The Commission took note of the announcement on 2 June 2021 by the nuclear safety authorities of Finland, Czechia and France of a closer collaboration on the safety assessment of the NUWARD Small Modular Reactor (SMR). Such multi-country European regulatory cooperation in the field of SMR licensing is a valuable initiative, as cooperation amongst national regulators on the approvals of SMR designs and projects will be an important determinant of a successful deployment of SMRs on a wider scale.

The Commission has been working closely with stakeholders preparing the launch of the European SMR Partnership to ensure active participation of national nuclear regulators in the initiative. Following exchanges with the Commission, members of the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG) have nominated 18 experts from 14 EU countries who have started working on common principles for SMR licensing in the EU in March 2022. The results of the 2019 study referenced by the Honourable Member provide input into their work. The Commission expects the experts to make recommendations on the options for harmonisation or standardisation of licensing and approval processes, without prejudice to the ultimate responsibility of each national regulator for decisions about projects on the territory of its Member State.

The Commission also supports research related to safety, licencing and standardisation aspects of Nuclear Power Plant and SMR technologies through the Euratom Research and Training Programme, including projects which directly focus on licensing harmonisation.