



Strasbourg, 10 March 2022

Subject: Disastrous situation at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant

Dear Commissioner Simson,

On the 9th of March, Ukraine's energy operator Ukrenergo announced the Chernobyl NPP is fully disconnected from the power grid, because of undertaken hostile actions by the Russian invaders.

It is an urgent issue because reserve diesel generators have a 48-hour capacity to power the Chernobyl NPP. After that, cooling systems of the storage facility for spent nuclear fuel will cease immediately, eventually resulting to radiation leaks. Even if in site emergency diesel generators are turned on to provide power systems important for safety, the supply of diesel fuel on diesel generators will last only for 48 hours.

According to the information from Ukrenergo, due active combat operations in the region, it is impossible to conduct any repair work to restore the energy supply. Most importantly, in case of nuclear reactor meltdown, the wind can transfer radioactive cloud to other regions beyond Ukraine, affecting Belarus, Russia, and, eventually, different parts of Europe.

The situation in another NPP, Zaporizhia, is worrisome.

That is why it is our collective responsibility to do whatever it takes to prevent such an unspeakable disaster.

I encourage a joint coordinated action by UN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), European Commission and OECD Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) to assess current situation, risks and possible consequences at Ukrainian nuclear power plants. It is essential to provide any possible assistance, in terms of technical guidance for operational safety at power plants, too.

Furthermore, we must seek a relief for around 210 technical experts and guards who are working tirelessly almost for two weeks to ensure safety of the nuclear plant. We must continue to engage in dialog and to employ any possible channels of diplomacy to persuade Russian troops to reach, at least temporary ceasefire, for necessary repairs to be made.

A nuclear disaster is upon us, but our joint forces can make difference.

Sincerely,
Liudas Mažylis, MEP