Joint statement by WENRA, HERCA and NORA on the potential impact on nuclear safety from Russia's attacks on Ukrainian energy infrastructure

16 November 2026

Together we, the **Western European Nuclear Regulators Association** (WENRA), the **Heads of European Radiological Protection Competent Authorities** (HERCA) and the **Heads of Nordic Radiation Safety Authorities** (NORA), express our deep concern about the increasing risks to nuclear safety arising from Russia's war against Ukraine, and its continued attacks on the country's energy infrastructure.

These attacks come in addition to the severe consequences already suffered by the Ukrainian society as a result of recurring deprivation of electricity supply, and the significant hardship and suffering caused to its population.

Russia's abhorrent and persistent attacks on electricity grids, infrastructure and electrical substations have caused prolonged, widespread power outage throughout the war and continue to do so, thus undermining the conditions required to maintain nuclear safety. As Russia's attacks on Ukraine's critical infrastructure appear to become still more reckless including the use of increasingly destructive weapons, there is a growing risk that these conditions will deteriorate further in the near future potentially leading to a complete failure of the national electricity grid (so called "total black out") with further serious implications for the safety of all nuclear facilities. Restoring the grid could be very difficult, prolonging the unacceptable risks to nuclear safety caused by Russia's unjustifiable and reckless actions.
A deterioration in nuclear safety conditions could ultimately lead to events with release of radioactive material, potentially affecting people and the environment across Ukraine and possibly beyond (see the HERCA-WENRA 2022 statement).

Together, NORA, HERCA and WENRA therefore see an urgent need for Russia to cease attacks against Ukraine's nuclear facilities and the energy infrastructure essential to their safe operation.

Through our cooperation, we remain committed to closely following the safety situation in Ukraine and further strengthening emergency preparedness and response, as well as cross-border coordination in Europe in order to cope with the ongoing situation and threats. At the same time, we continue to support SNRIU, the Ukrainian regulator, with our knowledge and expertise.