



## PRESS RELEASE

### **HEDNO's response to electricity theft reports**

In reference to press reports according to which PPC criticizes HEDNO for inadequate checks, the Company would like to make the following statement:

HEDNO has exhausted all available means to tackle power theft and detect electricity theft offenders. As reflected in the increasing annual number of detected incidents, the Company has been taking effective measures.

For example, the number of electricity theft incidents detected during the previous year was 11,528, almost twice the number of incidents detected in 2014 (6,650).

The increase reflects the company's top-priority efforts to contain electricity theft through regular actions and initiatives (approximately 800,000 targeted and non-targeted checks per year).

Please also note that in these contradictory press reports, the numbers used to demonstrate poor performance by HEDNO are in fact pointing towards the opposite direction since, for instance, the number of charges filed and taken through court in Athens and Thessaloniki is ten times higher (from 324 cases in 2015 to 2,971 cases in the period between early 2017 and today).

Additionally, we would like to stress HEDNO's substantial support in the development of an improved and stricter framework of measures against electricity theft which was recently approved by RAE and is expected to decisively contain the phenomenon.

Based on official RAE-verified data pertaining to the Network's non-technical expenditure, HEDNO would like to clarify that the annual costs of power theft amount up to 80 million euro and not to 250 million euro, as falsely reported by the press recently, or even 500 million euro, as previously stated in similar reports six month ago.

Regarding «*evidence by PPC that imply a connection between power theft and HEDNO crews*», the Company would like to clarify that it is investigating all allegations linked to its employees or to its contractors' employees and that, as always, necessary measures will be taken against any illegal behavior of this kind.

**Athens, 18 October 2017**

**Press Office**