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Answer given by Mr Jørgensen
on behalf of the European Commission
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Nuclear energy, as other clean energy technologies like renewables, will play a strategic role in supporting Europe's artificial intelligence (AI) competitiveness and energy resilience, allowing to meet growing energy demand of data centres. This also includes Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), as a low-carbon and baseload energy source[1]. In this context, the Commission plans to adopt a strategy for the development and deployment of SMRs in Europe. The strategy will seek to create a supportive framework and identify policy and industry actions needed for the acceleration of the development and deployment of SMRs in Europe in the early 2030s[2].

The Commission is also preparing a Strategic Roadmap for digitalisation and AI in the energy sector due for publication in early 2026[3]. To support this, the Commission has launched an open public consultation and a call for evidence[4]. The Strategic Roadmap will consider the increasingly heavy energy consumption of data centres and look at how they can be more sustainably integrated into the energy system. In parallel, the Commission holds targeted consultations through dedicated workshops with stakeholders from the digital and energy fields.

In the AI Continent Action Plan[5] and in the Apply AI Strategy, the Commission laid out actions to boost innovation, accelerate productivity growth, and reinforce its competitiveness and technology sovereignty. In this plan, the Commission committed to a clear and simple implementation of the AI Act[6]. The AI Act approach is risk-based and innovation-friendly. It applies in the single market, avoiding fragmentated state-based legislation that affect other parts of the world.

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[1] Data centres and Artificial Intelligence may drive the SMRs' roll out in: 'COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT Accompanying the document Communication from the Commission Nuclear Illustrative Programme presented under Article 40 of the Euratom Treaty for the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee', p. 72.
[2] As set out in the 2025 Commission work programme and the Action Plan for Affordable Energy.
[3] The Commission also announced an upcoming Cloud and AI Development Act, which is expected to address strategies to ensure there is energy resources to develop AI, for instance by improving energy efficiency in data centres.
[4] Both the public consultation and the call for evidence will close on 5 November 2025. Link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14742-Artificial-intelligence-and-digitalisation-for-energy-a-roadmap_en.
[5] https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/ai-continent-action-plan.
[6] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1689/oj/eng. For example, the service desk was launched on 7 October 2025, enabling stakeholders to submit queries about the AI Act and receive tailored feedback.