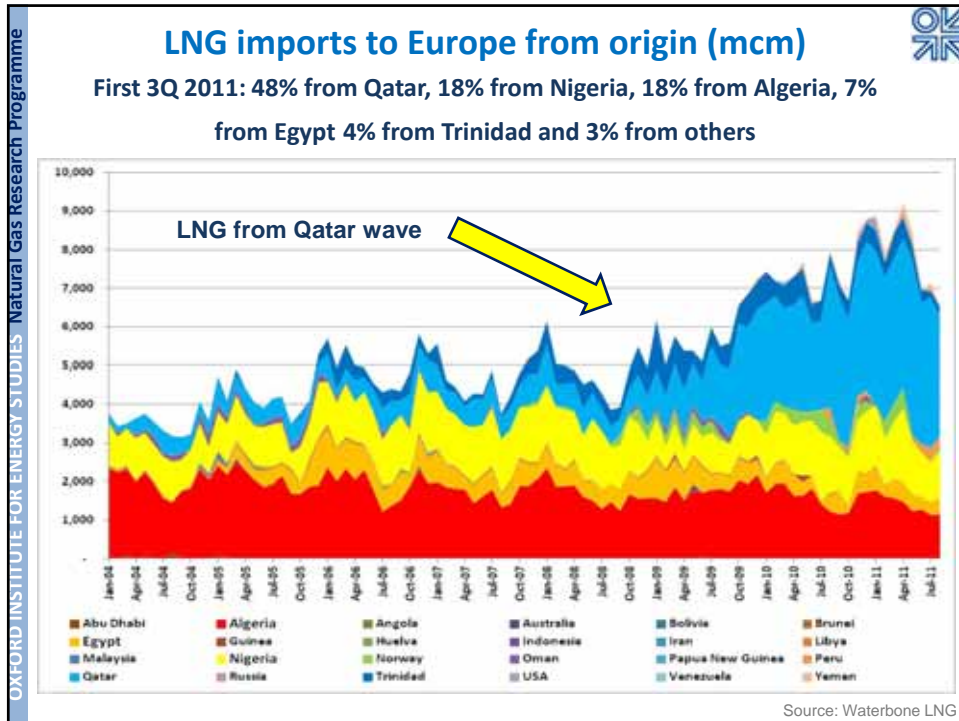


European gas demand post Fukushima

Outline

- 2008-2011 trends in Europe
- Reactions to the Fukushima incident
- Focus on Germany



