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Speech Annika Jacobson, Program Manager Greenpeace Nordic:

Today Greenpeace Nordic submits a Statement of interest to Citigroup, the investment bank that has been assigned by Vattenfall to handle this process. In accordance with the requirements presented to us by Vattenfall and Citigroup we will present our intentions of a potential acquisition, the legal structure for the ownership and the financial grounds for both of this.

I would like to explain why Greenpeace Nordic has chosen to take part in this process. Greenpeace has worked for many years towards ensuring that no new lignite mines are opened up in Lusatia. There are good climate reasons for our work. In order to limit global warming to 2 degrees Europe's lignite must remain in the ground.

Lusatia is one of very few regions in Europe where the lignite industry still have plans for new lignite mines and for running the coal plants for decades to come. Therefore a transition from lignite to renewable sources of energy is strategically decisive for Europe's possibility to phase out dangerous coal power.

Last fall a new government came into power in Sweden. The first decision this government made was to clarify that Vattenfall's expansion of lignite operation in Germany must stop. We welcomed this decision. It was an important decision for Europe and for the world.

Since then the Swedish government and Vattenfall have opened up for the possibility of selling the lignite operation. By doing so, the decision to stop the expansion of new lignite mines, is at risk of becoming just a hollow exercise. There is a very big risk that lignite operations will be sold to someone who intends to operate the lignite mines for decades to come, with tremendous consequences for the climate.

**Both Sweden and Germany are two countries that are known internationally for wanting to take leadership on climate. Thus the political engagement in this process, or the absence of engagement, is likely to leave a mark on the whole international climate effort.**

Greenpeace has been involved in studying the future and development of the energy sector for a long time and has a proven track record of expertise to predict trends and policy changes in this field. Through several reports, under the name of Energy [R]evolution, we have shown how a rapid transition away from dependence on fossil fuels and towards renewable energies is possible and will be of economic benefit to society. We have shown this on a global scale, and also on a German scale.

We know that the dependence of the region of Lusatia on lignite extraction is currently in decline. The report “Vattenfall’s Opportunity” that Greenpeace has commissioned shows that a future with continued lignite operations will lead to major job losses and retirements within that industry in any case. These are facts, well known by Vattenfall, The Swedish government as well as the German one. It is therefore clear to us that they ought to take responsibility to prepare the region for structural change and job development in other economic sectors.

The potentials for renewable energies in Brandenburg and Saxony are substantial, and Lusatia is the sunniest region in the whole of Germany. In addition to this the re-cultivation of land means possibilities of developing competence of high value for the worldwide energy transition to come.

Greenpeace vision is even **bigger than that. Our aim is to use this historic opportunity to turn Lusatia’s transition away from its dependence on lignite into a shining example to the world.**

**If Vattenfall and the Swedish and German governments are not ready take their responsibility, Greenpeace Nordic feels it is our obligation to step in and become part of this process.**

**We will do this by setting up a foundation that we will call: The Beyond Lignite Foundation.**

**The Beyond Lignite Foundation will be a foundation (Stiftung) under German law. The lignite mines and coal plants now owned and operated by Vattenfall will be transferred to the foundation.**

The foundation will be set up to ensure that most of the lignite resources in the mining fields of Lusatia remain in the ground, and that operations in both the mining fields as well as the coal-fired electricity plants are terminated as soon as practically feasible without endanger social sustainability or security of energy supply. In operational terms this means phasing out lignite mining and lignite based electricity production from Vattenfall’s assets at the latest by 2030.

This transition is a positive process for this region and Germany. To go beyond lignite and be part of building a new sustainable future for Lusatia and the generations to come. This will be a participatory process that makes it possible for many different actors in society in realizing the just transition to the sustainable future we want to have.

From working together with the millions of our supporters and influential allies all around the world, we know that there is a huge potential for engagement and interest in taking part of such a challenge.

In advance of this press conference we have been asked whether we will today present a bid for the properties. I want to stress that the process has not yet reached this stage. We are not ready to

present a bid, nor has Vattenfall requested this. What we have already done, however, is an economic assessment of the Net Present Value of the lignite activities. The estimations has been provided to us by Energy Brainpool. Thier estimated Net Present Value of the lignite assets is less than half a billion Euros. We have also done an estimation of the full costs of land-recultivation; the cost of decommissioning the power plants and job related indemnity costs, we estimate these costs to about 2 billion euros.

In addition to this we have estimated the costs born by society in the form of effect on human health, air pollution, unpaid mineral taxes and costs associated with an increase of CO2 emissions. Any actor in this process, buyer or seller, that does not take these costs into consideration, is obviously counting on being able to transfer these costs to the German state, and ultimately to the German people.

The important conclusion of this estimation is that the true value of Vattenfalls lignite assets are negative. Ad that the costs for society are several times higher than any operator, being Vattenfall or a new owner, can possibly make in profit by running the coal plants.

**I have been asked several times by journalists: Are Greenpeace Nordic serious in this?**

**I believe we are the ONLY serious part in this process so far.**

As of today we don't know yet how Vattenfall and the Swedish government wants to proceed with this process, but we know that this is a possible right way forward. We ask the Swedish and German governments to take responsibility for the climate, the environment, for future jobs and sustainable development. If they are not willing to do so, we are ready to step and provide a possibility for a just and sustainable way forward.