

STATEMENT

Paavo Lipponen to Advise Nord Stream

Helsinki, 15 August 2008. Nord Stream AG has concluded an agreement with Finland's former Prime Minister Paavo Lipponen to act as an independent consultant to Nord Stream.

Paavo Lipponen will advise Nord Stream on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and permit application in Finland. He will provide independent consultations according to his expertise in Finnish administrative and decision-making procedures within the energy sector.

Nord Stream is finalising the EIA report in a transboundary context according to international law. At the same time, the national EIA and permit application in Finland is being prepared according to Finnish legislation. After all permits are obtained, Nord Stream will start construction of the natural gas pipeline across the Baltic Sea. Nord Stream's goal is to supply Europe with natural gas from 2011 onwards in order to cover growing demand for environmentally friendly energy resources.

For further information, please contact:

Jens Müller, Communications Manager, Mobile: +41 79 295 96 08

Irina Vasilyeva, Communications Manager, Mobile: +7 916 133 87 81

Email: press@nord-stream.com

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.