



## PRESS RELEASE

### **HEDNO: HEDNO clarifies issues on electricity theft**

In response to media reports regarding electricity thefts, HEDNO would like to stress once again that tackling these incidents is our company's top priority.

HEDNO has exhausted all available means to tackle electricity theft and identify perpetrators, which is reflected in the annual numbers showing a rapid increase as regards theft incidents detected, namely, four times higher compared to those five years ago.

For example, the number of electricity theft incidents detected throughout 2016 was 11,528, almost four times higher compared to those back in 2011, namely, 3,226. Moreover, since the beginning of 2017 and up to October of the same year, the total number of electricity theft complaints lodged by the Company and heard before a court, in Athens and Thessaloniki, was ten times higher than those in 2015, namely, 2,971 compared to 324.

However, despite the striking increase in the number of electricity thefts detected and the fact that HEDNO has intensified checks, at the same time speeding up procedures and consistently lodging complaints, electricity thefts show no sign of abating. Arguing that this is due to slackness, ineffectiveness or a passive attitude on HEDNO'S part is absolutely unsubstantial, as the company takes all necessary action in the field, as confirmed by the increasingly higher number of theft incidents detected, which is undoubtedly attributable to such actions.

Increase of theft incidents should be attributed to the prolonged period of economic crisis, on one hand, that can encourage unlawful behavior and, on the other hand, to the inadequacy, at least until the Network Management Code entered into force in 2017, of the related legal framework which needs to become even firmer.

HEDNO has contributed substantially and decisively to the development of a new, modernized and firmer framework of actions against electricity thefts, which was approved by the Regulatory Authority for Energy (RAE) and is expected to drastically tackle this 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 annually.

**Athens, January 9, 2018**

**Press Office**