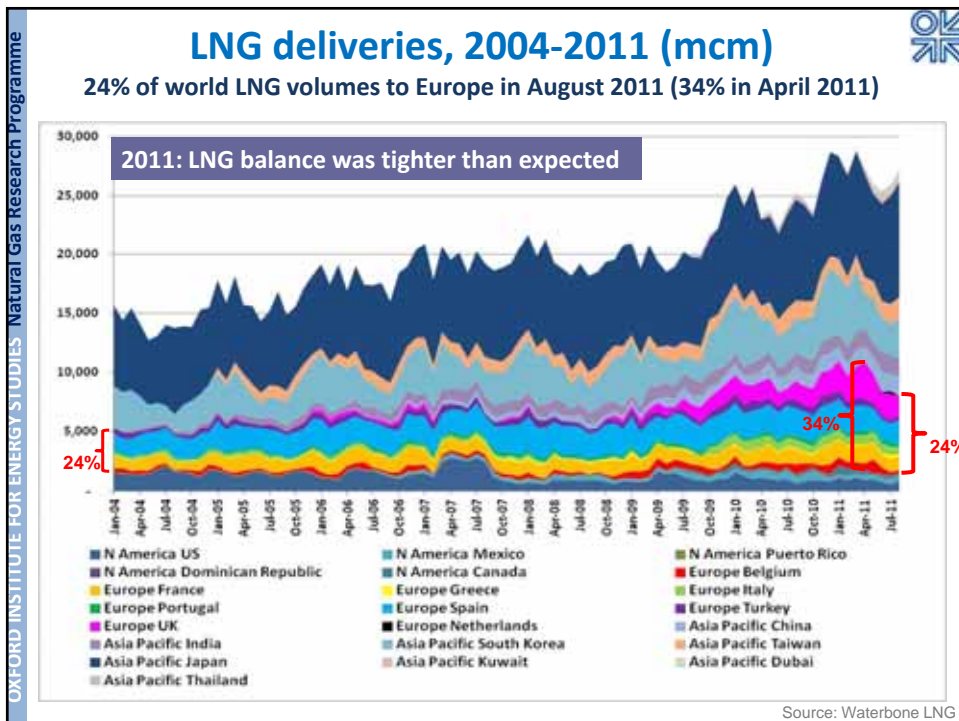


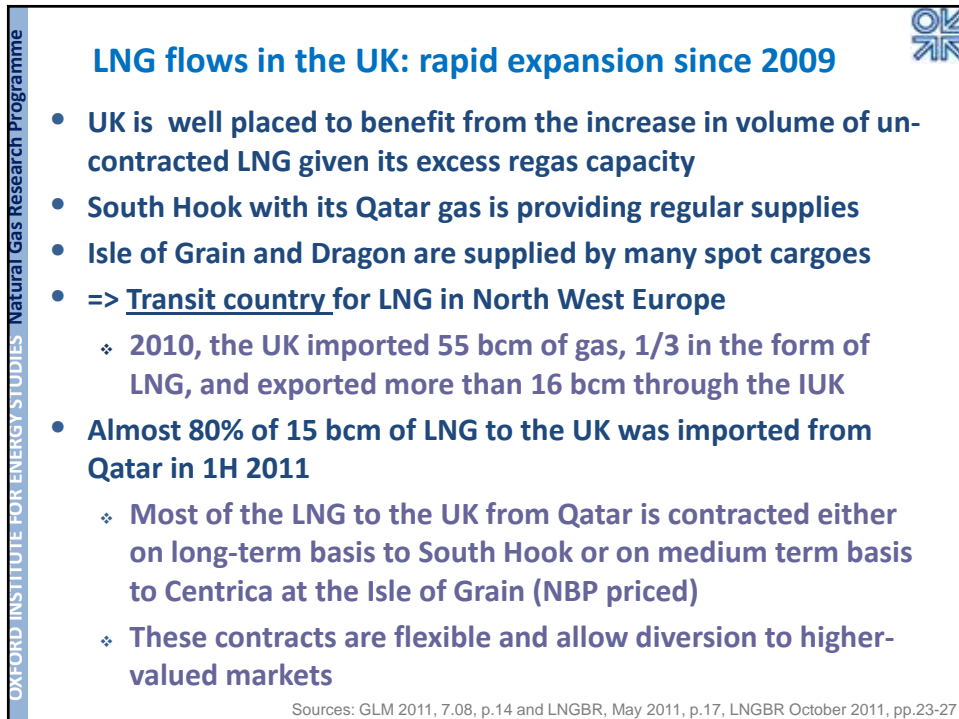
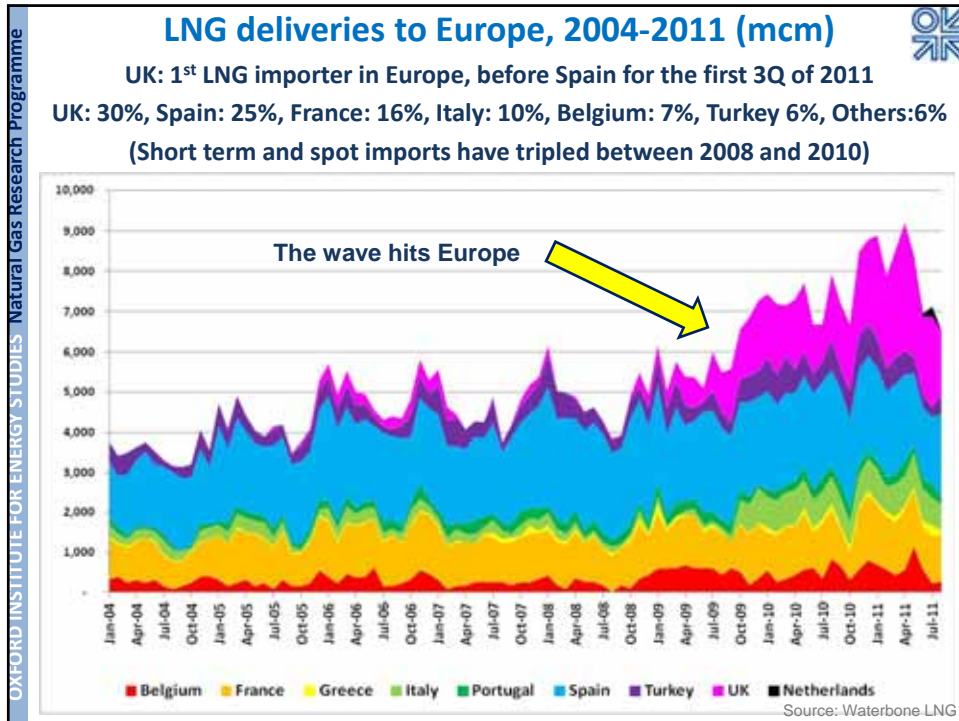
OXFORD INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY STUDIES Natural Gas Research Programme

