

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Historic Artefact Recovered off Bornholm's Coast Cooperation between Nord Stream, Danish National Museum and Viking Ship Museum Ensures Protection of Cultural Heritage**

**Zug/Bornholm, 9 September 2009. Today, the employees of the Viking Ship Museum and the National Museum salvaged a historic rudder near the island of Bornholm. The approximately eight metre long wooden item was found during surveys of the Nord Stream pipeline route at 45 metres depth. It is estimated to be from the 17th or 18th century and is thus protected by the Danish cultural heritage legislation. In order to safeguard the rudder against potentially being damaged during the construction of the Nord Stream pipeline, it had to be lifted and is now sent to preservation.**

“No ship wrecks have been located in close proximity to the rudder, so for now, we assume that the rudder dislodged itself from a ship. Of course it is not normal for a ship to lose its rudder, but it must have happened to some of the thousands of ships that have sailed past Bornholm throughout the ages”, says Jørgen Dencker from the Viking Ship Museum, who ran the recovery operation on board the “Cable One”, the vessel that was already used to salvage St George rudder during the construction of an offshore wind turbine park.

The salvage vessel “Cable One” left Ronne this morning to lift the rudder. It will then be brought to the wood conservation laboratory of the National Museum near Copenhagen. Depending on its state conservation will take approximately six years. Afterwards, the rudder will probably be displayed in a museum.

“The recovery is needed in order to make sure the rudder will not be damaged by pipelaying activities” said Nord Stream Permitting Manager Steve Tye and continues: “After intensive examination of different alternatives, the KUAS (Danish Cultural Heritage Agency), in close cooperation with us, decided on exactly this approach.”

The so far unidentified rudder is also expected to come from a rather large ship. As far as could be seen from the survey images, it is rather well preserved, although signs of abrasion are visible. It is likely that historic information of a large vessel losing its rudder is waiting to be discovered in an archive somewhere. Related research on the origin of the rudder will be undertaken by the Viking Ship Museum.

The wood can be dated by use of dendro-chronology, which will make it easy to focus the research to a specific time period. Rudders of similar or

larger sizes are known from the large wrecks of Dannebrog (Køge Bugt – rudder approximately eight metres long) and St. George (Thorsminde – rudder approximately 12 metres long).

The construction of the 1,220 km long Nord Stream pipeline on whose route the rudder was found is scheduled to start in early 2010. Nord Stream will eventually be able to supply 55 billion cubic metres of natural gas per year. The CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of natural gas are the lowest of any fossil fuel, even 50 percent less than coal.

**For further information, please contact:**

**Maud Amelie Hanitzsch, Nord Stream AG:** +41 79 824 96 08  
**Email:** [press@nord-stream.com](mailto:press@nord-stream.com)

**Jørgen Dencker, The Viking Ship Museum:** +45 46 300 218  
**Email:** [jd@vikingskibsmuseet.dk](mailto:jd@vikingskibsmuseet.dk)

**Kristiane Strætkværn, The National Museum:** +45 3347 3526  
**Email:** [kristiane.straetkvern@natmus.dk](mailto:kristiane.straetkvern@natmus.dk)

**Notes to editors:**

**Nord Stream** is a natural gas pipeline that will link Russia and the European Union via the Baltic Sea. The European Union's annual natural gas import needs in the year 2005 were approximately 314 billion cubic metres (bcm) and are projected to increase to 509 bcm by the year 2025. This means that by 2025, the EU's annual import needs will have increased by almost 200 bcm (Source: European Commission/DG-TREN, 2007). Nord Stream will meet about 25 per cent of this additional requirement by connecting the European gas pipeline network to the world's largest gas reserves. 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 year. Full capacity of about 55 bcm per year will be reached in the second phase, when the second line goes on stream.

**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. OAO Gazprom holds a 51 per cent stake in the joint venture. BASF/Wintershall AG and E.ON Ruhrgas AG hold 20 per cent each, and N.V. Nederlandse Gasunie has a 9 per cent stake.