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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Ribera
on behalf of the European Commission
(22.9.2026)

On 13 July 2026, the Commission approved, under the Clean Industrial Deal State Aid Framework (CISAF)[1], the French scheme SA.120604 supporting 11 offshore wind farms which will contribute to the EU's energy and climate objectives.

The Commission's role is to assess the compatibility of notified State aid measures with the internal market under the State aid rules. This assessment does not cover Member States' choices concerning their energy mix, which remains a national competence. Nor does it consider the political timing of national decisions or electoral considerations. For this scheme, France demonstrated that the aid, granted through an open and non-discriminatory competitive tender, complies with the CISAF requirements.

The scheme's budget constitutes an estimated maximum aid amount over the duration of the scheme, but the final aid granted will depend on the auction result and electricity prices over time. Since the aid is granted in the form of two-way contracts for difference, when electricity prices exceed the contract price set through the tender, the offshore developers will have to pay the difference to the French state, thereby avoiding windfall profits.

The Commission assesses aid measures on a case-by-case basis, under the applicable legal framework. Support for nuclear power generation is usually granted directly to an individual beneficiary, and raises distinct legal, economic and technical considerations. The opening of an in-depth investigation reflects the Commission's duty, where necessary, to gather all information required to complete its assessment; it does not prejudge the final outcome, nor does it imply unequal treatment between technologies.

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[1] Communication from the Commission of 25 June 2025 on the framework for State aid measures to support the Clean Industrial Deal (Clean Industrial Deal State Aid Framework), OJ C/2025/3602, 4.7.2025.