

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002408/26
to the Commission**

Sophie Wilmès (Renew), Benoit Cassart (Renew), Morten Løkkegaard (Renew), Jörgen Warborn (PPE), Dan-Ştefan Motreanu (PPE), Tomas Tobé (PPE), Tomáš Zdechovský (PPE), Olivier Chastel (Renew), Michał Kobosko (Renew), Wouter Beke (PPE), Matej Tonin (PPE), Alice Teodorescu Măwe (PPE), Dan Barna (Renew), Inese Vaidere (PPE), Christophe Grudler (Renew), Elisabetta Gualmini (Renew), Pascal Arimont (PPE), Karin Karlsbro (Renew), Elio Di Rupo (S&D), Bart Groothuis (Renew), Jeannette Baljeu (Renew), Ilia Lazarov (PPE), François Kalfon (S&D), Yvan Verougstraete (Renew), Katri Kulmuni (Renew), Michael McNamara (Renew)

(11 June 2026)

Subject: Small modular reactors

At the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) summit on 10 March 2026, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen acknowledged that it was a strategic mistake for Europe to turn its back on nuclear energy and announced an additional temporary InvestEU top-up of EUR 200 million until 2028 to support private investment in innovative nuclear technologies ⁽¹⁾.

On the same day, the Commission adopted a strategy for the development and deployment of small modular reactors (SMRs) in Europe ⁽²⁾, with the objective of making this new technology operational in Europe by the early 2030s. While this strategy marks an important shift in the Commission's approach to nuclear energy, concrete measures will now be essential to ensure European leadership in the development of SMRs.

1. What concrete actions does the Commission intend to take to implement the objectives set out in the SMR strategy, and what timeline does it foresee for these measures?
2. How does the Commission intend to operationalise the EUR 200 million InvestEU support announced and how much private investment does it expect to mobilise?
3. Will the Commission propose a legislative initiative to facilitate pre-licensing and licensing processes for SMRs, guarantee wide access to financing, including the multiannual financial framework (MFF), and ensure technological neutrality in existing legislation?

Submitted: 11.6.2026

**Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(20 August 2026)**

The small modular reactors (SMR) Strategy ⁽¹⁾ sets out concrete actions to support the strategic objective of the deployment of first SMRs in Europe in the early 2030s.

The timely completion of the actions will depend on a strong commitment and engagement of all actors, including Member States, nuclear safety authorities, industry, research organisations and financing institutions ⁽²⁾.

It supports a stronger European industrial ecosystem, including a competitive supply chain, a fleet approach, a focus on a limited number of the most promising designs, and the development of industrial standards, modular manufacturing and 'SMR Valleys' to support serial production ⁽³⁾.

The Commission is working with the European Investment Bank (EIB) on the announced InvestEU top-up of EUR 200 million with a view to support the initial commercial units of innovative nuclear technologies ⁽⁴⁾ within the Union ⁽⁵⁾.

The aim is to make it possible for the EIB to invite applications from eligible projects later this year and in due course support the de-risking of such concrete investments in innovative nuclear technologies and to crowd in further private funding.

¹ <https://audiovisual.ec.europa.eu/en/media/video/I-286366>.

² COM(2026)0117.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52026DC0117>.

⁽²⁾ The European Industrial Alliance on SMRs, launched in February 2024 and coordinated by the Commission, which chairs the Alliance's Governing Board, operates through eight technical working groups that provide tailored support to identified SMR projects and work on establishing long-term enabling conditions for their development. Its Strategic Action Plan 2025-2029, endorsed in 2025, identifies top ten targeted actions which will be delivered by the Alliance through the technical working groups, in collaboration with the project working groups, over the next five years. See: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/circabc-ewpp/d/d/workspace/SpacesStore/d5970517-ec7c-4aa6-af5a-77fc8dde33a9/download>.

⁽³⁾ Access to financing will be a key enabler for the deployment of SMRs. Member States considering SMRs as part of their energy strategies are encouraged, where appropriate, to develop coordinated financing and de-risking approaches to support the mobilisation of private investment at scale.

⁽⁴⁾ Including light-water SMRs, advanced modular reactors (AMRs), microreactors and fusion.

⁽⁵⁾ The top-up (loan guarantee) to the InvestEU programme from the EU Innovation Fund will be directed to support innovative nuclear energy projects to address financing challenges by enabling additional EIB venture debt operations.

Since the EIB finances at most 50% of the investment costs of any given project, it will unlock at least an equal amount of further investment from other sources ⁽⁶⁾.

The Commission promotes and supports — including via a dedicated grant scheme — closer regulatory cooperation through joint early reviews between national nuclear safety regulators, regulatory sandboxes and a regulatory coalition of willing countries ⁽⁷⁾, to achieve greater convergence and regulatory efficiency while maintaining the highest nuclear safety standards. It does not foresee a specific legislative initiative exclusively for SMRs.

⁽⁶⁾ Separately, the upcoming Scaleup Europe Fund (as a new compartment of the European Innovation Council (EIC) Fund) could also help innovative nuclear technologies to achieve faster deployment. In addition, the Commission is working closely with Member States on the design of the IPCEI (Important Project of Common European Interest) candidate for innovative nuclear technologies, which is currently in its design phase. Support through the Euratom Research and Training Programme is also available: five Euratom research projects related to light-water SMRs and AMRs were launched in 2024 with a total value of EUR 30 million, and the Commission expects to continue funding research on the safety of SMRs with EUR 15 million in 2026-27.

⁽⁷⁾ In which the countries involved could align their licensing procedures or mutually recognise each other's licensing decisions.