

PRESS RELEASE

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Nord Stream in Brussels to discuss security of energy supply with European Commission and Parliament

Brussels, 7 February 2007. Today Nord Stream AG held a series of high-level meetings with representatives of the European Commission and the European Parliament to discuss the planned natural gas pipeline through the Baltic Sea aimed at securing Europe's energy supply. Gerhard Schröder, Chairman of Nord Stream's Shareholders Committee and Matthias Warnig, Managing Director, met with the European Commissioner for Energy, Andris Piebalgs; the Vice-President of the European Commission and Commissioner for Enterprise and Industry, Günter Verheugen as well as with representatives of the European Parliament.

All agreed on the need for additional infrastructure as the basis of a secure energy supply. Gerhard Schröder presented Nord Stream as a viable 'Project of European Interest' which will play an important role in the recent proposals for the Priority Interconnection Plan. Nord Stream informed the EU representatives of the progress in the development of the project and the on-going international permitting process. Schröder said: "We are committed to ensuring Europe's energy supply for many decades". Complying with high international and national environmental standards in the project implementation is a key concern for us." Matthias Warnig added: "Nord Stream is developing an active dialogue with all the countries around the Baltic Sea to find optimal ways to implement the project. Nord Stream will deliver a comprehensive environmental impact assessment in autumn 2007."

Notes for editors:

Nord Stream is a natural gas pipeline that will link Russia and the European Union via the Baltic Sea. By connecting the world's biggest gas reserves with the European gas pipeline network, Nord Stream will meet about 25% of the additional gas import needs of the European Union. The project will be an important contribution to long-term security of supply and a touch-stone for the energy partnership between the European Union and Russia.

With a total length of about 1200 kilometres, it is planned to be operational in 2010 with an initial transport capacity of some 27.5 billion cubic metres per annum. In the second phase, a parallel pipeline will increase the transport capacity to about 55 billion cubic metres per annum. The project recently started the permitting process in the Baltic Sea region countries, which among other things involves the Environmental Impact Assessment in accordance with international and national legislation.

Nord Stream AG is an international joint venture established with the purpose of planning, construction and subsequent operation of the new gas pipeline. Gazprom holds a 51% interest in the joint venture, and Wintershall and E.ON Ruhrgas hold 24.5% each.

While in Brussels Nord Stream's representatives have met with:

- Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for Energy;
- Günter Verheugen, Vice-President of the European Commission and Commissioner for Enterprise and Industry;
- Ciril Stokelj, Director for Interparliamentary Delegations and Policy Support of the European Parliament
- Martin Schulz, Chairman of the Socialist Group in the European Parliament;
- Wilhelm Schönfelder, German Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the European Union.

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