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**Wintershall Holding GmbH**

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Mr. Arnaud Anselin

***Re: Ramsar Convention Advisory mission on Nord Stream II Project landfall in Russia***

Dear Sirs,

According to our information the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention has inquired the Russian authorities to invite a Ramsar Advisory Mission to look at the specific environmental issues along the proposed Nord Stream 2 pipeline route in the southern part of the Kurgalsky Nature Reserve ([Ramsar site # 690](#)).

According to the documents of the Convention, the Secretariat is requesting a mission where a Ramsar Site is an environmental character is threatened (cf. <https://www.ramsar.org/activity/ramsar-advisory-missions>).

Special attention is given to assisting member States in the management and conservation of listed sites whose ecological character is threatened. This is carried out through the Ramsar Advisory Mission, a technical assistance mechanism formally adopted by [Recommendation 4.7](#) of the 1990 Conference of the Parties. (The Ramsar Advisory Mission mechanism was formerly known as the Monitoring Procedure and the Management Guidance Procedure.) The main objective of this mechanism is to provide assistance to both developed and developing countries alike in solving the problems or threats that make inclusion in the [Montreux Record](#) (of Wetlands of International Importance where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference necessary).

By this the Ramsar Convention Secretariat expresses its concerns on possible violation of the Ramsar Convention, as the construction of the gas pipeline threatens to change the environmental character of the territory, which has not been reported by Russia to the Secretariat in due time.

We would like to raise your attention to the fact that the Nord Stream 2 AG has started construction works even before obtaining all necessary permits. In the area of the relict dune and the unique Kader swamp, being one of the key sites of strict protection by the Ramsar Convention, a fertile soil layer has been removed and a temporary wooden road has been built across the swamp. In addition, the natural habitats of the Red Book plants have been probably destroyed. An estimated damage from these works amounts to almost \$40,000. According to the NS2 AG, the company plans to start full-scale construction work within the next month.

In this regard, we would like to address the financial investors of the NS2 Project to undertake respective measures to postpone the launch of full-scale construction before the aforementioned advisory mission will be accomplished and their conclusions on the compliance of the construction of the gas pipeline with the requirements of the Ramsar Convention will be published.

Once again, we draw your attention to the fact that the violation of international conventions in the implementation of large infrastructure projects contradicts the requirements of [IFC Standard 6](#).

Yours sincerely,

**Mikhail Durkin**, Executive Secretary  
**Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB)**

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