

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Trawling in the Vicinity of Nord Stream Will Be Possible**

#### **Nord Stream increased the level of dialogue with fishermen from Denmark and Sweden**

**Malmö, 30 November 2007.** Nord Stream today held a seminar with fishermen's associations and authorities from Sweden and Denmark in Malmö, Sweden. Several presentations addressed the possible impact of the planned natural gas pipeline on fish and fisheries. Discussions among expert attendees, including marine biologists, lawyers, engineers, fishermen and authorities, revealed that as soon as the construction process is finished, trawling over the pipeline would generally be possible. Restrictions imposed during the construction process would be lifted afterwards. Impact on fish stocks through e.g. noise and sediment plumes will occur temporarily only during pipe-laying activities. The seminar was attended by roughly 25 people from the concerned regions in both countries.

"Nord Stream strives to keep the impact on fishery as small as possible. We plan to discuss every step in close coordination with the concerned fishermen's associations," stated Dr. Dirk von Ameln, Permitting Director Nord Stream AG.

Jesper Juul Larsen, Chairman of Esbjergs Fishermen's Association from the Danish North Sea coast, shared experiences from similar projects that proved successful for both fishermen and the offshore industry. Larsen's formula for success: no severe restrictions, dialogue and, most importantly, information exchange. Additionally, Robert Misund, Norwegian Board of Fisheries, and Jarle Kalle, StatoilHydro, provided insights on Norwegian experience with trawling in the vicinity of pipelines. Due to the large number of offshore pipelines constructed and operated in the vicinity of its coasts, Norwegian authorities found methods to accommodate the needs of the fishing industry and high-profile energy projects, such as advising involved parties on technological best practice.

Dr. Dirk von Ameln and Luigino Vitali, engineer and fishery expert from Snamprogetti, profiled the possible impact during construction and operation of the pipeline. During construction, a temporary safety zone in the works zone will need to be delineated. Once the pipeline begins operation, smaller, permanent safety zones may be necessary. However, trawling in general will be possible and not be adversely affected.

Throughout the course of the project, Nord Stream will intensify the contacts with the fishery associations to work out solutions that are in the interest of both fishermen and the countries needing gas transported by Nord Stream to meet their energy requirements.

**Notes for editors:**

**Nord Stream** is a natural gas pipeline that will link Russia and the European Union via the Baltic Sea. Gas import of the European Union, 336 billion cubic metres in 2005, is projected to grow by 200 billion cubic metres to 536 per year in 2015 (Source: Global Insight, 2007). Connecting the world's biggest gas reserves with the European gas pipeline network, Nord Stream will meet about 25 per cent of that additional requirement. The project will be an important contribution to long-term security of supply and the energy partnership between the European Union and Russia.

Nord Stream AG plans to have the first of two parallel pipelines, approx. 1,200 kilometres long, each with a transport capacity of some 27.5 billion cubic metres per annum, operational in 2010. In the second phase, capacity should double to about 55 billion cubic metres a year.

**Nord Stream AG** is an international joint venture established for the planning, construction and subsequent operation of the new offshore gas pipeline. Gazprom holds a 51 per cent stake in the joint venture. BASF/Wintershall and E.ON Ruhrgas hold 24.5 per cent each. In the near future, Dutch gas infrastructure company N.V. Nederlandse Gasunie will join the Nord Stream consortium. German companies E.ON Ruhrgas and BASF/Wintershall will each cede 4.5 per cent to Gasunie and keep 20 per cent each.

**Snamprogetti SpA** is a leading engineering and construction company based in Italy. Founded in 1956, it has designed over 75,000 km of onshore and 23,000 km of offshore pipelines. Following an international tender, Nord Stream has commissioned Snamprogetti with detailed design engineering of the future gas pipeline in spring 2007.

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