



**Statement by Ms. Marta Žiaková,
Chairperson of ENSREG,
following the Group's 51st meeting of 24 November 2022**

The 51st physical meeting of European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group took place on 24 November in Brussels with the remote participation of State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine (SNRIU), as well as Portuguese and Croatian members. ENSREG welcomed a new Member representing Spain.

Mr João Oliveira Martins, Director for emergencies and radiation protection at the Portuguese Environment Agency, was elected as vice-Chair of ENSREG and the Chair of the ENSREG Working Group 3 in charge of transparency arrangements. The plenary was invited to nominate candidates for the second vice-Chair position by end of January, 2023.

In the context of Russia's illegal war on Ukraine, the continued precarious and deteriorating situation at Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, as well as the disconnection of the entire nuclear power fleet in Ukraine from the country's electricity grid, following another massive missile strike on Ukraine's energy infrastructure by Russia the day before, the acting Chair of the SNRIU provided an update on the overall nuclear safety situation in Ukraine. He highlighted that in the last few days the level of risk to nuclear safety in Ukraine has escalated.

Taking note of the seriously worrying SNRIU report, ENSREG members adopted the fourth Statement on Ukraine this year (annexed hereto), reiterating the condemnation of Russian Federation's military attacks and their support to Ukraine and to the IAEA efforts in ensuring nuclear safety. In the Statement, ENSREG newly expressed:

- A call for reinforcing the international rules to prohibit armed attacks against any nuclear installation devoted to peaceful purposes;
- Support to the acceleration of Ukraine's integration in all crisis response mechanisms for nuclear emergency, especially European Community Urgent Radiological Information Exchange (ECURIE).

Members also agreed on the need to cooperate closely, including with their national governments, in view of the preparation for the upcoming review meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety in March 2023.

The ENSREG plenary received a detailed presentation from the French Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN) on the interim results from the investigations into the corrosion issues affecting the piping systems of the French nuclear fleet and the follow up action to be taken. Given the scale of the issue and its possible impact, the European Commission (DG ENER together with RTD and JRC) committed to identify suitable scientific support at EU level for the benefit of other Member States' efforts on early detection, resolution and prevention of similar corrosion issues in their nuclear power plants.

The plenary discussed the preparation for the ENSREG Work Programme for 2024-2026, as well as the follow-up to the successful seminar on the implementation of the Nuclear Safety Directive, held in Luxembourg on 8-9 November, 2022. ENSREG was informed on the activities of its three working groups, the Boards for Second Topical Peer Review and Stress Tests in Third Countries, on the status of the European SMR pre-Partnership, and on WENRA and ETSO activities.

The next ENSREG plenary will be held on 24 April, 2023.



Annex

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 51st 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 (ZNPP) 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.