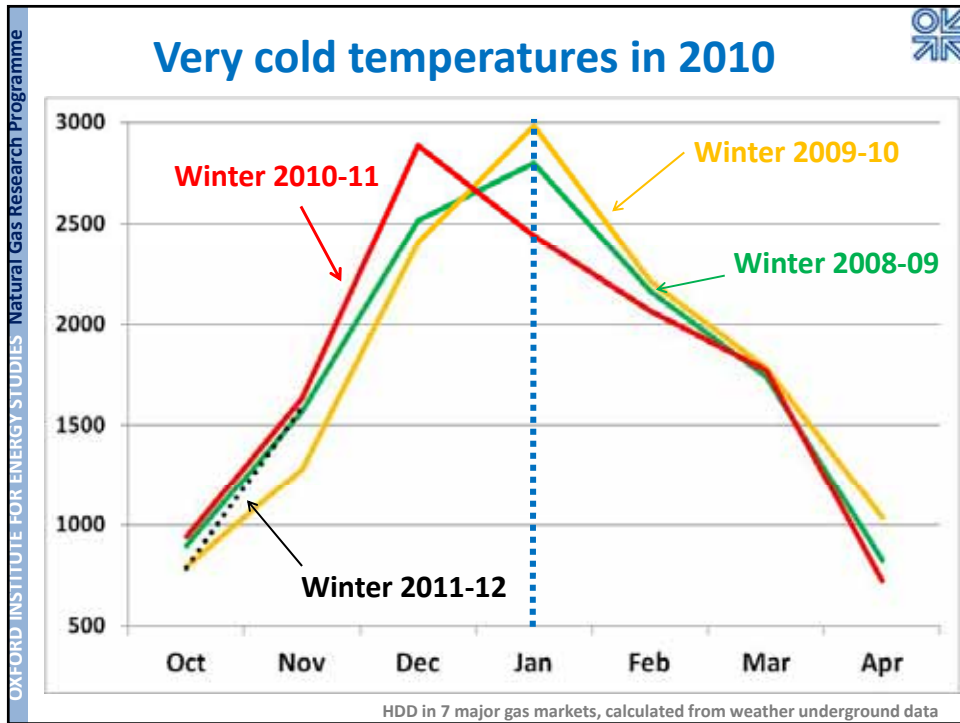
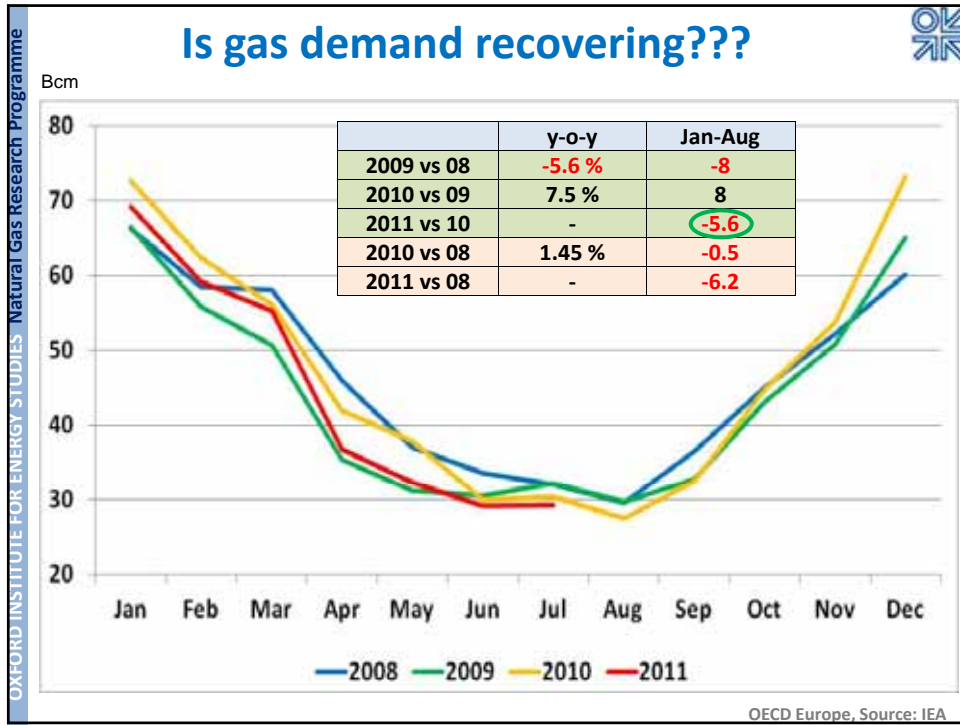
On the supply side...

