



Dr. Valerie Wilms
Member of German Federal Parliament

Dr. Valerie Wilms MdB • Platz der Republik 1 • D-11011 Berlin

Berlin, 15. Mai 2012

Her Excellency Angela Merkel
Chancellor, Federal Republic of Germany
President, Council of Baltic Sea States
Willy-Brandt-Str. 1
10557 Berlin
Germany

His Excellency Vladimir Putin
President, Russian Federation
23, Ilyinka Street
Moscow, 103132
Russia

Open Letter (Re: Oil Terminal at Port of Ust Luga)

Your Excellency Mrs. Chancellor,

Your Excellency Mr. President,

As current and incoming Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS) Presidents, we draw your attention to a situation threatening the environmental well-being of all Baltic Sea riparian states: The oil terminal (docks 4 and 5) of the Russian port of Ust-Luga are beginning their full-scale operations in May despite the apparently low quality of construction having resulted in a partial collapse of the structures, and the absence of an international-standard Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as required by the Helsinki Convention. Moreover, the construction was conducted without the required permits from the relevant Russian authorities. A collapse of the docks during

full-scale terminal operation will likely result in an oil spill affecting Russia and its neighboring countries.

We appreciate the continuation and expansion of economic relations between Russia and European countries, and greater energy security provided by new transport routes for Russian oil and gas to European ports. Cooperation among our countries on environmental issues in the past has been exemplary – the North Stream Project met and exceeded global and EU requirements for environmental compliance.

The present situation at Ust-Luga's docks 4 and 5 is completely different and puts our community of countries on the verge of an environmental disaster. The problems with the quality of construction first came to public attention in the fall of 2011. Relevant Russian authorities (Rostekhnadzor) have provided negative reviews of the dock structures, and national and international bodies (i. e. HELCOM) have also conveyed their concerns to Russian counterparts. Lately, the owners of the docks (Rosneftbunker and Neva of Mr. Gennady Timchenko) have announced that all necessary repair works have been conducted, but these claims have not been confirmed by relevant Russian authorities – let alone verified by independent international experts.

We urge you to interfere in this situation without delay to suspend terminal operation until an independent international expertise of the facilities is conducted, and an international-standard EIA is commissioned. We hope that this unfortunate situation is resolved and the productive cooperation between Russia and other European countries is continued.

Sincerely yours,



Further Signees:

Members of European Parliament

Members of National Parliaments

Margrete Auken, MEP, Denmark

Indrek Tarand, MEP, Estonia

Jan Philipp Albrecht, MEP, Germany

Michael Cramer, MEP, Germany

Rebecca Harms, MEP, Germany

Helga Trüpel, MEP, Germany

Dr. Valerie Wilms, MP, Germany

Tarja Cronberg, MEP, Finland

Satu Hassi, MEP, Finland

Emilie Turunnen, MEP, Finland

Stina Bergström, MP, Sweden

Annika Lillemets, MP, Sweden

Amelia Andersdotter, MEP, Sweden

Christian Engström, MEP, Sweden

Isabella Lövin, MEP, Sweden

Carl Schlyter, MEP, Sweden

Keith Taylor, MEP, United Kingdom