

PRESS RELEASE

Nord Stream to Share its Survey Database for a Better Future of the Baltic Sea

- **Nord Stream to establish environmental Data and Information Fund**
- **Firm commitment made at the Baltic Sea Action Summit in Helsinki**

Helsinki, Finland, 10 February 2010. At the Baltic Sea Action Summit in Helsinki today, Nord Stream took a further concrete step in line with its firm commitment to preserve the Baltic Sea. Nord Stream decided to establish a new Data and Information Fund to utilise its extensive knowledge and survey data for further research and preservation of the Baltic Sea. Nord Stream will share the valuable knowledge which it has gathered over several years for the purposes of preparing and submitting the relevant documentation in pursuit of corresponding permits for the construction and operation of the natural gas pipelines through the Baltic Sea

“The Baltic Sea is the home of our project. Therefore, we want to actively participate in its improvement as part of our Baltic Sea co-operation. The Baltic Sea Action Summit is a unique opportunity, bringing together various parties and investments made for the common good,” said Matthias Warnig, Managing Director Nord Stream AG.

The objective of the Fund is to increase existing knowledge regarding the state of the Baltic Sea and its preservation. The new Fund will compile and convert the various data, for example high-resolution bathymetry and sediment-type data, into usable information that is needed to conduct projects within the HELCOM's Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP). Nord Stream will equip the Fund with the data, as well as with IT hard- and software and human resources for this purpose. Data which is subject to legal restrictions by laws of the Baltic Sea countries will be excluded from the Fund's database. Nord Stream will liaise with national authorities on this question.

The unique data gathered by Nord Stream covers the entire range of HELCOM's Baltic Sea Action Plan priorities, including eutrophication, hazardous substances, environmentally-friendly maritime activities and biodiversity. Nord Stream has invested over 100 million euros in conducting the most extensive environmental studies of the Baltic Sea.

“We hope that the data we have gathered will help to form a better picture of the challenges which the Baltic Sea is facing. We also want to encourage universities and researchers around the Baltic Sea to create new solutions to improve the state of our sea,” said Warnig.

The Nord Stream Data and Information Fund will be complementary to the already existing data pools, e.g. HELCOM. Therefore, in the first phase of setting up the Fund in 2010, Nord Stream intends to work in co-operation with other stakeholders in this field, such as HELCOM, the Baltic Sea Action Group (BSAG), universities and NGOs active in Baltic Sea research. In the second phase in 2011-2013, the database infrastructure and data management system will be completed and the database will be filled with the pre-construction survey data as well as with environmental monitoring information. The Fund will start selecting applicants and distributing data in co-operation with relevant stakeholders in 2013. Nord Stream will maintain the database until 2021, in line with many of the HELCOM projects.

The Baltic Sea Action Summit (BSAS) is a joint initiative of the President of Finland, the Finnish Prime Minister and the BSAG. Its objective is to join resources of public, private and third-party actors for the benefit of the Baltic Sea.

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Notes to editors:

Nord Stream is a natural gas pipeline that will link Russia and the European Union through the Baltic Sea. The European Union’s annual natural gas imports in the year 2007 were approximately 312 billion cubic metres (bcm) and are projected to increase to 516 bcm by the year 2030. This means that by 2030, the EU’s annual import needs will have increased by about 200 bcm (Source: IEA, World Energy Outlook, 2009). Nord Stream will meet about 25 percent of this additional gas import requirement by connecting the European gas pipeline network to some of 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. This is enough to supply more than 26 million European households.

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. Russian OAO Gazprom holds a 51 per cent stake in the joint venture. The German companies

BASF/Wintershall Holding AG and E.ON Ruhrgas AG hold 20 per cent each, and the Dutch gas infrastructure company 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. It has invested 100 million euros in environmental studies and planning and an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was completed along the whole pipeline route. This is a detailed study of environmental aspects in a trans-boundary context. The process is governed by international law (Espoo Convention) and by national legislation in the countries concerned.

The Helsinki Commission, or **HELCOM**, works to protect the marine environment of the Baltic Sea from all sources of pollution through intergovernmental co-operation between Denmark, Estonia, the European Community, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden.

The **Baltic Sea Action Group (BSAG)** is a part of the Foundation for a Living Baltic Sea. BSAG works in an agile manner to rescue the Baltic Sea with carefully chosen projects. Constructive cooperation with different authorities and the private sector is based on researchers' and experts' opinions. Work complies and implements the Baltic Sea Action Plan issued by HELCOM (The Helsinki Commission). Targets include adverse effects caused by agriculture, maritime activities and hazardous substances.

In February 2010, BSAG organizes a **Baltic Sea Action Summit (BSAS)** together with the Finnish President Tarja Halonen and the Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen. Among the invitees are heads of states from all the Baltic Sea countries as well as the salient actors of the business community and the civil society. All Summit participants will make their own concrete commitment to action. Commitments are already being made and the process will continue after the Summit. For more information on the foundation visit www.bsag.fi and on the Baltic Sea Action Summit visit www.bsas.fi.