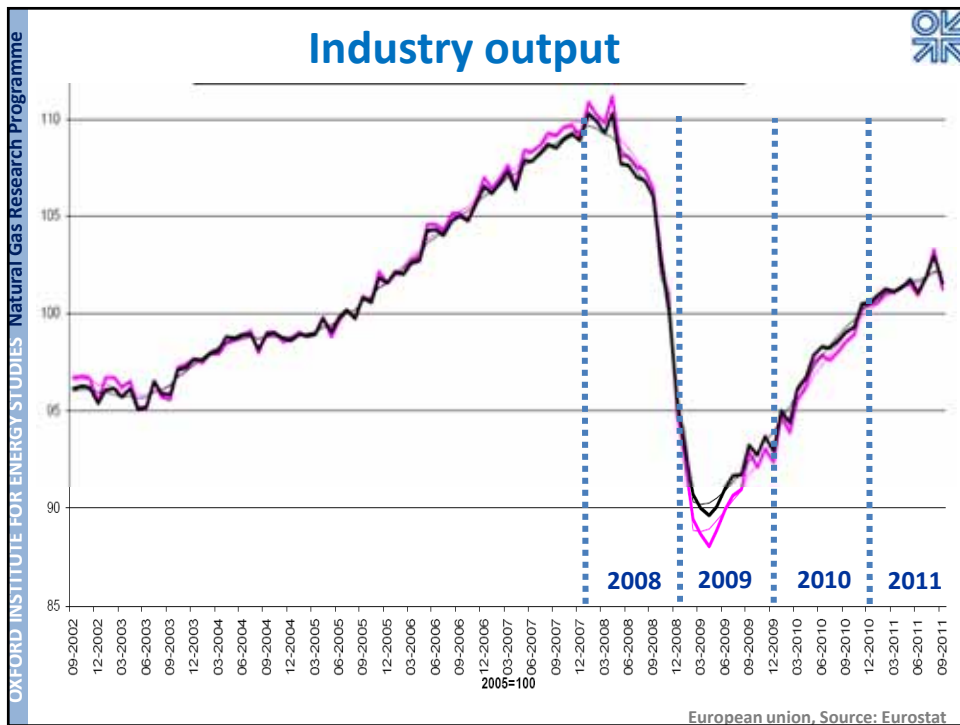
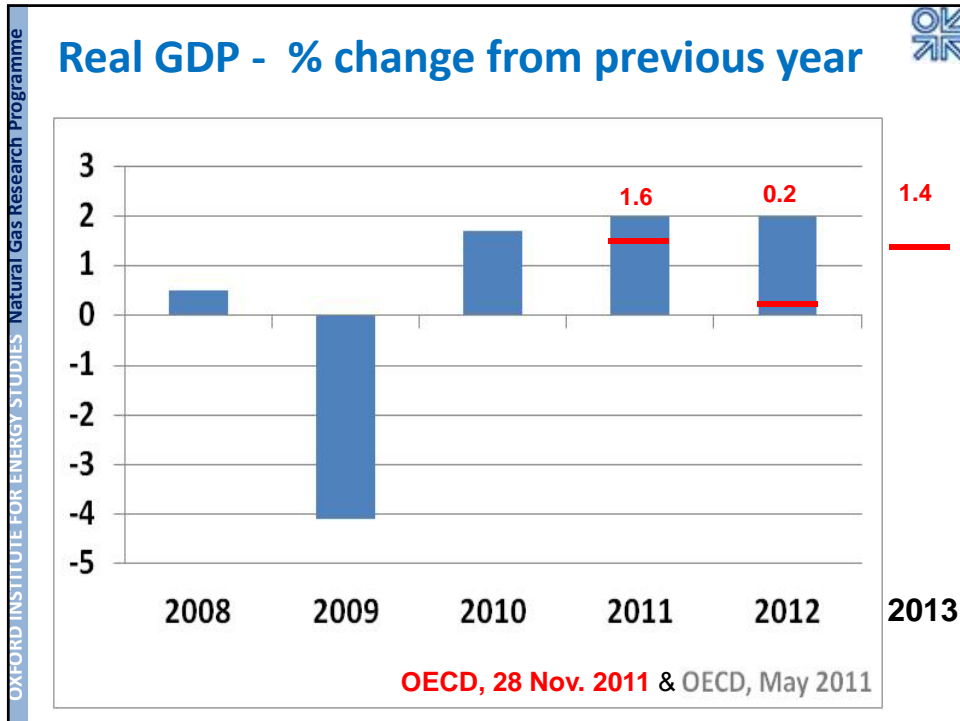
- Qatar's share in western Europe's LNG market grew from 29% in 2009, 42% in 2010 and 48% in 2011
- Impact felt by competing producers although partly offset by demand recovery
- LNG from MENA was especially hit
 - ❖ Some losses can be explained by diversions to higher-paying markets
 - ❖ But a large part of the reduction relates to the diversion of gas from LNG export to domestic markets and maintenance at export facilities
- Resurgence of Nigerian production in 2010-2011
- Asian demand (pre- and post-Fukushima) => 2011: tighter LNG market than anticipated

