

PRES. MACRON TALKED ON THE PHONE WITH PRES. ZELENSKY OVER ZAPORIZHZHIA

NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

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USPA NEWS - French President Macron spoke with his counterpart the President of the Republic of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky, today August 16, 2022. , About the situation around the Zaporizhia power plant (Source: Elysee, French Presidency) Last week, Rafael Mariano Grossi, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) declared that the situation at Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant has deteriorated rapidly to the point of becoming "very alarming" and warned the Security Council. Although the situation is unclear, contradictory statements have been released from both sides. In a statement on Thursday, Ukraine's nuclear agency Enerhoatom said that "Russian invaders again shelled the Zaporizhzhia plant and territories near the nuclear facility". On the other side the Russian said in a statement, that it is Ukraine that carried out the shelling. They said Ukrainian forces were using multiple-launch rocket systems and heavy artillery.

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The International Atomic Energy Agency says the plant is "completely out of control" and needs an inspection and repairs, while UN Secretary General Guterres also warned: "Urgent agreement is needed at a technical level on a safe perimeter of demilitarisation to ensure the safety of the area". The French President Emmanuel Macron, spoke by telephone with the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelensky, this Tuesday, August 16, 2022. On the situation around the Zaporizhzhia power plant, the President of the Republic underlined his concern about the threat posed by the presence and actions of the Russian armed forces and the context of war with the ongoing conflicts on the safety and security of Ukrainian nuclear installations, and called for the withdrawal of these forces. He expressed his support for the proposal of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency to send a mission on site as soon as possible, and the two presidents discussed the terms of such a mission. The two presidents also discussed the export of Ukrainian cereals, essential for global food security. They welcome the continued implementation of the agreement allowing exports by sea from the port of Odessa, and welcome the departure this morning of a first humanitarian ship chartered by the United Nations, which will transport grain to the African continent where the needs are particularly urgent. France is also continuing to support European efforts within the framework of "solidarity routes" to export Ukrainian grain by road and river. These made it possible to export 2.8 million tonnes in July and the pace continues to accelerate.

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