

Press Release

Barbknecht (VNG) / German-Norwegian Chamber of Commerce / 2009 Willy Brandt Prize

VNG welcomes German-Norwegian Chamber of Commerce to Leipzig

2009 Willy Brandt Prize presented on the occasion of this year's autumn meeting

Leipzig/Oslo, October 22, 2009. The German-Norwegian Chamber of Commerce is holding this year's autumn meeting in Leipzig. Representatives from the Chamber of Commerce and some one hundred of its members are visiting the exhibition city from 22 – 23 October. Their host, the Leipzig-based company VNG – Verbundnetz Gas Aktiengesellschaft (VNG), is organizing the two-day program for the participants in cooperation with the German-Norwegian Chamber of Commerce.

Sven Erik Svedman, Ambassador of Norway to Germany, Prof. e.h. Dr.-Ing. Klaus-Ewald Holst, Royal Norwegian Consul-General for Saxony, Thuringia, Brandenburg, Saxony-Anhalt and Chairman of the VNG Executive Board, together with Leipzig's Lord Mayor Burkhard Jung will be welcoming guests to the autumn meeting this evening in Leipzig's "Neues Rathaus". Klaus-Dieter Barbknecht, VNG Executive Board Member for Gas Procurement, and Wolfgang Dubois, President of the German-Norwegian Chamber of Commerce, will also be greeting the delegates. "VNG has enjoyed close economic cooperation with Norway in the field of gas trading for many years now, and more recently in the exploration and production of natural gas as well," Klaus-Dieter Barbknecht, who is also a member of the board of the German-Norwegian Chamber of Commerce, commented, and added: "We are delighted to be welcoming the guests of this year's autumn meeting to Leipzig."

The highlight of this evening's program is the presentation of the Willy Brandt Prize. This prize is awarded annually by the German-Norwegian Willy Brandt Foundation in recognition of achievements to foster and intensify friendly relations between Germany and Norway. This year, the prize goes to the Norwegian professor and politician Inge Lønning and the German historian Fritz Fadranski.

Apart from the meeting of the Norwegian Business Council, whose representatives are also attending the German-Norwegian Chamber of Commerce autumn meeting, the two-day program also includes visits to various energy companies in Saxony. "This gives us an idea of the industrial location and provides our Norwegian members with a stimulus for future export and investment opportunities," Wolfgang Dubois explained.

The German-Norwegian Chamber of Commerce meets every autumn in a different German city. Previous venues have included Frankfurt (Main), Kiel, Berlin, Stuttgart and Hanover.

For more information, please contact:

Kathrin Luze-Hercz

Hercz@handelskammer.no

Tel.: +47 22 12 82 47



Deutsch-Norwegische
Handelskammer
Norsk-Tysk Handelskammer



VNG – Verbundnetz Gas Aktiengesellschaft (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.

VNG has maintained economic relations with Norway for over 15 years and founded its subsidiary VNG Norge AS in Stavanger in 2006. In the second quarter of this year, VNG acquired all the shares in Oslo-based Endeavour Energy Norge AS, a company involved in exploration and production on the Norwegian Continental Shelf. Provisionally renamed VNG Norge (Operations) AS, this company has now merged with VNG Norge AS and all activities in Norway have been combined. VNG Norge AS holds shares in 26 licenses and is the operator of 4 licenses.

For further information, please go to www.vng.de and www.vng.no.

VNG - Verbundnetz Gas Aktiengesellschaft (VNG) - Corporate Communications

Braunstrasse 7 • 04347 Leipzig • Postal address: Postfach 241263 • 04332 Leipzig • Germany
Head of Corporate Communications Bernhard Kaltefleiter

Tel.: +49 (0)341 443-2058 • Fax: +49 (0)341 443-2006 • E-Mail: info@vng.de • Internet: <http://www.vng.de>