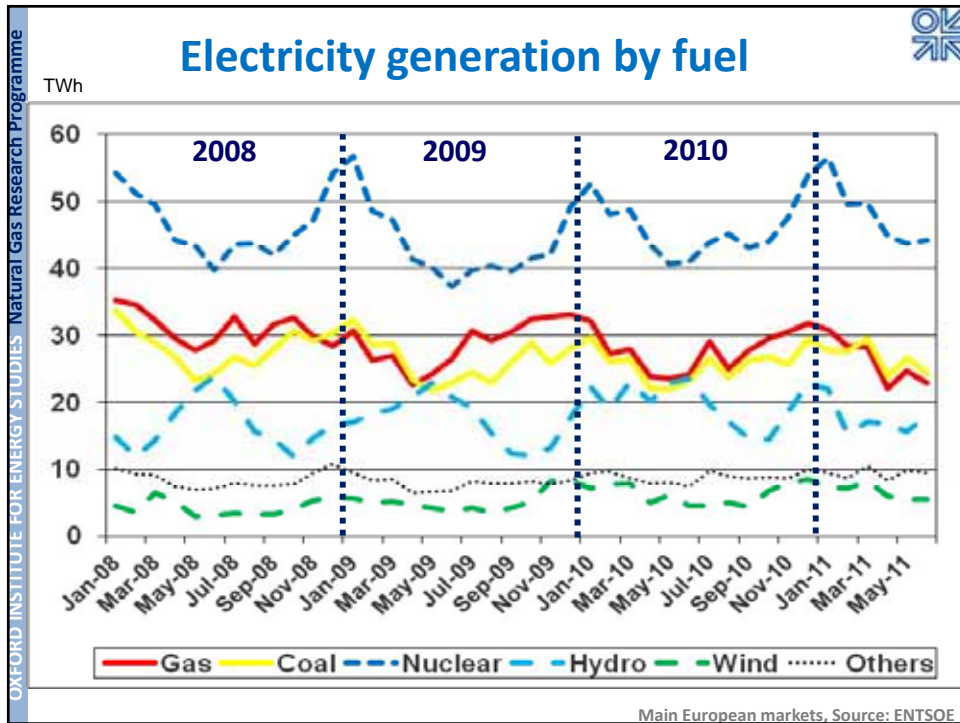
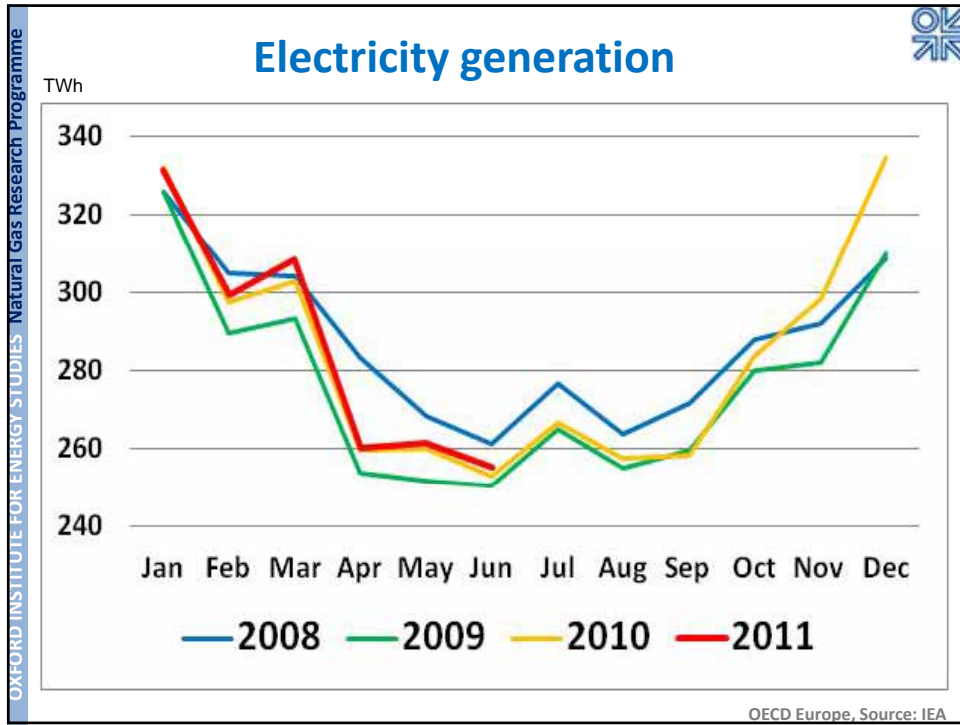
Source: GLM 2011, 7.08, p.14

