

Statement on the safety of the Ukrainian Nuclear Power Plants following intentional large scale attacks against Ukrainian energy infrastructure

On 24 November 2022, the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG) held its 51th plenary meeting in Brussels with the participation, amongst others, of the State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine (SNRIU) and WENRA, in order to assess the nuclear safety situation at the Ukrainian nuclear installations following intentional and unacceptable large scale attacks on Ukrainian energy infrastructure by Russia. During the meeting, ENSREG reviewed the possible consequences of the shelling on 19-20 November 2022 of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant as well as the implications for the safety of other nuclear power plants in Ukraine due to the massive attacks on grid infrastructure of 15 and 23 November and would like to express the following. ENSREG:

- Condemns strongly the Russian Federation's military attacks on nuclear power plants and the Ukrainian electrical grid, that have considerably increased the risk of severe radiological consequences, the effects of which would not be limited to Ukraine.
- Calls for urgently establishing a nuclear safety and security protection zone at ZNPP, provided that such zone respects Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity and supports the IAEA Director General's efforts in this respect.
- Urges the Russian Federation to immediately cease all actions against, and at, ZNPP and any other nuclear facility in Ukraine and allow the competent Ukrainian authorities to regain full control over all nuclear facilities within Ukraine's internationally recognized borders as the only possible way to ensure their safe and secure operation.
- Calls for reinforcing the international rules to prohibit armed attacks against any nuclear installation devoted to peaceful purposes.
- Supports the acceleration of Ukraine's integration in all crises response mechanisms for nuclear emergency, especially ECURIE.

In addition, ENSREG members commit to work with their governments and permanent missions to the IAEA, in preparation for the upcoming Convention on nuclear safety review meeting, with the aim of producing a common position on Ukraine and Russia's illegal occupation, and the risks from Russia's wide spread and targeted attacks to the safety of nuclear facilities and the integrity of the electrical infrastructures in Ukraine.

ENSREG further recall its previous statement of 4 October 2022 and reiterates that it does not recognize the Russian Federation's attempted illegal annexation of Ukraine's four regions, and, consequently, considers the decree on the seizure of the ZNPP as illegal and therefore null and void. Energoatom is the only legitimate licensee of the ZNPP and that the plant has to be operated as per license conditions and in accordance with Ukrainian and international legal and regulatory requirements, under the supervision of the State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine (SNRIU).

ENSREG stands by the Ukrainian staff who continue to be loyal to their duty to maintain the safe and secure operation of the plant despite the extremely stressful and challenging working conditions, including intimidation by Russian military personnel, as well as repeated cases of kidnapping and mistreatment of the staff. Once again, ENSREG highly appreciates the professionalism of the State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine in doing its utmost to maintain the full control over all nuclear facilities within Ukraine's internationally recognized borders.

ENSREG will continue to closely monitor the situation and to coordinate closely on all these matters with SNRIU. It will convene further extraordinary meetings if the nuclear safety situation in Ukraine so requires.