

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
10 July 2023

Original: English

**Letter dated 10 July 2023 from the representatives of Denmark,
Germany and Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the
President of the Security Council**

We have the honour to transmit to you information regarding the ongoing investigations into the explosions on the Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines (see annex).

We would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council in connection with the briefing on Tuesday, 11 July 2023, under the item entitled “Threats to international peace and security”.

We would also like to recall our letter and annex dated 21 February 2023 on the matter.

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Ambassador

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Deputy Permanent Representative of Denmark
to the United Nations

(Signed) Antje **Leendertse**
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(Signed) Anna Karin **Eneström**
Ambassador
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Annex to the letter dated 10 July 2023 from the representatives of Denmark, Germany and Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Denmark, Germany and Sweden would like to provide the following information regarding their respective national investigations of the sabotage against the Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines on 26 September 2022, in continuation of the letter dated 21 February 2023 from the Permanent Representatives of Denmark, Germany and Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council and the letter dated 29 September 2022 from the Permanent Representatives of Denmark and Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council.

The respective national authorities of Denmark, Germany and Sweden are committed to investigating the sabotage comprehensively and continuing their separate investigations. The investigations are conducted in line with fundamental principles of the rule of law, including independence from political interference.

None of the investigations has been concluded, and at this point, it is still not possible to say when they will be concluded. The nature of the acts of sabotage is unprecedented, and the investigations are complex.

Further information concerning the status of the separate, national investigations is provided below. Given national differences in the criminal procedural rules as well as in the characteristics of the investigations, the amount and nature of information that can be shared at this point differ. The authorities of Denmark, Germany and Sweden have been in dialogue regarding the technical aspects of their investigations, and the dialogue will continue to the relevant extent.

There are no obstacles to visiting the sites of the Nord Stream pipeline explosions. While some activities require permits from the relevant authorities, all vessels enjoy freedom of navigation at the sites of the explosions in the respective exclusive economic zones of Denmark and Sweden, in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. We recall that the operators of the pipelines, Nord Stream AG and Nord Stream 2 AG, have carried out their own surveys in relation to the damage to the pipelines.

The authorities of the Russian Federation have been informed about the ongoing investigations.

The following information can be provided with regards to the separate, national investigations:

Denmark

In Denmark, the Copenhagen Police and the Danish Security and Intelligence Service established a joint investigation group in October 2022 to handle the investigation regarding the explosions on the Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines in September 2022.

Prior to the establishment of the joint investigation group, the Copenhagen Police, with assistance from the Danish Defence and in collaboration with, among others, the Danish Security and Intelligence Service, carried out a number of preliminary investigations that confirmed that there had been extensive damage to Nord Stream 1 and 2 in the Danish exclusive economic zone, and that the damage had been caused by powerful explosions.

The Danish authorities are working closely with relevant foreign authorities to the relevant extent in connection with the investigation of the gas leaks. There is an

ongoing dialogue between Denmark, Sweden and Germany regarding the technical aspects of the investigation.

The investigations conducted by the Danish authorities have not been concluded, and at this point, it is still not possible to say when they will be concluded.

The operators of the pipelines, Nord Stream AG and Nord Stream 2 AG, have been authorized to carry out surveys in relation to the damage of the pipelines.

On 28 March 2023, the Danish Energy Agency announced that an object near the Nord Stream 2 pipeline in the Danish exclusive economic zone had been salvaged. The salvage of the object was conducted by Danish Defence, and representatives from Nord Stream 2 AG took part in the salvage. Examinations of the object indicated that the object was a visual marker (*røgbøje*) that did not pose a safety risk.

Germany

In Germany, the Public Prosecutor General of the Federal Court of Justice is in charge of the investigations; the Federal Criminal Police Office and the Federal Police have been tasked with carrying out the police investigations.

According to the results of the investigations carried out in the Swedish and Danish exclusive economic zones in cooperation with different German institutions and the competent authorities of Denmark and Sweden, the criminal act is presumed to have been carried out with the use of explosives.

During the investigations on site, a huge amount of data was collected. In addition, water and soil samples were taken in the vicinity of the leak locations. Metal fragments were also collected. This wealth of information must be comprehensively evaluated in order to arrive at a plausible sequence of how the attack was technically carried out. For the findings to be irrefutable, precise and thorough scientific work must be conducted, and this necessarily includes investigative simulations.

In connection with the suspicious charter of a sailing yacht, the investigations found out that the boat had been chartered in the name of a person who had used documents provided in order to hide the identity of the real charterer. Whether this person was in fact subsequently on board has not been established and is the subject of continuing investigations.

The boat's precise course has not been definitively clarified and is the subject of continuing investigations. It is suspected that the boat in question may have been used to transport the explosives that exploded at the Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2 pipelines in the Baltic Sea on 26 September 2022. Traces of subsea explosives were found in the samples taken from the boat during the investigation. According to expert assessments, it is possible that trained divers could have attached explosives at the points where damage occurred to the Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2 gas pipelines, which are laid on the seabed at a depth of approximately 70 to 80 metres.

At this point it is not possible to reliably establish the identity of the perpetrators and their motives, particularly regarding the question of whether the incident was steered by a State or State actor. All information to clarify the matter will be pursued during the continuing investigations.

Sweden

As stated in the letter to the Security Council of 21 February 2023, the Swedish investigation into the Nord Stream events is being conducted by the Swedish Security Service and is headed by a National Security Unit prosecutor. This is an ongoing, independent criminal investigation subject to confidentiality. At this stage, the

following information can be shared with the Security Council based on information from the Swedish investigation:

In September 2022, the Swedish police opened a case regarding the incident at Nord Stream. The investigation is conducted by the Swedish Security Service under the management of the Senior Public Prosecutor Mats Ljungqvist at the National Security Unit at the Swedish Prosecution Authority. Previously, the investigation was able to confirm that this is a case concerning gross sabotage.

The Prosecutor has stated that this crime scene investigation found that there had been detonations at Nord Stream 1 and 2 in the Swedish economic zone. The detonations had caused extensive damage to the gas pipelines, which strengthened the suspicion of gross sabotage.

Later on, the Prosecutor decided on supplementary crime scene investigations in the Baltic Sea, within the Swedish economic zone. Together with the Swedish Security Service, the Prosecutor also requested help from the Swedish Armed Forces to carry out the supplementary investigations. The Swedish Armed Forces were asked to assist, since they were considered to have the right resources and expertise for the task. Following the request, the Swedish Armed Forces assisted the investigation.

During the crime scene investigations carried out in the Baltic Sea, the area was carefully documented and extensive seizures were made. Analyses have revealed explosive residue on several of the foreign objects that have been found. All seized objects and materials are being examined and analysed carefully. The investigation is still carrying out a number of concrete investigative measures. The authorities involved in the investigation have a well-functioning cooperation and are working with joint forces. However, the investigation regarding Nord Stream is very complex and extensive. It concerns a crime where the circumstances are difficult to investigate, since the detonations took place 80 metres under the water on the ocean floor. The ongoing investigation will show whether anyone can be suspected of, and later prosecuted for, this crime.

Due to the confidentiality of the investigation, the Swedish Prosecution Authority cannot provide further details regarding the investigation at this point.
