

STATEMENT

Nord Stream Finalises Agreements with Fishermen

Zug, 15 September 2009. Nord Stream finalised agreements with German, Finnish, Swedish and Danish fishery associations that govern compensation and mitigation measures to be taken during construction and operation of the pipeline. With the Russian Federal Fishing Agency a compensation payment was agreed on. All agreements are in accordance with the specific, relevant legislation and are based on negotiations with fishermen and fishing authorities.

As part of the permitting process, Nord Stream conducted a detailed assessment of the possible impact on fishing activities, as the planned pipelines cross important fishing grounds in the Baltic Sea, in particular those near Bornholm. Fishing plays an important role in the communities along the Baltic Sea coast, and one of Nord Stream's priorities as a responsible operator is to ensure that fishing activities remain safe and unrestricted by the pipelines as much as possible. The assessment shows that Nord Stream will only have some local impacts of minor significance.

While the pipelines have been designed to withstand the impact of fishing activities, fishermen will have to modify their trawling patterns and fishing techniques in certain places. Nord Stream will compensate them for this additional effort required to fish in the vicinity of the pipelines, as well as for restrictions that will arise during construction works.

Positive Effects from an Environmental Point of View

The agreements achieved base chiefly on the fact that Nord Stream has initiated the advancement of a new type of trawl board to enable bottom trawling over obstacles such as a pipeline. It has been tested by members of the Fishermen's Associations of Bornholm and Christiansø with positive results, not only regarding catches, but also with regard to fuel consumption and saving time. In addition, the new trawl boards glide along the seabed, which makes them advantageous from an environmental perspective, by reducing the amount of seabed disturbance typically caused by traditional bottom trawling equipment.

Nord Stream is committed to supporting fishermen as they adapt to the new situation by establishing an information programme in cooperation with fishermen's organisations. The programme will explain how to fish near the pipelines during the construction and operation phases. Briefings are scheduled to be conducted in all Baltic Sea countries in Q4 2009/Q1



Nord Stream
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2010. Experience with numerous offshore pipelines in the North Sea has shown that fishery and offshore pipelines can co-exist safely.

The pipelines' coordinates ("as built") will be provided in a format compatible with electronic systems used in professional fishing. Throughout the lifetime of the project, a permanent point of contact will be available to fishermen to answer, for example, any questions concerning unplanned events. Incidents such as damage to fishing gear will be handled on a case by case basis. Nord Stream will have an insurance policy in place to cover such cases, if necessary.

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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. The European Union's gas imports were 314 billion cubic metres (bcm) in 2005 and are projected to grow by almost 200 bcm to 509 bcm per year by 2025 (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 Holding AG and E.ON Ruhrgas AG hold 20 percent each, and N.V. Nederlandse Gasunie has a 9 percent stake.