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PRESS RELEASE: SMRs as a Key Contributor to the EU's Energy Security: A Successful Event at the European Parliament

Brussels, 18.3.2025 – The European Parliament hosted a high-level event titled *"Energy Security as a Pillar of the Security of States and the European Union: The Role of SMRs in Strengthening the Energy Security of the EU"*, co-organized by ZPP (Union of Entrepreneurs and Employers) and SNETP (Sustainable Nuclear Energy Technology Platform), under the patronage of Polish MEPs and the Polish Presidency of the Council of the EU. The event gathered around key policymakers, industry leaders, and researchers, to discuss the strategic role of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) in ensuring Europe's energy security.

The event underscored Poland's ambitious nuclear projects as key levers for decarbonizing its energy mix and industrial processes. It also highlighted how SMRs can provide electricity and heat while enhancing the EU's energy resilience. The discussions reinforced the idea that nuclear energy, alongside renewables, is an essential component of the EU's clean energy transition.

Among the key takeaways:

- **Polish Government Commitment:** Wojciech Wrochna, Secretary of State for Industry, emphasized the complementary role of large reactors and SMRs in securing stable and affordable energy. He called for a more flexible EU state aid framework for nuclear projects and accelerated licensing procedures.
- **Strong Political Support:** Polish MEP Adam Jarubas (EPP) praised SMRs as a cost-effective solution enabling private sector investments.
- **EU Institutional Backing:** The European Commission representatives, Maive Rute (DG GROW) and Jan Panek (DG ENER), reaffirmed the EU's commitment to technological neutrality and acknowledged the role of nuclear in reducing fossil fuel dependence. It was highlighted that demand for reliable low carbon energy is growing fast in Europe. The European Industrial Alliance for SMRs was highlighted as a key initiative to advance deployment.
- **Industry and Research Perspectives:** Speakers from Nucleareurope, OSGE, EDF's Nuward, NCBJ projects, and other leading organizations showcased nuclear energy's strategic advantages particularly when strongly supported by European industry and supply chain: energy independence, affordability, and job creation. They also stressed the importance of international cooperation

across Europe to accelerate project implementation and ensure supply chain resilience.

The successful organization of this event by **SNETP and ZPP** demonstrated the growing momentum behind nuclear energy as a pillar of Europe's energy security. As the EU accelerates its decarbonization efforts, nuclear—particularly SMRs—stands out as a reliable, innovative, and strategically important energy source for the continent's future.

Wojciech Wrochna, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Industry and Government Plenipotentiary for Strategic Energy Infrastructure opened the discussion by emphasizing the role of nuclear energy in achieving the EU's energy transition goals. He highlighted the necessity of aligning stakeholders, regulators, and policymakers to ensure effective support for nuclear power. Wrochna stressed that energy-intensive industries and emerging technologies, such as AI and data centers, require stable and clean energy sources, positioning SMRs as a crucial solution. He underlined the importance of creating a stable regulatory framework to attract investment and accelerate the deployment of nuclear projects.

Adam Jarubas, Member of the European Parliament and Chair of the SANT Committee, underscored the challenges of achieving a low-carbon energy future and the need for a balanced energy mix. He highlighted that while renewable energy sources are essential, they alone cannot ensure energy security. Jarubas pointed to SMRs as a promising alternative, given their flexibility and feasibility for private investment. He noted that despite ongoing development, no SMR plants are operational in Europe yet, with three projects currently underway.

Maive Rute, Deputy Director-General of DG GROW, reaffirmed the European Commission's commitment to ensuring a sustainable and clean energy future. She acknowledged the significant reduction of fossil fuel dependency and emphasized the need for further efforts in grid interconnection and infrastructure development. Rute stressed that energy security is not only an industrial priority but also a key economic and geopolitical concern. She highlighted ongoing EU initiatives, including the Clean Industrial Deal, which aims to align competitiveness with decarbonization.

Emmanuel Brutin, Director General at Nuclear Europe, emphasized the critical role of existing, new built and SMRs in securing Europe's energy supply. He welcomed the EU's Clean Industrial Deal and underscored the importance of ensuring a level playing field for nuclear energy. Brutin highlighted the financial challenges of nuclear projects, particularly the high capital costs, and called for targeted support mechanisms. He also

stressed that lifetime extensions of existing nuclear power plants remain a cost-effective way to enhance energy security and maintain stable electricity prices.

