

## STATEMENT

### **Nord Stream White Book Provides Initial Responses to Comments Received in International Consultations**

**Zug, 11 August 2008.** Nord Stream's so called "White Book" – published on its website today – provides a comprehensive record of the company's extensive consultations with national authorities and the public in all Baltic Sea countries. Based on the project's status as of June 2008, the White Book responds to more than 200 written comments and questions submitted by national authorities and individual stakeholders. These issues were submitted from all nine Baltic Sea countries following formal notification of the project in November 2006 and publication of a status document in October 2007. In line with the company's policy of transparency and open dialogue, the document complements the information process required under the Espoo Convention which regulates Nord Stream's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in a transboundary context. As part of this international consultation process, the company has also participated in more than 20 public hearings and taken part in numerous public discussions and expert seminars.

The White Book is both a record and a part of the on-going dialogue between Nord Stream, as project developer of a natural gas pipeline across the Baltic Sea, and the public in all states bordering the Baltic. It demonstrates how Nord Stream has taken into account all comments submitted with regard to the project. It is intended to cover the general approach, principles and major findings in the various fields involved in a way that is transparent and accessible to non-experts. These fields include natural science, engineering as well as national and international legal aspects.

Dirk von Ameln, Permitting Director at Nord Stream AG, notes: "Nord Stream is engaged in the most comprehensive transboundary environmental assessment ever undertaken of the Baltic Sea, involving nine countries and many stakeholders. The White Book is another element of the on-going dialogue that we are conducting with the public and governments in all Baltic Sea states."

#### **White Book designed for transparency and clarity**

Consultation over and preparation of the EIA and national application documents on Nord Stream's pipeline is on-going. The White Book contains Nord Stream's responses to issues raised, reflecting current developments, knowledge and research. For questions that have not been fully answered yet, the comprehensive EIA report will provide

responses and the White Book directs readers to the relevant chapters therein. The results of the most recent scientific research and surveys as well as any modification to the currently preferred route will be included in a draft report to be submitted to national authorities in October 2008. The final report will be published after further consultation.

Given the complexity of the subjects covered and the wealth of material it contains, Nord Stream has structured the White Book to identify and clarify the more than 1,600 issues raised. These range from a wide variety of potential types of impact to issues of alternatives and safety precautions. Grouped into 89 different sub-headings covering seven main areas of interest, the White Book contains systematic responses to the issues raised.

The 530 page document contains two sections. The first groups issues raised by stakeholders with Nord Stream responses. The second section is divided into country chapters, each of which presents the issues raised in each respective country with references to the corresponding chapters containing Nord Stream's responses.

Download the White Book at  
<http://www.nord-stream.com/en/environment/white-book.html>

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**Notes to editors:**

**Nord Stream** is a natural gas pipeline that will link Russia and the European Union via the Baltic Sea. Gas imports by the European Union, 314 billion cubic metres (bcm) in 2005, are projected to grow by almost 200 bcm to 509 bcm per year in 2025 (Source: European Commission/DG-TREN, 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 a milestone of the energy partnership between the European Union and Russia.

Nord Stream AG plans to have the first of two parallel pipelines operational in 2011. Each line is approximately 1,220 kilometres long, providing a transport capacity of some 27.5 bcm per annum. Full capacity of about 55 bcm a year will be reached in the second phase, when operation of the second line starts.

**Nord Stream AG** is an international joint venture established for the planning, construction and subsequent operation of the new offshore gas pipeline across the Baltic Sea. Gazprom holds a 51 per cent stake in the joint venture.

BASF/Wintershall and E.ON Ruhrgas hold 20 per cent each, and N.V. Nederlandse Gasunie has a 9 per cent stake.

As a cross-border project, Nord Stream is subject to international conventions and national legislation in each of the countries through which it passes. Before construction starts, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be completed along the whole pipeline route. This is a detailed study of environmental aspects in a transboundary context. The process is governed by international law (Espoo Convention) and by national legislation in the countries concerned.

**The Espoo Convention** sets out the obligations of parties to assess the environmental impact of certain activities at an early stage of planning. It also lays down the general obligation of states to notify and consult each other on all major projects under consideration that are likely to have a significant environmental impact across national borders. The Espoo Convention was opened for signature in Espoo (Finland) on 25 February 1991 and came into force on 10 September 1997. Nord Stream has started its consultation process under the Espoo Convention with ministries and authorities in April 2006.