

Draft
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF
NUCLEAR ENERGY BETWEEN

THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC AND THE MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE OF HUNGARY

The Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary (hereinafter referred to as the "Participants")

WHEREAS the member states of the European Union ("EU") are striving to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, in line with the goals of the European Green Deal, the conclusions of UNFCCC COP21, and other international commitments,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT Article 2 of the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community with regard to progress in the peaceful use of nuclear energy, facilitating investment, and ensuring, notably by supporting business incentives, the conditions for the development of nuclear energy in the Community,

RECOGNIZING the necessity to accelerate the transformation of the European energy systems and national energy mixes towards a more sustainable and low-carbon energy sector to contribute equitably to the fight against climate change,

EMPHASIZING the exceptional role of nuclear energy in their national energy mixes and the need for its further development, including advancements in science, research, and innovation, and the exchange of mutual experiences,

RECOGNIZING that nuclear energy provides a safe, environmentally friendly, and sustainable source of energy, ensuring an essential energy source for future generations,

EXPRESSING the need for further international cooperation in promoting the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes,

RESPECTING their mutual desire to cooperate in the field of nuclear energy, including the development and application of new nuclear technologies (hereinafter referred to as "NNTs"), including small modular reactors (hereinafter referred to as "SMRs"),

HAVE REACHED the following understanding:

Paragraph 1 Purpose of the Memorandum

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as the "Memorandum") is to strengthen cooperation in nuclear energy, the development of NNTs and

SMRs, including the exchange of experience in the operation of nuclear facilities, as well as in the final stage of nuclear energy, among the Participants in the areas listed in Paragraph 2 of this Memorandum.

Paragraph 2 Areas of Cooperation

The Participants express full support for cooperation, the exchange of information, and sharing experience in the field of nuclear energy, primarily aimed at achieving the following objectives:

- 2.1 Supporting the utilization of potential synergies achieved through investment activities in the energy sector and the operation of energy systems in both countries.
- 2.2 Establishing partnerships in the nuclear energy supply chain, including SMRs and other NNTs.
- 2.3 Cooperation in potential utilization of engineering and nuclear-specific expert professions, as well as in the field of science, research, capacity, and knowledge-building to diversify nuclear fuel supplies for NNTs, including SMRs, and existing nuclear reactors.
- 2.4 Promoting cooperation for the development of nuclear energy capacities from operation to decommissioning and supporting knowledge and human capital in nuclear energy in the countries of both Participants.
- 2.5 Sharing the operational experience of existing units, their long-term operation, as well as in the final stage of nuclear energy, including decommissioning, regarding existing nuclear facilities and the preparation of new nuclear sources, including SMRs.
- 2.6 Supporting the exchange of know-how required for investment activities aimed at achieving the above-mentioned goals.

Paragraph 3 Participants' Cooperation

To achieve the objectives of this Memorandum, the Participants plan to promote cooperation at both the political and technical levels to leverage mutual synergies in the field of nuclear energy in both countries. Forms of cooperation under this Memorandum may include:

- 3.1 Political and technical support in the nuclear energy sector for entities actively involved in the development of new nuclear technologies and mutual exchange of information at the ministerial, regulatory, operator, energy supplier, and academic levels.
- 3.2 Exchange of scientific knowledge and experiences, support for education, and cooperation between academic institutions, companies, and other entities.
- 3.3 Support for relevant entities, particularly business companies and other entities, in activities supporting the goals and purposes of this Memorandum.
- 3.4 Consultations on fundamental steps that could impact the achievement of the common objectives of cooperation stated in this Memorandum.

3.5 Joint meetings for expert consultations regarding the implementation of cooperation to support the purpose and objectives of this Memorandum. Other entities may participate in these consultations by mutual agreement of the Participants.

Paragraph 4 Working Group

4.1 The Participants of this Memorandum are responsible partners for coordinating all areas and activities of cooperation in the form of cooperation under this Memorandum.

4.2 For this purpose, the Participants may establish a working group composed of representatives from the relevant entities of each Party, responsible for the policy areas concerned by this Memorandum of Understanding, for identifying areas of cooperation, reviewing progress, and assessing the results of cooperation, as well as considering any other aspects relevant to supporting the purpose of this Memorandum.

Paragraph 5 Termination of the Memorandum

Any Participant may terminate this Memorandum by providing written notice to the other Participant, with a six-month notice period. The termination of the Memorandum will not affect the validity of any contract concluded under this Memorandum.

Paragraph 6 Status of this Memorandum

This Memorandum does not constitute a legally binding agreement and does not create rights and obligations on either Participant under domestic or international law.

Paragraph 7 Settlements of Disputes

Any dispute arising between the Participants concerning the interpretation or implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding will be settled amicably through mutual consultations between the Participants.

Paragraph 8 Final Provisions

This Memorandum comes into effect on the date of its signature.

No amendments or modifications to this Memorandum will be valid unless in writing and signed by duly authorized representatives of each of the Participants to this Memorandum.

This Memorandum has been drawn up in two equally authentic copies in the English language.

Signed at Bratislava on the 27th of September 2023

**For the Ministry
of Economy
of the Slovak Republic**

**For the Ministry
of Foreign Affairs and Trade
of Hungary**