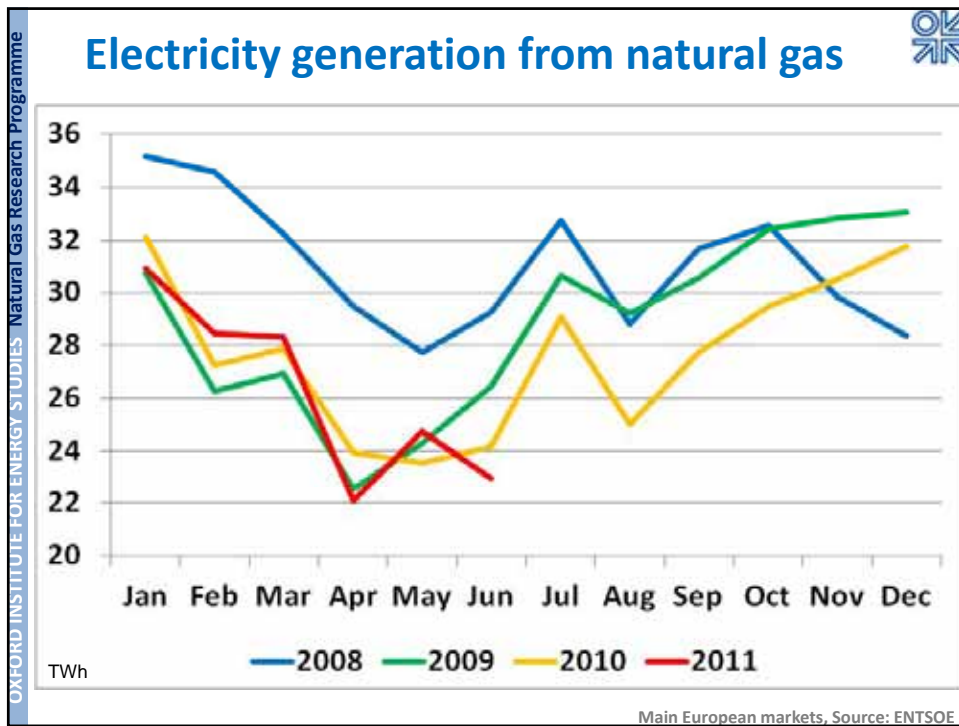













OXFORD INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY STUDIES Natural Gas Research Programme

Demand trends in Europe...

- **Slow gas demand recovery**
 - ❖ Possible exceptions: cold winters (+10-15 bcm)
- **Electricity demand in not back to sustain growth**
 - ❖ Limited growth expected due to economic situation + efficiency measures
- **=> Gas for power: possible limited growth in the near term (2015)**
 - ❖ Transition or destination fuel ? Baseload or mostly back up for intermittent generation?
- **Since March 2011, additional uncertainty on the future of nuclear energy in Europe**

OXFORD INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY STUDIES Natural Gas Research Programme


Nuclear energy before Fukushima



- **3 major accidents of nuclear power**
 - ❖ Three Mile Island (USA, 1979)
 - ❖ Chernobyl (Ukraine, 1986)
 - ❖ Fukushima (Japan, 2011)
- **Reactions to past catastrophes in Europe**
 - ❖ Sweden, Spain, Italy, Germany, Switzerland...
- **Past experiences show that after some time, policies can be revised**
- **Nuclear renaissance since the mid-2000s**
 - ❖ Nuclear power = security of supply and zero carbon emission

OXFORD INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY STUDIES Natural Gas Research Programme

2011: diversified reactions in Europe 1/



- **Strongest reaction in Germany**
 - ❖ Phase out nuclear plants by 2022
 - ❖ 8 GW already shut down in March
- **Some countries have decided to put a date on the phase out of nuclear energy**
 - ❖ Switzerland: 2034
 - ❖ Spain: 2028
 - ❖ Belgium: 2025
- **Public opinion against NEW nuclear power**
 - ❖ Italy : 94% NO
 - ❖ Sweden

OXFORD INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY STUDIES Natural Gas Research Programme

2011: diversified reactions in Europe 2/


- **Other countries have decided to continue their nuclear programmes**
 - ❖ France
 - ❖ Finland
 - ❖ Netherland
 - ❖ UK
 - ❖ Central and Eastern Europe
- **=> Only a small number of new plants likely to come on stream in this and maybe next decade**
 - ❖ => Without even considering impacts of post Fukushima

OXFORD INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY STUDIES Natural Gas Research Programme

New dynamics for nuclear energy

- **OLD PLANTS:**
 - ❖ Limitations of life-time (60 years, 40 years or shorter)...
 - ❖ ... Possibly as a result of the cost of stricter safety standards
- **NEW PLANTS:**
 - ❖ Cost and construction of new EPR: problems even before Fukushima
- **Questions on the competitiveness of both old and new nuclear plants**
- **=> New dynamics not in favour of a rapid nuclear renaissance in Europe, certainly not at a cheap price**


OXFORD INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY STUDIES Natural Gas Research Programme



