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E-001678/2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Ribera
on behalf of the European Commission
(1.6.2026)

1. The reasons for opening an investigation into the support measures for the construction and operation of six new nuclear reactors in France are described in the decision to initiate the formal investigation procedure, which has been published on 7 May 2026¹. Under Article 4(4) of Regulation (EU) 2015/1589², the Commission is required to open a formal investigation wherever it has doubts as to the compatibility of a measure with the internal market following a preliminary examination. This obligation applies equally to all notified State aid measures, regardless of the technology concerned.

2. The Commission has explained its doubts regarding the proposed duration of the direct price support proposed by the Polish authorities in the decision to initiate the formal investigation procedure into the aid measures for the first nuclear power plant in Poland³. The shortened duration aims to ensure that the aid is appropriate, proportionate, and does not unduly distort competition in the internal market,

3. The Commission's role under Articles 107 and 108 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) is to assess whether public support measures are compatible with the internal market. The Commission has exclusive competence in this area, subject to review by the EU Courts. Member States retain full competence over their energy mix under Article 194 TFEU. The design, where the power plant is remunerated for its availability to generate electricity rather than for its electricity output, helps limit distortions and avoids displacing renewable generation, supporting a more efficient and decarbonised electricity system.

¹ OJ C, C/2026/2619, 7.5.2026, <http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2026/2619/oj>.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2015/1589/oj/eng>.

³ OJ C, C/2025/1389, 4.3.2025, <http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2025/1389/oj>.