

PRESS RELEASE

Greater Protection for the Baltic Sea

Nord Stream plans the establishment of an international nature conservation foundation

Zug, March 7, 2012. The protection of the Baltic Sea will be further expanded: this spring, Nord Stream AG intends to establish an international nature conservation foundation for the Baltic Sea. This is a further outcome of the agreement reached in 2010 between Nord Stream AG and the environmental associations WWF and BUND. “We are very much aware of the great responsibility for this unique and sensitive ecosystem” says Dr. Dirk von Ameln, Permitting Director of Nord Stream AG: “the international foundation is therefore a logical and consistent addition to the environmental activities of Nord Stream that was and is being realised in connection with the construction and operation of the pipeline.”

In the past years, Nord Stream has invested more than 100 million euros in the most comprehensive ecological studies to-date for one single infrastructure project in the Baltic Sea and in the project planning in order to assess potential negative effects and to reduce them to a minimum. In the Exclusive Economic Zones of the different states of the Baltic Sea through which the pipeline passes no legal obligation for the compensation of potential environmental impacts exists. For this reason, Nord Stream has reached a respective agreement with the environmental association in order to realise compensation measures. The foundation will be provided with the necessary financial means so that it can identify and realise suitable measures aimed at protecting the environment in the long-term.

The foundation is to be founded in 2012. Its headquarters is planned to be in Finland. Nord Stream will provide the foundation with a nominal capital of 10 million euros. Furthermore, 15 million euros will be allocated to the foundation as earmarked capital implementing nature conservation measures and nutrient reduction in the Baltic Sea area.

The foundation will be managed by a steering committee and a board of trustees will serve as supervisory body. The concrete organization and nomination of the bodies is currently being prepared. It is, however, planned to follow the example of the already established Conservation Foundation German Baltic Sea by including environmental associations as well as governmental authorities and supranational organizations of the riparian states of the Baltic Sea in the governing bodies of the foundation.

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Notes to editors

Nord Stream is a natural gas pipeline which links Russia and the European Union through the Baltic Sea. The European Union's annual natural gas imports in 2009 were approximately 312 billion cubic metres (bcm) and are projected to increase to over 523 bcm by 2030. By then, the EU will need additional gas imports of 211 bcm per year (Source: IEA, 2011). Nord Stream will meet more than a quarter 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.

The first of Nord Stream's two parallel pipelines became operational in November 2011. Each line is approximately 1,220 kilometres long, providing a transport capacity of some 27.5 bcm per year. More than 85 percent of Line 2 has also already been laid. Full capacity of about 55 bcm per year will be reached when the second line goes on stream in late 2012. 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 handled construction in the Gulf of Finland as a subcontractor of Saipem. The first pipeline became operational in November 2011, the second one is scheduled to become operational in 2012.

In 2010 and 2011, Nord Stream invested 20 million euros in its Environmental and Social Monitoring Programme (ESMP). More than 20 specialist companies are conducting the surveys defined in the ESMPs, to determine just how, and if, the Baltic Sea's flora and fauna have been impacted by the construction of the Nord Stream pipelines. Data from sixteen subjects, including water quality, bird, fish and mammal populations, as well as seabed recovery, are collected from approximately 1,000 survey locations along the route in the waters of Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Germany. These data are analysed in internationally recognised laboratories, and Nord

Stream reports the results to the national environmental authorities in each country. Nord Stream plans to invest approximately 40 million euros into its ESMP to monitor any impact of the construction and operation of the pipelines through 2016.