Question for written answer E-003455/2025/rev.1
to the Commission
Rule 144
Charlie Weimers (ECR), Beatrice Timgren (ECR), Dick Erixon (ECR)

Subject: Nuclear energy as a strategic enabler for European AI competitiveness and energy security

As the global artificial intelligence (AI) race accelerates, energy capacity and reliability are becoming key factors for industrial competitiveness. Recent reports from the United States highlight a wave of private investment in small modular nuclear reactors by leading AI firms, supported by deregulatory initiatives to fast-track AI development. In contrast, the EU has prioritised regulatory frameworks, such as the AI Act[1], which, while ambitious in scope, risk hampering innovation and creating structural disadvantages in energy-hungry AI infrastructure. EU energy policy also undermines competitiveness, especially in the AI sphere[2].

A growing number of experts argue that Europe's limited baseload capacity, due in part to underinvestment in nuclear power, threatens not only digital competitiveness but also strategic autonomy. Meanwhile, Sweden has taken steps to expand its nuclear fleet – a move that aligns with EU energy security objectives, climate goals and the need for growth and job creation in high-tech sectors such as AI.

In the light of this, and given the EU's broader digital and industrial ambitions:

How does the Commission assess the role of nuclear energy in supporting Europe's AI competitiveness and energy resilience?

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[1] Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence (OJ L, 2024/1689, 12.7.2024, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1689/oj).
[2] https://exxpress.at/economy/frankfurt-am-limit-kein-strom-fuer-den-ki-boom/.