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## Background

WWF wishes to make the following statement regarding the consultation on transboundary environmental impact from the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline project according to the Espoo Convention and what should be included in future environmental impact assessments to the responsible countries.

## Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the attached position statement and use it as appropriate in the international consultations and national permitting procedures.



## WWF Position Statement<sup>1</sup> on Nord Stream 2

*As of 16 March 2017*

WWF remains deeply concerned about any new fossil fuel project for energy supply and believes that countries should prioritize investments in renewable energy and limit further investments in fossil fuel projects and infrastructure. Given that the EU has a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80-95% when compared to 1990 levels by 2050, replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy sources and increasing energy efficiency is a necessity for the EU to meet this target. A natural gas infrastructure investment of this scale is therefore directly in conflict with this goal. The Nord Stream 2 project to build two new pipelines from Russia to Germany is the most advanced of the Baltic pipeline projects. The following statement, however, also includes considerations relevant for other, less advanced, future projects.

WWF urges relevant authorities around the Baltic Sea to prioritize renewable energy sources over continued investment in fossil infrastructure in order to honor their commitments as outlined in the Paris Agreement. If, however, in spite of the above-stated need to reduce further investments in fossil fuel infrastructure and use, the countries concerned would still decide in favour of NS2, then WWF urges relevant authorities to:

- Critically observe and analyze the upcoming plans, documents and Environmental Impact Assessment
- (EIA) for Nord Stream 2 carefully and with respect to Espoo convention and the precautionary principle.
- Closely monitor and inform the public whether potential negative implications are assessed and accurate mitigation measures are proposed in the new EIA reports.
- Consider to request an environmental bond to ensure compliance with the environmental requirements related to the closing down or dismantling of the infrastructure at the end of its use.
- To fulfill the recommendation under the EIA for NS1 to establish the Ingermanlandsky Nature Reserve in the Russian sector of the Baltic Sea BEFORE the development of the NS2 project.
- Demand a detailed analysis of all alternative options (LNG, pipelines transportation – on-land and off shore) to supply natural gas to the EU.

WWF will also follow this process to ensure that both Nord Stream and the relevant authorities follow-through on the above. Furthermore, before consideration for official approvals with respect to new pipelines WWF expects the pipeline consortium to respect the following:

- The projects would need a full scale EIA assessment including issues neglected in 2009, e.g. investigation into hazardous substances in the Russian waters.
- The existing NS1 corridor should be analyzed as one of the priority scenarios for the NS2 route and NS2 should prioritize the option to use the NS1 corridor for a new pipeline. The cumulative impact of any additional pipeline has to be clearly pointed out as in some areas (e.g. German landfall areas) the maximum limit of cumulative impacts has already been reached with the Nord Stream 1 pipeline.
- Measures and economic guarantees to mitigate and minimize negative impacts on the environment must be part of the project already from the application phase to the closing down or dismantling the infrastructure at the end of its lifetime.
- In case of any compensation measures, these should be secured before permits are issued and before any building starts.
- As for a new pipeline the threats remain the same as for the already built one it has to be expected that also the added-on impacts would be substantially increased due to cumulative effects.

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<sup>1</sup> For questions please contact: Jochen Lamp, WWF Germany, [jochen.lamp@wwf.se](mailto:jochen.lamp@wwf.se), Alexey Knizhnikov, WWF Russia, [AKnizhnikov@wwf.ru](mailto:AKnizhnikov@wwf.ru), or Pauli Merriman, WWF Baltic Ecoregion Programme, [pauli.merriman@wwf.se](mailto:pauli.merriman@wwf.se)

**Background**

The Nord Stream 2 Project comprises the planning, construction and operation of a new twin subsea pipeline that would connect European consumers with Russian gas fields. The Project will have the capacity to supply 55 billion m<sup>3</sup> of natural gas per year. The Pipeline has a planned length of approximately 1200 km from Russia to Germany via the Exclusive Economic Zone and/or Territorial Waters of Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Germany in the Baltic Sea. The design, construction, and subsequent operation of the pipeline will be managed by Nord Stream 2 AG, which has been specifically established for this purpose.