

COMMITTEE on Energy, Housing and Utilities Services

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APPEAL

to the International Atomic Energy Agency Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi regarding the threat to the nuclear safety due to the massive attacks by the Russian Federation

Your Excellency Director General Grossi,

The ongoing large-scale attacks by the Russian Federation on Ukraine's energy sector, which have persisted since the full-scale invasion began, have caused severe damage to more than half of Ukraine's energy infrastructure. These actions constitute a blatant violation of international humanitarian law. The International Criminal Court has already issued arrest warrants for former Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation Sergei Shoigu and Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation Valery Gerasimov, as they are suspected of bearing responsibility for the missile strikes conducted by the Russian armed forces against Ukraine's electrical infrastructure from at least 10 October 2022 to at least 9 March 2023.

The Committee on Energy, Housing, and Utilities Services of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine has repeatedly called on the international community to address these continuous and barbaric Russian attacks targeting Ukraine's energy infrastructure. Our most recent appeal, issued in July 2024, advocated for the launch of the sub-regional initiative "Energy Infrastructure Rammstein" to support and manage Ukraine's energy system during the 2024-2025 heating period. This appeal followed yet another wave of missile and drone attacks, which have resulted in a loss of 9 GW of generation capacity and critically damaged our manoeuvring capabilities. As winter approaches, ensuring the continued operation of Ukraine's nuclear power plants is crucial to preventing a potential humanitarian catastrophe of immense proportions.

Despite international responses, the Russian Federation has intensified its attacks, now targeting nuclear power plants by attacking peripheral equipment such as substations and electrical switchyards. According to the Note Verbale from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the IAEA dated 27 August 2024, a Russian attack on 26 August 2024 led to the disconnection of power units 1, 3, and 4 of the Rivne Nuclear Power Plant from the grid at 08:58 (EEST). Additionally, by 09:05 (EEST), the power output of the South Ukraine Nuclear Power Plant had been reduced to 1,800 MW, and power unit 3 of the South Ukraine NPP was disconnected from the grid at 17:10 (EEST) due to fluctuations caused by the attack.

In your recent statement in Kyiv on 3 September 2024, you emphasized that "ensuring that substations can operate normally for safety-related purposes is of paramount importance for energy security in Ukraine, as the country relies heavily on its nuclear power plants for electricity generation." We welcome the IAEA's announcement of an upcoming field mission by expert teams to assess the damage to these substations and recommend further actions.

We extend our deepest gratitude to you and your colleagues at the IAEA for your unwavering and courageous efforts to uphold nuclear safety and energy security in Ukraine. Given the escalating situation and the ongoing threat of large-scale attacks that directly jeopardize the safe operation of Ukraine's nuclear power plants, our Committee respectfully appeals to the IAEA to consider recommending the establishment of a permanent presence of IAEA experts at key Ukrainian substations and other critical facilities identified as essential for nuclear safety. Such a measure is vital for ensuring continuous oversight and safeguarding nuclear safety and energy security. We trust that such recommendations for 24/7 monitoring mission will be promptly acted upon, given the gravity of the current threats.

As members of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, we are committed to ensuring the effective execution of our parliamentary supervisory and coordination role through the Energy Security Subcommittee of the Committee of the Ukrainian Parliament on Energy, Housing and Utilities Services, which was established specifically for this purpose. Addressing the escalating risks to nuclear safety is crucial not only for maintaining the operational integrity of Ukraine's nuclear facilities but also for ensuring long-term alignment with international safety standards. Ensuring compliance with global safety norms is fundamental to both national and international security. We believe that a comprehensive and proactive approach to mitigating these risks is essential for protecting both the infrastructure and the population, and for ensuring a stable and reliable electricity supply for millions of Ukrainian citizens.

Members of Ukrainian Parliament,

Chairman of the Committee

A.Gerus

Head of the Energy Security Subcommittee of the Committee of the Ukrainian Parliament on Energy, Housing and Utilities Services

V.Gryb

Members of the Committee of the Ukrainian Parliament on Energy, Housing and Utilities Services



