

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000862/25
to the Commission
Mihai Tudose (S&D)
(26 February 2025)**

Subject: Development of nuclear energy in the EU

Nuclear energy is key to the EU's energy resilience, both through the contribution it makes to the energy mix and to reducing strategic dependencies, and through its competitive pricing, which is less exposed to fluctuations in the cost of raw materials. At the same time, nuclear energy is an economically-viable alternative to the proposed decarbonisation of the European economy.

To this end, the EU Nuclear Alliance of states supporting nuclear energy, which includes Romania, called on the Commission in its declaration of 18 February to mainstream into the EU's Affordable Energy Plan the principle of technological neutrality, according to which Member States can decide how to decarbonise their energy.

1. What is the Commission's position on the principle of technological neutrality?
2. Is the Commission considering supporting the development of new nuclear production capacities in the EU, and especially small modular reactors?
3. In what ways could the Commission support the lifetime-extension and modernisation of existing nuclear power plants, including through the intermediary of state aid?

Submitted: 26.2.2025

**Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(30 April 2025)**

The choice of the energy sources in the energy mix, and the decision to use or not use nuclear energy, remains within the remit of each Member State in accordance with the Treaty on Functioning of the EU ⁽¹⁾.

In order to decarbonise its economy and to end energy dependencies on unreliable suppliers, the EU has been accelerating its energy transition plans.

This transition must be technology neutral ⁽²⁾. According to The Commission's projections, all zero and low carbon energy solutions, including nuclear energy, are needed to meet the 2040 decarbonisation targets ⁽³⁾.

The Commission is committed to respecting and applying the principle of technological neutrality, as reflected in the Clean Industrial Deal (CID) ⁽⁴⁾ and the Affordable Energy Action Plan (AEAP) ⁽⁵⁾.

As announced in the AEAP, the Commission will assess investments needs in an updated Nuclear Illustrative Programme and the possibility of streamlining current permitting and licensing practices for the deployment of new nuclear technologies in the EU, such as Small Modular Reactors (SMRs).

In addition, the European Industrial Alliance on SMRs was launched to facilitate the deployment of first SMRs in the EU by early 2030s.

The Commission will continue to support the work of the Alliance in line with the mission letter of the Commissioner for Energy and Housing.

The Commission oversees the compatibility of state aid granted by Member States with the EU State aid rules. As announced in the CID, the Commission will assess the state aid for nuclear supply chains and technologies, including SMRs, in line with the Treaty and with respect to technological neutrality.

⁽¹⁾ Article 194 of the Treaty on Functioning of the European Union.

⁽²⁾ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: 'A Competitiveness Compass for the EU' (https://european-research-area.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2025-01/COM%202025%2030%20-%20A%20Competitiveness%20Compass%20for%20the%20EU%20_%2029-1-2025.pdf).

⁽³⁾ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: 'Securing Europe's 2040 climate target and path to climate neutrality by 2050 building a sustainable, just and prosperous society' (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2024%3A63%3AFIN>).

⁽⁴⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/9db1c5c8-9e82-467b-ab6a-905feeb4b6b0_en

⁽⁵⁾ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/document/download/7e2e6198-b6b8-46fe-b263-984b437da3ab_en?filename=Communication%20-%20Action%20Plan%20for%20Affordable%20Energy.pdf