

Dr. Valerie Wilms, Member of the German Federal Parliament (***Initiator of the Open Letter***)

Katrin Göring-Eckardt, Member of the German Federal Parliament, Vice President of the German Federal Parliament

Marieluise Beck, Member of the German Federal Parliament, Germany

Rebecca Harms, Member of the European Parliament, Chairwoman of The Greens-European Free Alliance, Germany

Philipp Albrecht, Member of the European Parliament, Germany

Margrete Auken, Member of the European Parliament, Denmark,

Michael Cramer, Member of the European Parliament, Germany

Tarja Cronberg, Member of the European Parliament, Finland

Satu Hassi, Member of the European Parliament, Finland

Isabella Lövin, Member of the European Parliament, Sweden

Carl Schlyter, Member of the European Parliament, Sweden

Werner Schulz, Member of the European Parliament, Germany

Dr. Helga Trüpel, Member of the European Parliament, Germany

Indrek Tarand, Member of the European Parliament , Estonia

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

His Excellency, Vladimir Putin  
President of the Russian Federation  
23, Ilyinka Street  
Moscow, 103132  
The Russian Federation

His Excellency, Dmitry Medvedev  
Prime Minister, Russian Federation  
Government House  
2 Krasnopresnenskaya Naberezhnaya  
Moscow 103274  
The Russian Federation

## **OPEN LETTER**

From

Members of European Parliament and  
Members of German Federal Parliament

On the occasion of the upcoming  
Baltic Sea States Summit in Stralsund may 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>th</sup>

To

The Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany,  
Dr. Angela Merkel

The President of the Russian Federation  
Mr. Vladimir Putin

And the  
Prime Minister of the Russian Federation  
Mr. Dmitry Medvedev

## **RE: The Status of the oil terminals at the port of Ust Luga in the Russian Federation**

Your Excellency, Mrs. Chancellor,

Your Excellency, Mr. President,

Your Excellency, Mr. Prime Minister,

With respect to your function as current- respectively incoming Presidents of the Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS), we would like to draw your attention to a situation threatening the environmental well-being the Baltic Sea: The oil terminals (docks 4 and 5) at the Russian port of Ust-Luga are expected to begin their full-scale operations at the end of May despite the apparent faults in their construction which have resulted in a partial collapse of the structures. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in line with international standards as required by the Helsinki Convention has not yet been carried out. Moreover, the construction was conducted without the required permits from the relevant Russian authorities. A collapse of the docks during full-scale operation of the terminals would result in an oil spill affecting the Russian Federation 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 met and exceeded global and EU requirements for environmental compliance.

The present situation at Ust-Luga's docks 4 and 5 is differs considerably and threatens our community of riparian countries. The problems associated with the inappropriate quality of the constructions 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 (among others HELCOM) have also conveyed their concerns to their 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 authorities of the Russian Federation – let alone verified by independent international experts.

We urge you to interfere in this situation without delay to suspend the operation of the terminal until an independent assessment of the facilities has been conducted, and an Environmental Impact Assessment in line with international standards is being commissioned.

We hope that this unfortunate situation will be resolved and the constructive cooperation between the Russian Federation and other European countries will continue.

Sincerely yours

- Dr. Valerie Wilms, MP, Germany (valerie.wilms@bundestag.de)  
+49 30-22771682 (**initiator of the open letter**)
- Katrin Göring-Eckardt, MP, Germany, Vice President of German Federal Parliament (katrin.goering-eckardt@bundestag.de)  
+49 30-22771928
- Marieluise Beck, MP, Germany, (marieluise.beck@bundestag.de)  
+49 30-22771605
- Rebecca Harms, MEP, Germany, Chairwoman of The Greens-European Free Alliance in the European Parliament (rebecca.harms@europarl.europa.eu)  
+32-222845695
- Jan Philipp Albrecht, MEP, Germany (jan.albrecht@europarl.europa.eu)  
+32-2-2845060
- Margrete Auken, MEP, Denmark (margrete.auken@europarl.europa.eu)  
+32-2-2845327
- Michael Cramer, MEP, Germany (michael.cramer@europarl.europa.eu)  
+32-2-2845779
- Tarja Cronberg, MEP, Finland (tarja.cronberg@europarl.europa.eu)  
+32-2-2845374
- Satu Hassi, MEP, Finland (satu.hassi@europarl.europa.eu)  
+32-2-2845437
- Isabella Lövin, MEP, Sweden (isabella.loevin@europarl.europa.eu)  
+32-2-2845394
- Carl Schlyter, MEP, Sweden (carl.schlyter@europarl.europa.eu)  
+32-2-2845273
- Werner Schulz, MEP, Germany (werner.schulz@europarl.europa.eu)  
+32-2-2845273
- Indrek Tarand, MEP, Estonia (indrek.tarand@europarl.europa.eu)  
+32-2-2845401
- Dr. Helga Trüpel, MEP, Germany (helga.truepel@europarl.europa.eu)  
+32-2-2847140