Jakub Bińkowski, Member of the Board at the Union of Entrepreneurs and Employers (ZPP), addressed the urgency of resolving regulatory uncertainties surrounding SMRs. He emphasized the need for clear guidelines on investment timelines and implementation strategies. Bińkowski pointed out that creating an investor-friendly environment is crucial for accelerating the deployment of nuclear technologies. He urged policymakers to take decisive steps in ensuring SMRs become a viable part of Europe's energy transition.

Bernard Salha, President of SNETP, provided an overview of the European nuclear sector's challenges and opportunities. He highlighted the importance of reducing fossil fuel dependency and ensuring affordable, decarbonized electricity. Salha pointed out that electrification will grow significantly, with nuclear energy playing a vital role in supporting both electricity and industrial heat applications. He also underscored nuclear energy's contribution to economic sovereignty, job creation, and research development across Europe.

Jan Panek, European Industrial Alliance on SMR, DG ENER, emphasized the critical role of political support from the European Parliament in advancing SMR deployment. He highlighted the strong backing received from the previous legislature and stressed the importance of maintaining this momentum with the new Parliament. Panek outlined the Industrial Alliance's project-based approach, noting that nine SMR projects have already been identified to drive deployment across the EU. He underscored the need for regulatory and financial enablers to ensure these projects reach commercialization by the early 2030s.

Jung Eun Kim, Vice President Samsung C&T, outlined that the support of the construction, procurement and engineering companies (EPC) is crucial for effective SMR projects deployment. **Mr Jun Eun Kim** outlined that Nuclear projects need EPC contractors who are capable of delivery on time and on budget. Mentioned by others, constructed by Samsung C&T Barakah NPP is the best example of proper delivery. Samsung C&T is technologically agnostic and has an ambition to deliver BWRX-300 units that are about to be deployed in Poland by OSGE. However, due to being agnostic in terms of technology, Samsung C&T is ready to be a part of any SMR and full-scale reactor, bringing the extensive experience obtained within Korean and Middle Eastern nuclear projects.

Rafał Kasprów, CEO of ORLEN Synthos Green Energy (OSGE), presented insights from the U.S. energy sector, highlighting a shift toward **energy realism**—prioritizing reliable baseload power. He mentioned that *the industry in the USA has announced the beginning of a new era in energy. This important message, as news from the USA is always significant, resonated at the world's largest industry conference, CERAWeek in Houston. This new era is called energy realism.* The key remark from Mr. Kasprów was that in order to regain the competitiveness of European Union industry against the USA, within the areas such as data centers and AI, we need energy and we need base load. Energy in sufficient quantity and with appropriate quality of supply - 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, independent from the weather conditions. He outlined that *building a fleet of BWRX-300 reactors could be an excellent example of transatlantic cooperation. We have an American design, but we also have a very robust European supply chain. Turbines can come from France or Poland. We have factories in Poland that produce generators. In Spain, fuel that will be used in the BWRX-300 has been produced for several decades. Let's not ask 'what if' about SMRs. This is proven technology. There are no doubts about safety or construction time. This is not a time for doubts, it's a time for action. And the positive news is that we are already taking action.*

Sandro Baldi, SMR Commercial Director at EDF - International Nuclear Development, outlined EDF's NUWARD project, designed to replace coal-fired plants and provide energy-intensive industries with both electricity and heat. He highlighted the project's modular approach, emphasizing simplicity, scalability, and prefabrication to ensure cost efficiency and faster deployment. Baldi also detailed ongoing collaboration between six European nuclear safety authorities to harmonize regulatory requirements and avoid unnecessary design modifications across different jurisdictions. He stressed that a strong European supply chain is key to ensuring energy security without external dependencies.

Józef Sobolewski, Director of HTR Development at NCBJ, introduced Poland's HTGR-POLA reactor, a high-temperature gas-cooled reactor designed to provide heat for industrial applications. He highlighted that while traditional light-water reactors dominate the market, fourth-generation reactors like HTGR-POLA offer higher efficiency and enhanced safety features. Sobolewski emphasized that 50% of the intellectual property behind the reactor is Polish, positioning the country as a leader in advanced nuclear technology in the EU. He underscored the potential for nuclear heat to decarbonize hard-to-abate industries and reduce reliance on fossil fuels not only in the EU.

Abderrahim Al Mazouzi, General Secretariat at SNETP, delivered the closing remarks, emphasizing the critical role of continued collaboration between policymakers, industry leaders, and technology providers to accelerate SMR deployment in Europe.