

STATEMENT

Nord Stream Pipelay Vessel Anchors near Gotland

- **152 metre long Castoro 6 construction vessel moored about 30 kilometres off the coast of Gotland's**
- **Fine-tuning of equipment before the 1,224 kilometre long pipeline starts to be laid**
- **3 kilometre radius safety zone around the vessel**

Zug, 30 March 2010. Today the Castoro 6 pipelay vessel arrived in Swedish waters. She is now moored off the coast of the island of Gotland, at a point located about 675 kilometres from the pipeline's starting point near Vyborg, Russia, and 550 kilometres from the end point at Lubmin near Greifswald, Germany. Laying of the first section of the Nord Stream Pipeline will start here after the equipment of the Castoro 6 has undergone some final checks and fine tuning and crew has been flown in.

Safety zone

All vessels used in the Nord Stream project work under the International Regulations for the Prevention of Collision at Sea. The pipelay vessel is anchored and not able to manoeuvre freely. Therefore, a safety (exclusion) zone will be implemented around the Castoro 6, in addition to normal navigational measures. This safety zone has a diameter of 6 kilometres, ensuring that there will be no interference with ship traffic during anchor-handling operations for example. Anchor-handling tugs typically work within about one kilometre from the pipelay vessel.

Information in nine languages

Fishermen, coast guards, and other stakeholders are being regularly informed on all construction activities – as agreed upon during the project's planning phase. A newsletter is being distributed to 1,600 recipients in nine languages every week, both in print and electronically. Moreover, it is standard procedure to issue Notice to Mariners warnings well in advance of construction activities and these are backed up by regular Navtex (telex) warnings and verbal warnings broadcast on marine VHF radios.

Schedule

The Castoro 6 is scheduled to start pipe laying in April, near her current location, about 30 kilometres off the island of Gotland in April. The Nord Stream Pipeline is scheduled to transport natural gas to Europe from

2011. When fully completed in 2012, it will transport 55 billion cubic metres (bcm) of natural gas – enough to meet the needs of 26 million European households.

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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 gas 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 through the Baltic Sea. Russian OAO Gazprom holds a 51 percent stake in the joint venture. The German companies BASF SE/Wintershall Holding GmbH and E.ON Ruhrgas AG hold 20 percent each, and the Dutch gas infrastructure company N.V. Nederlandse Gasunie has a 9 percent stake.

Nord Stream is included in the Trans-European Energy Network Guidelines (TEN-E) of the European Union. In 2006, the project was designated a "project of European interest" by the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. Nord Stream is, therefore, recognized as a key project for meeting Europe's energy infrastructure needs.

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.