Impacts on energy policies towards a low carbon economy

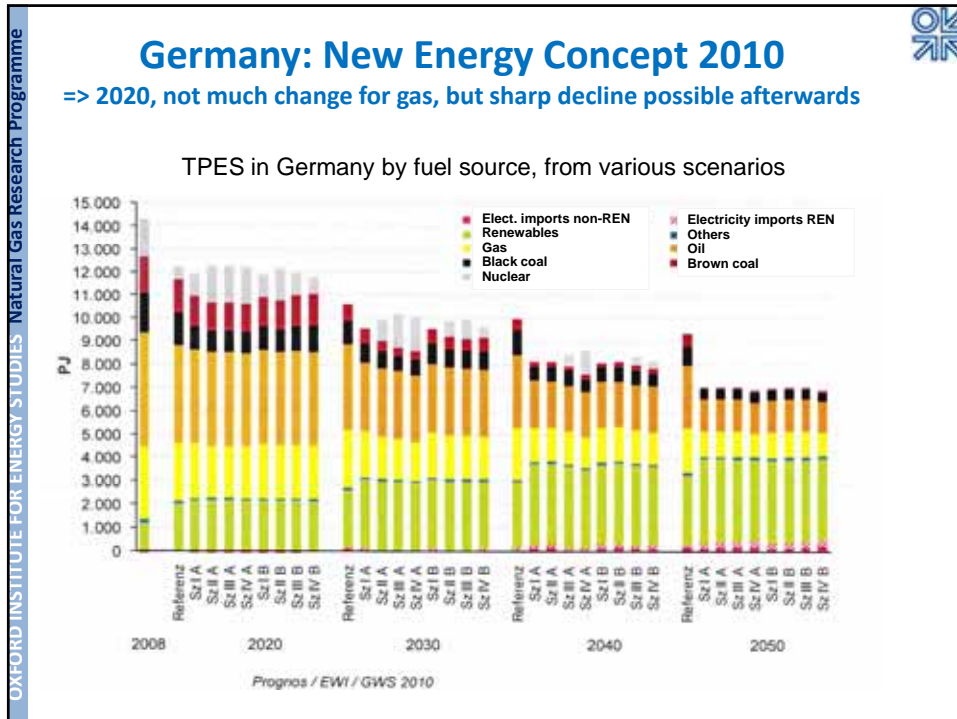
- **Before the Fukushima accident**
 - ❖ Renewables + nuclear (+ CCS?)
 - ❖ Gas as the transition fuel
- **Post Fukushima: too early to have new policies, but:**
 - ❖ Nuclear energy is uncertain: political restriction or economic constraints
 - ❖ Hydro: environmental constraints
 - ❖ Renewable energy: baseload energy ? Impacts of downward revisions of FIT and other support schemes?
 - ❖ If CCS does not develop, question mark on the impacts for coal but also for gas

OXFORD INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY STUDIES Natural Gas Research Programme



Germany's 'national energy concept' to 2050 (28 Sept 2010)

- **First comprehensive energy policy in 30 years**
- **"Path to the renewable energies era" => period: 2010-2050**
 - ❖ GHG emissions: -40% to 2020, at least -80% by 2050 compared with 1990
 - ❖ Renewables : 35% of gross electricity consumption by 2020, 50% by 2030, 65% by 2040 and 80% by 2050
 - ❖ Wind energy to play a "decisive" role in electric supply in 2050
 - ❖ Nuclear plant run times are extended
 - ❖ Expansion of electricity networks of "central significance"
- **Many criticism from environmental and political groups**



- OXFORD INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY STUDIES Natural Gas Research Programme
- ## Impacts of the German nuclear phase-out on electricity generation and gas demand are yet unclear
- **Short term (2015):**
 - ❖ German had an overcapacity
 - ❖ No need of import this winter (government)
 - ❖ Possible problems in neighbouring countries
 - **Mid term (2020-2025):**
 - ❖ To replace nuclear: many scenarios (Merkel: 10 GW of wind and solar + 10 GW of new gas plants + efficiency, Others: between 6 and 20 GW of new coal and gas plants)
 - ❖ Higher price for electricity
 - **Long term:**
 - ❖ 2030s/2040s: old scenarios had planned for nuclear phase-out
 - ❖ Emphasis on efficiency measures... and imports ???

OXFORD INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY STUDIES Natural Gas Research Programme



Thank you

<http://www.oxfordenergy.org/gasprog.shtml>