



Kyiv, December 16, 2020

## Promoting an effective nuclear safety culture in Ukraine

The safe use of nuclear energy is a common priority for Ukraine and the European Union (EU). Between 1991 and 2020, in the framework of the Instrument for Technical Assistance for the Commonwealth of Independent States (TACIS) followed by the Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC), the European Union has contributed more than EUR 1.05 billion in supporting Ukraine in its nuclear safety improvement programme. That support has contributed to the infrastructure development for safe management of radioactive waste, improved safety at Ukraine's NPP's, institutional strengthening of Ukraine's Nuclear Regulatory Authority and addressing social challenges related to the effects of the 1986 Chernobyl catastrophe. Almost half of this has provided essential support to the construction of a New Safe Confinement for Chernobyl Unit 4, as well as other essential projects to support the safe decommissioning of Chernobyl Units 1 to 3.

Considering the situation in Donbass, and the significant economic problems faced by Ukraine since 2014, EU support has been one of the cornerstones to the country's security and longer-term stability. The provision of support to improved nuclear safety across Ukraine's nuclear sector through the INSC programme, has been an essential element of that support.

Since 2005, the EU-funded 'Joint Support Office' (JSO) in Kyiv provides key support to the European Commission and its Ukrainian Partners in the management of the EU funded Nuclear Safety Programme in Ukraine. A Kick-off meeting for the new contract period (2020 to 2024) was held on 16 December 2020. The Principal Beneficiaries of the EU funded Nuclear Safety Programme are the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine, State Agency of Ukraine for Exclusion Zone Management, the Ministry of Energy of Ukraine, and State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine.

*"Over the years of operation, the JSO has established excellent working relations with the EC and its Ukrainian Partners. The Nuclear Safety Programme funded by the EU and implemented by the EC in Ukraine, is significant and the JSO is instrumental in its successful implementation, especially now, taking into account new challenges like COVID-19 pandemic", - Dr Hans van Vliet, manager of this project in the European Commission, remarked.*

The **Head of the State Agency of Ukraine for Exclusion Zone Management**, remarked; *"I thank the EU and EC for continuous support of the RAW Sector of Ukraine, and I thank the JSO Team and the Team Leader of the JSO, Mr David Corbett for the effective support of the RAW Sector projects. These projects are very important for continuous improvement of safety and efficiency of the RAW Management in Ukraine".*

**Yurii Sapozhnikov, the Director of Division of the Ministry of Energy of Ukraine**, commented that *"The Ministry highly appreciates the assistance provided by the EC with support of the JSO, which makes valuable input into development of Ukrainian RAW Management infrastructure and rehabilitation of legacy sites".*

The Joint Support Office (JSO) was established in December 2004. The principal objective of the JSO, is to facilitate the project management cycle of the EU Nuclear Safety Cooperation programme in Ukraine. Since its establishment, the JSO has become an integral element to supporting improved nuclear safety in Ukraine and has provided substantial support in the successful outcome of EU funded projects and the creation of new initiatives having strategic importance. It is clear that a continued EU programme to support improved nuclear safety in Ukraine is essential and that the JSO will play a significant role in its success.

**Background information:** Since 1991, the European Union has contributed more than EUR 1.05 billion to improve the safety of Ukraine's nuclear industry. Projects cover the provision of support to improved safety in the operation and maintenance of Ukraine's four nuclear power plants and establishment of an appropriate national radioactive waste management infrastructure, institutional support to Ukraine Nuclear Regulator, financial contributions to the establishment of a new safe confinement over the damaged Chernobyl reactor, as well as a number of social projects to support the communities living with the consequences of the 1986 Chernobyl accident.

The EU project "Support to the Management of the Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC) in Ukraine" is one of 12 ongoing EU projects on nuclear safety and is implemented by Enconet Consulting Ges.m.b.H.

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