

Vienna, 29 September 2026

Dear President Zagorodny,
Dear colleagues at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine,

It was with great dismay that we received the news that the building of the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine was severely hit by a Russian drone. The full extent of the destruction, injuries or deaths is not yet foreseeable. Let us express our deepest sympathy and solidarity to you and all affected colleagues.

The Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW) condemns this wanton destruction of your institution and thus the attack on our long-standing partner academy in the strongest possible terms. Science and research thrive on exchange, openness and security. It must be able to take place in a protected environment and must never be the target of military attacks or acts of war. Attacks on scientific institutions are always attacks on our cultural heritage and the international research community as a whole.

Since the beginning of the Russian war of aggression, we have felt closely connected to our Ukrainian colleagues. With various measures such as the JESH Mobility Program, the OeAW has also significantly supported the international integration of Ukrainian colleagues over the past three and a half years. We admire the determination with which you continue your scientific work under the most difficult conditions. We would like to assure you that the Austrian Academy of Sciences continues to stand in solidarity with the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and its researchers. If you need support in the coming weeks and months, please let us know.

We wish you, your colleagues and all employees of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine much strength and confidence in this difficult time.
With sincere sympathy and best wishes

Heinz Faßmann
On behalf of the Presidium of the Austrian Academy of Sciences