



The response of the Hungarian Nuclear Forum to the Public Consultation

on State aid case SA.119469 (2025/N):

Support for the construction and operation of six new nuclear reactors in France

The Hungarian Nuclear Forum, representing more than 30 Hungarian companies, submits these comments under Article 108(2) TFEU on the Commission's in-depth investigation into the compatibility of France's planned public support for six new nuclear reactors with EU State aid rules.

We wish to highlight some core economic, strategic, and environmental aspects of the planned French development to justify state intervention

Decarbonization and Climate Mandates

Nuclear power provides massive amounts of low-carbon, baseload electricity. Achieving net-zero emissions targets is impossible without a diverse mix that includes nuclear energy alongside renewable generation. The EU's Climate Law and Net-Zero Industry Act embrace "technological neutrality," therefore low-carbon nuclear power deserves the same level of public backing and sustainability labelling as wind or solar

Economic Value and Affordability

Although nuclear projects require significant upfront investment, they offer predictable generation costs over operating lifetimes of up to 60 years. The Commission has also recognised in the PINC that nuclear energy can reduce overall electricity system costs while supporting secure and affordable supply.

Geopolitical Sovereignty and Energy Security

In the wake of recent global energy crises and volatile fossil fuel markets, national energy independence has become a vital security priority. State-supported nuclear energy buffers the country—and neighbouring European countries—against geopolitical supply shocks (such as natural gas fluctuations). Nuclear energy also strengthens the EU's industrial sovereignty through its largely European supply chain. It supports resilience, regional development and employment, and the French new nuclear programme is expected to reinforce the European industrial base and competitiveness.

Grid Stability and System Cost Reduction

Because France is Europe's largest net exporter of electricity, French state aid essentially helps underwrite grid stability for the entire continent. Unlike intermittent renewables (wind and solar) which require massive, expensive upgrades to grid storage and infrastructure to handle fluctuating supply, nuclear energy provides continuous baseload power and "system inertia." By providing steady, controllable electricity, nuclear power reduces the total systemic cost of maintaining a reliable power grid.



Hungarian Nuclear Forum

H-1021 Budapest, Hűvösvölgyi út. 54. Tel: +36 1 215-3499

Fax: +36 1 215-3499 E-mail: atomforum@atomforum.hu

Support and Financing

Nuclear power investments are capital-intensive, usually with long lead times (the new French reactors are slated for commissioning between 2038 and 2044). The private sector is generally unwilling or unable to take on 100% of the financial risk of a multi-billion-euro project that won't see a return for over a decade. Therefore, state aid—specifically via subsidized loans and Contracts for Difference (CfDs) — can stabilize long-term revenue to lower the cost of capital, making the project economically viable. In this context, state involvement serves to allocate risk in a balanced manner, stabilise revenues and reduce overall system costs.

Industrial Competitiveness and Maintaining Skills

Building a nuclear fleet requires highly specialized engineering expertise and a robust supply chain. A continuous, state-backed pipeline of projects prevents the atrophy of critical nuclear engineering skills. Without state funding, the domestic industrial capabilities would erode, leaving Europe dependent on outside nations for advanced technology.

Conclusion

Based on the above reasons, the Hungarian Nuclear Forum considers that the French new nuclear programme and its aid measures are adequate, proportionate and justified.