

## **Audit report on the use of the State Budget funds allocated to maintain environmental safety in zones of exclusion and unconditional (mandatory) evacuation in 2007 and the first three months of 2008**

### Background

In the year of 1986 the worst technological accident happened at Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine. The consequences caused by the catastrophes are unprecedented among world-known natural and technological disasters. At that time a 30-km zone of exclusion (Zone) was established around the town of Slavutych where the ChNPP was located. After 22 years after the catastrophe the Accounting Chamber of Ukraine conducted an audit of measures taken in order to develop the exclusion zone, which administration is financed from the state budget of Ukraine.

### The audit revealed, particularly, that:

- A comprehensive complex strategy of Zone rehabilitation was not developed; works to maintain the environmental safety in Zone are carried out without specific objectives, and, thus, the yearly goal of the rehabilitation program could not be achieved.
- Though a balanced legal framework was developed the activities of the central executive bodies in this sphere were not sufficient.
- The auditors found out cases of untargeted and inefficient use of public money as well as cases of illegal dismantling and exporting of tangible property, i.e. construction material, vehicles, equipment, railway tracks etc.
- Zone is not protected from the illegal penetration along 90 per cent of its perimeter.
- Zone's administration does not have precise information about radioactive wastes within Zone's territory, which can lead to the groundless decision-making and increase of negative impact to the environment.
- There are no mechanisms of adaptation to the change of radiation situation on the contaminated areas; long-term perspective and production purpose of the area remain obscure.

Based on the audit findings the auditors of the Accounting Chamber of Ukraine recommended to the Government of Ukraine to take all the necessary steps to improve the present situation in Zone, i.e. to develop a new Program of Zone strategic development, to have all the cases of illegal use of public money and property considered in court and all the losses incurred by the state brought back to the state budget and take all the necessary steps to further avoid violations revealed by the audit.