

Question for written answer E-005005/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Tom Berendsen (PPE)

Subject: European commitment to small modular (maritime) nuclear reactors

On 15 September 2025, the United States and the United Kingdom signed a memorandum to accelerate the roll-out of small modular reactors (SMRs), including by exploring maritime applications and seeking to shorten the assessment period for SMR designs to two years.¹ This, in combination with other measures, increases the competitive advantage of US and UK developers over European developers.²³

Given the need for the European (maritime) industry to decarbonise and the importance of strategic autonomy and industrial competitiveness, the following questions arise:

1. Is the Commission prepared to take immediate steps to harmonise the licensing of SMRs between Member States, including by establishing a framework for mutual recognition of national licences and by shortening the assessment period for SMR designs?
2. What other steps are the Commission and the European SMR Alliance taking to support European developers?
3. Is the Commission able to accelerate the legal basis for nuclear marine propulsion? What role can the Commission play in this context when it comes to the reform of the IMO SOLAS rules and regulations?

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¹ The White House, Presidential Memoranda, 18 September 2025, MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/09/memorandum-of-understanding-between-the-government-of-the-united-states-of-america-and-the-government-of-the-united-kingdom-of-great-britain-and-northern-ireland-regarding-the-technology-prosperity-de/>

² The White House, 23 May 2025, Executive Orders: DEPLOYING ADVANCED NUCLEAR REACTOR TECHNOLOGIES FOR NATIONAL SECURITY, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/05/deploying-advanced-nuclear-reactor-technologies-for-national-security/>

³ US Department of Energy, 24 March 2025, USD 900 Million Available to Unlock Commercial Deployment of American-Made Small Modular Reactors, <https://www.energy.gov/ne/articles/900-million-available-unlock-commercial-deployment-american-made-small-modular-reactors>