

PRESS RELEASE

Conservation Foundation German Baltic established Collaboration between Nord Stream and environmental organisations, including participation from the federal state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania is aimed at improving protection of the Baltic Sea ecosystem

Zug, March 31, 2011. Protection of the sensitive Baltic Sea ecosystem will be expanded: Effective today, environmental organisations WWF, BUND (Friends of the Earth), and NABU (Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union) – together with Nord Stream AG and the federal state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania will begin close collaboration as part of the Conservation Foundation German Baltic. "Improving the protection of the Baltic Sea ecosystem is a matter of great importance to all of us. The foundation now provides us with an organisation equipped with the necessary resources and capabilities in order to ensure environmental protection and conservation," said Dirk von Ameln, Permitting Director of Nord Stream AG.

The foundation, headquartered in Greifswald, will be devoted exclusively to promoting environmental protection and nature conservancy in the German Baltic region. This will primarily involve either funding or conducting environmental protection measures and projects that improve the ecological stability or regenerative ability of the marine environment, and which contribute toward the reduction or degradation of eutrophying¹ contaminants or pollutants. In addition, habitats and reserves for rare and protected species will be created or improved.

The endowment capital provided by Nord Stream AG amounts to a total of 10 million euros. This includes five million euros earmarked for the realisation of measures corresponding to the foundation's purpose. The remaining five million euros constitutes the necessary nominal capital of the foundation.

Jochen Lamp from WWF Germany will serve as chairman. Corinna Cwielag, from BUND Mecklenburg, will serve as first deputy. Dirk von Ameln, from Nord Stream AG, will be assuming the function of president of the board of trustees. Members of the foundation's executive committee serve on a volunteer basis.

Establishing the foundation is an outcome that was agreed between Nord Stream AG and the environmental associations BUND Mecklenburg-

¹ Specifically, the term "eutrophication" refers to the human-caused increase of nutrients, especially nitrate and phosphate in bodies of water.



Western Pomerania, and WWF Germany in spring 2010 in connection with the construction of the Nord Stream Pipeline. This agreement was taken after it was determined that there were no further specific environmental protection measures that Nord Stream could have voluntarily taken. On the whole, the establishment of the foundation is a logical and consistent complement to the environmental activities that Nord Stream has put in place with regard to the construction and operation of the pipeline within the German stretch of the project.

For further information, please contact:

Ulrich Lissek, Communications Director, Mobile: +41 79 874 31 58

Email: press@nord-stream.com

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 2008 were approximately 320 billion cubic metres (bcm) and are projected to increase to around 500 bcm by the year 2030. By then, the EU will need additional gas imports of 160 to 200 bcm per year (Source: IEA, World Energy Outlook, 2010). Nord Stream will meet up to one third 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 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 15.5 percent each, and the Dutch gas infrastructure company N.V. Nederlandse Gasunie and the French energy company GDF SUEZ S.A. each hold 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, recognised as a key project for meeting Europe's energy infrastructure needs.

Construction of the Nord Stream Pipeline started in April 2010, after completion of environmental studies and planning and an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) along the entire pipeline route. Three pipelay barges have been commissioned to work on the project: Saipem's Castoro Sei is carrying out the majority of the construction in the Baltic Sea. The Castoro Dieci has completed its operations in German waters, where it constructed both pipelines in the German landfall section; Allseas' Solitaire handles construction in the Gulf of Finland as a subcontractor of Saipem. The first pipeline is scheduled to be operational in 2011, the second one in 2012.