

Meeting with President ██████████,  
17 October 2017, 10:30-11:15

Preparation: EEAS. EURCA. EAST 2 with contributions from DG NEAR, other COM Services and EUDEL in Belarus

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### Key messages for the Commissioner

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#### **Nuclear safety/ Ostrovets**

Belarus is taking steps to organise another round of negotiations with Lithuania about the nuclear power plant before the end of the year. "We intend to contact our neighbours in order to initiate the third round of negotiations. If our colleagues take us up on the offer, the round of negotiations may be held this year." Speaking about interaction with Lithuania about nuclear power plant matters as a whole, the official noted: "The negotiation process takes a lot of work. Unfortunately, we cannot come to terms as fast as we would like to." A regular session of the Espoo Convention Implementation Committee took place in September. Prospects of future development of the situation around the Belarusian nuclear power plant were discussed among other things. "Belarus fulfils all the commitments it undertakes in a responsible manner, including within the framework of Espoo Convention procedures, and obligations to our neighbours. We have done stress tests. Negotiations on sending the results to the European Commission are underway. These processes do not stop even for one day regardless of the period of time," [REDACTED]

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## Annex 2: Defensives

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***Construction of the Belarusian Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) in Ostrovets, just 40 kms from Vilnius?***

Nuclear safety issues are an overall EU concern, even more so when new facilities are being constructed on an EU border. Full transparency of the construction process and full cooperation with relevant international organisations, the EU and neighbouring countries are of utmost importance.

The EU is using all fora and instruments at its disposal to address the construction of Ostrovets. Our aim is to ensure that the highest possible safety standards are followed. The EU is in particular financing experts who are assisting the Belarusian national regulator during the construction of the nuclear power plant and through working with Belarus in the area of nuclear stress tests.



[REDACTED]

***Will the stress test process be fully transparent?***

The EU Stress Test peer review process to be conducted in Belarus will not deviate from past stress test exercises and will be performed in full transparency. Detailed information about the stress tests peer review exercises that were already conducted in the EU and neighbouring countries are publically available on the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG) website.

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