

*Shell hat am Nachmittag des 18.9.2008 angekündigt, dass das Pipelineverlegeschiff „Solitaire“ die irischen Hoheitsgewässer am Verlassen ist und einen Britischen Hafen für Reparatur- und Prüfungsarbeiten anlaufe. Das Unternehmen hält jedoch fest, dass dies nicht im Zusammenhang mit einem durch Proteste ausgelösten Druck gegen die Pipelineverlegearbeiten stehe:*

#### **GESAMTE ERKLÄRUNG VON SHELL E&P IRELAND LIMITED VOM 18.9.2008:**

Shell E&P Ireland Limited can confirm that the Solitaire will leave Killybegs today for a UK Port where deep water berthing facilities are available.

The vessel will remain in port while a further assessment of factors including operational, technical and weather issues will be completed. Once this is done, a further statement about the 2008 offshore development programme will be made. This programme still requires a suitable weather window for successful completion.

Separately, a special diving support vessel is being deployed to Broadhaven Bay tomorrow to assist in the salvage of the 12 metres long, 80 tonnes section of the Solitaire's pipe laying equipment. This piece of equipment, which became detached from the vessel last Wednesday (September 10th), is currently lying on the seabed in Broadhaven Bay, Co Mayo and will be removed and disposed of for safety and environmental reasons.

[ends]