

## Press Release

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### **Klaus-Dieter Barbknecht Board Member for Commercial Affairs and Human Resources with effect from November 1, 2009**

### **Michael Ludwig Board Member for Gas Procurement with effect from November 1, 2009**

**Leipzig, October 15, 2009.** The Supervisory Board of VNG – Verbundnetz Gas Aktiengesellschaft (VNG), Leipzig, today decided that Klaus-Dieter Barbknecht (51) will assume responsibility for the Commercial Affairs and Human Resources Executive Division at VNG effective November 1, 2009. He succeeds Prof. Dr. Gerhard Wolff, who retires on October 31, 2009.

Barbknecht has been the member of the Executive Board of VNG responsible for gas procurement since December 2007. He has been instrumental in expanding VNG's operations as a gas producer in Norway and in extending the company's trading activities.

An authorized signatory of VNG, Barbknecht held various senior management posts in the legal affairs, gas purchase and gas transport departments and set up the portfolio management and strategic coordination, storage, logistics services and IT coordination division. Until April 2008 he was also Technical Managing Director of Erdgasversorgungsgesellschaft Thüringen-Sachsen mbH (EVG) and President of Gas Storage Europe (GSE). Klaus-Dieter Barbknecht is a qualified attorney specializing in labour law and has long-standing experience in the energy industry.

The Supervisory Board of VNG also appointed Michael Ludwig as a full member of the Executive Board effective November 1, 2009 until October 31, 2014. Ludwig will take over the Gas Procurement Executive Division and will therefore be responsible for gas purchase and VNG's upstream activities.

Michael Ludwig was born in Cologne in 1957. Having studied law at Cologne University and Freie Universität Berlin, the fully qualified barrister joined VNG in 1993. Ludwig became head of the legal affairs, real estate and insurances department in 1998 and was made an authorized signatory. Ludwig is also a member of the supervisory board of several of VNG's domestic and foreign participating interests.

Ludwig has headed the strategic coordination, storage, logistics services and IT coordination division since 2008 and is Managing Director of Erdgasversorgungsgesellschaft Thüringen-Sachsen mbH (EVG).

*VNG – Verbundnetz Gas AG (VNG) is an international group of companies and a reliable supplier of natural gas from Norwegian, Russian and other sources to major users and municipal distributors in Europe. VNG has been active in the gas industry for over 50 years. Today, VNG is Germany's third largest gas importer and ranks among Europe's top ten. In 2008, VNG with its workforce of roughly 640 employees delivered 171.4 billion kWh of gas and generated sales of 5.5 billion euros. For further information, please go to [www.vng.de](http://www.vng.de)*