



European  
Commission



# Preventing offshore major accidents

*[EU Directive for safety and environmental protection against EU offshore major accidents]*

**A presentation by**

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to

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# Case for action



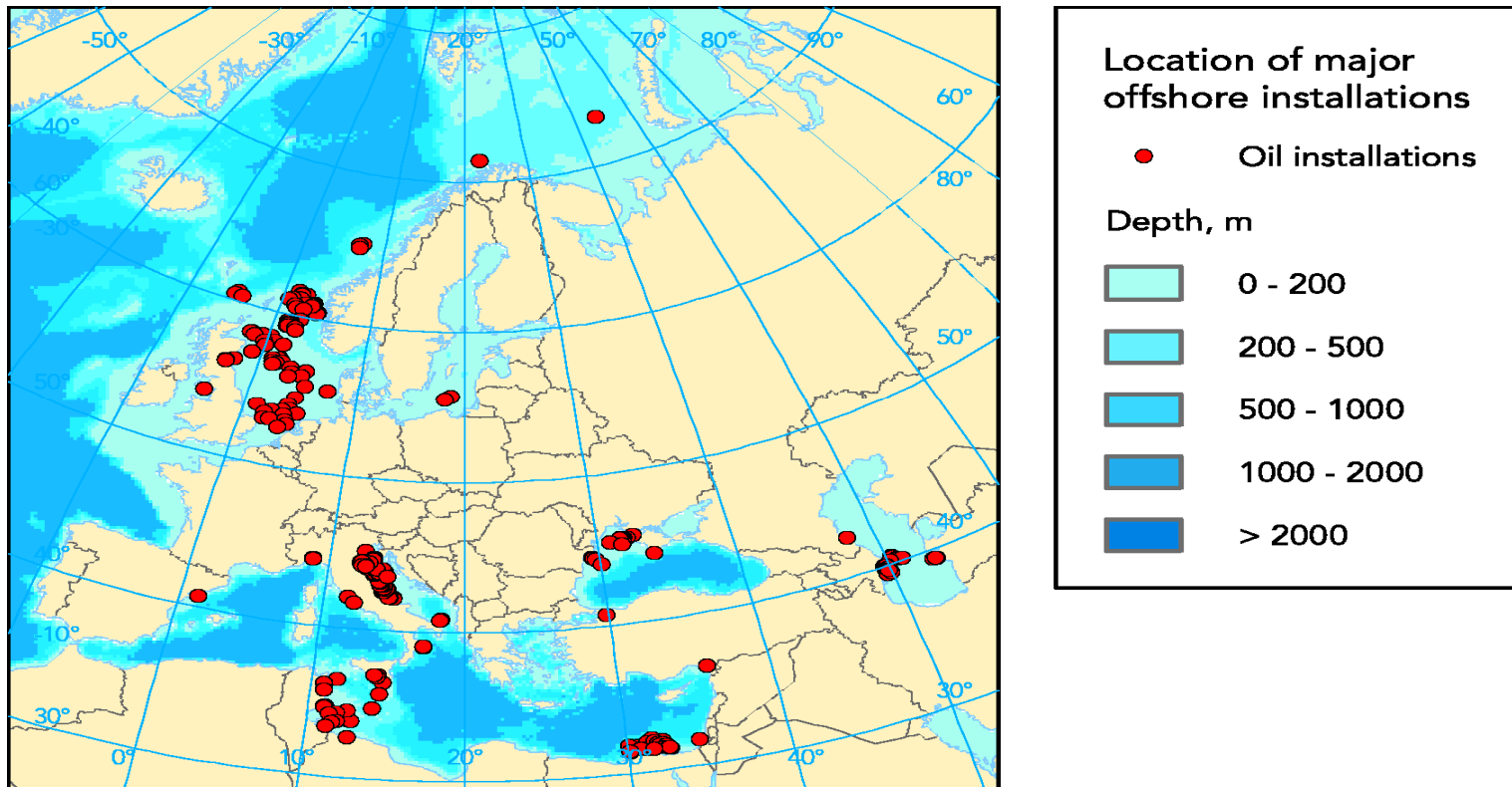


# Synopsis

- 1. Background to the Commission's proposal**
- 2. Nature of the proposed Directive**
- 3. What would be required to comply with it?**
- 4. What changes in the big producer countries?**
- 5. Timetable**

# 1. Background

## - offshore licensing in EU/EEA & adjoining states



## 2. Nature of the proposed directive

<i>General objectives</i>	<i>Problem part</i>
<p><b><i>1. To prevent a major incident from occurring</i></b></p>	<p><b>1. Risks can be lowered (i.e. too high to accept)</b></p>
<p><b><i>2. To deal with a major emergency should preventive measures fail</i></b></p>	<p><b>2. Response measures need improvement</b></p>
	<p><b>3. Liability provisions incomplete</b></p>



### **3. What would be required to comply with the directive? – Industry (i)**

- **Technical and financial capacity demonstrated throughout lifecycle of operations: begins at licensing stage**
- **Licensee is 'fully liable' for environmental damage**
- **Primary duty of licensee and operator to 'see to it' that risks are controlled**
- **Company global major accident (MA) prevention policy  
→regulator**
- **Report on major hazard (RoMH = 'safety case') to include major environmental consequences as well as safety**
- **RoMH must be accepted by regulator prior to operations commencing – all fixed and mobile installations**
- **Every installation to have emergency response plan for immediate response to MA & preventing escalation**



### **3. What would be required to comply with the directive? – Industry (ii)**

- **Well notification → regulator prior to start of well operations**
- **Weekly well reports → regulator**
- **Comprehensive safety/environment management system**
- **SMS to include schemes for independent verification of safety critical elements, and well plans**
- **EU-based operators to report on overseas major accidents**
- **To secure cooperation of workforce and protect whistleblowers**
- **To engage in tripartite consultation**
- **To cooperate with EU regulators group (EUOAG) on improving standards**
- **To report incidents and near-misses in EU standard format**



### **3. What would be required to comply with the directive? – Member states (i)**

- **Scrutiny of technical and financial liability at licensing**
- **Ensure public participation before any new areas are drilled**
- **Appoint independent competent authority for major hazard regulation – safety & environment**
- **Ensure adequate expert resources to CA – may recover costs from industry, and use independent external support**
- **CA has extensive powers/duties of enforcement, including for major accident investigation**
- **Must 'accept' RoMHs/safety cases**
- **Must publish procedures**





### **3. What would be required to comply with the directive? – Member states (ii)**

- **CA must cooperate with EUOAG on raising standards**
- **CA must report offshore performance annually to Commission**
- **EUOAG to support Commission by:**
  - **Exchanging best practices**
  - **Asserting priorities for industry standards**
  - **Cooperating on future regulatory improvement**
- **European Maritime Safety Agency to provide support to Member states in planning and responding to emergencies**
- **Coastal MS without offshore operations to cooperate in emergency response with neighboring MS and vice versa**
- **All MS to require parent companies registered to furnish reports on overseas major accidents**

## 5. Timetable

- **Directive adopted by TTE on 10 June**
- **Directive signed 12 June.**
- **Publication in the official journal**
- **Member States transpose within 2 years**
- **Full application by one further year**
- **Further accommodation for existing installations (up to 5 years)**
- **Commission will assess effectiveness of transposition**
- **Efficacy of the legislation kept under review**





[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/oil/offshore/standards\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/oil/offshore/standards_en.htm)