

Information Circular

INFCIRC/1251

Date: 25 September 2024

General Distribution

Original: English

Communication from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the Agency

1. On 24 September 2024, the Secretariat received a Note Verbale from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the Agency.
2. As requested, the Note Verbale is herewith circulated for the information of all Member States.



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations
in Vienna

Wallnerstrasse 4,
1010, Vienna,
Republic of Austria

(+431) 479 7172,
pm_io@mfa.gov.ua

Nº4131/35-197-129240

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency and has the honour to communicate the following.

On 22 September 2024, between 01:05 (EEST) and 03:55 (EEST), a Russian unmanned aerial vehicle of the Shahed type was observed flying in close proximity to the Khmelnytskyi Nuclear Power Plant (KhNPP).

The UAV was observed flying at an altitude of 200-500 meters within the observation zone of the KhNPP. The flight trajectory indicates a probable attempt by Russia to simulate an attack on the nuclear power plant by sharply deviating the UAV's course towards the NPP, approaching the site, and then returning to its original trajectory.

This is not the first time that Russian means of attack have intruded into the observation and sanitary protection zones of Ukrainian nuclear power plants.

Moreover, Russian cruise missiles and UAVs are increasingly making provocative manoeuvres towards these facilities, which could lead to the accidental or deliberate fall of debris onto the plant site, potentially damaging equipment critical to nuclear safety.

Flying over nuclear power plants, which are considered high-risk and restricted areas according to the IAEA Safety Standard (SSG-68), is strictly prohibited worldwide.

The potential impact of these provocations includes disruption of the external power supply to the NPP, which is essential for maintaining safe operating conditions. The loss of power could force the plant to rely on emergency diesel generators, which are intended to be used only as a last resort.

Secretariat
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna

Furthermore, deliberate targeting or accidental damage to critical systems could compromise the plant's safety mechanisms, resulting in radiation leakage and widespread contamination. The consequences of such an event would not be limited to Ukraine, but could spread across borders, posing a serious threat to regional and global security.

The ongoing provocations by Russia, therefore, constitute a blatant violation of international nuclear safety standards and pose a dire threat to the lives of millions.

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine kindly requests the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency to promptly circulate this Note Verbale as an Information Circular to all IAEA Member States.

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency the assurances of its highest consideration.



Vienna, 24 September 2024