

PRESS RELEASE

Nord Stream Signs Agreement with Polish Fishery Organisations

- **Major step in closing agreements with fishery organisations around the Baltic Sea**
- **Solutions found for all fishermen in the Baltic Sea region depending on the impact of pipeline construction and operation**

Zug, January 14, 2011. On January 11, 2011, Nord Stream AG signed an agreement with two Polish fishery associations (Zrzeszenie Rybaków Morskich – Organizacja Producentów and Organizacja Producentów Rybnych Władysławowo sp. z o.o.) on the compensation for all Polish fishermen customarily fishing in the vicinity of the pipeline.

Nord Stream will make a one time payment to the Polish fishery organisations, which is to be managed entirely by the organisations themselves. It will be used to pay one-off compensation to any Polish fishermen customarily fishing in the vicinity of the pipeline and to provide these fishermen with any relevant information regarding the project.

“After intensive talks with Polish fishery organisations, we could now finalise the set of agreements with fishery organisations around the Baltic Sea,” underlines Nord Stream Permitting Director Dirk von Ameln. “Nord Stream’s priority as a responsible pipeline developer and operator is to minimize impacts to fishing activities as much as possible.”

Nord Stream deals with all fishermen in the Baltic Sea region according to their customary fishing practices. Nord Stream’s environmental and social management policy allows for the voluntary approach of all fishing organisations and independent fishermen around the Baltic Sea to negotiate agreements. These agreements include arrangements on the provision of information, as well as compensation for restrictions during pipeline construction, alteration of fishing patterns and for the additional effort necessary to fish in the vicinity of the future Nord Stream Pipelines.

Potential impact from the presence of the pipelines on the sea bottom will be essentially limited to trawlers, particularly bottom trawlers, who may need to make an additional effort as compared to their customary fishing practices, i.e. adjust their fishing techniques, including adjusting trawling gear, and/or geographical location and take into account the presence of the pipelines.

For further information, please contact:

Maud Amelie Hanitzsch, Communications Project Manager

Mobile: +41 79 824 96 08

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.