

JOINT DECLARATION BETWEEN
THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND
THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC CONCERNING
INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION IN THE
ENERGY SECTOR

The Department of Commerce of the United States of America, and the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic, hereinafter together the “Participants,”

AFFIRMING both countries’ commitment to energy security and sustainability and to accelerating the transition to clean energy;

ACKNOWLEDGING the need to consider an appropriate mix of environmentally sustainable, safe and secure sources of energy, including nuclear power, to meet the needs of their respective countries’ populations;

RECOGNIZING the need to address challenges of growing energy needs facing both Participants' countries, as well as the broader international community, in a manner that contributes to reducing the harmful effects of greenhouse gases on climate;

ACKNOWLEDGING the critical role that the private sector can play in driving innovation, trade, and investment in clean technology; OBSERVING that both Participants’ countries are parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to the Convention on Nuclear Safety, and to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel and the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, and that both strongly support the safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), including the Additional Protocol;

NOTING that both Participants’ countries have a long history of partnership with strong economic and commercial ties and prospects of further expanding these ties, especially in the energy sector;

HAVING REGARD for the Agreement for Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy between the United States of America and the European Atomic Energy Community of November 7, 1995, and in particular to the scope of cooperation set out in Article 1 of that Agreement; and

RECOGNIZING both countries' role in the development of a safe and secure energy sector, nuclear power included,

HAVE REACHED THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDING:

1. The Participants intend to cooperate, subject to their respective countries' national laws, regulations and international commitments, and subject to the availability of funds and other resources, to:

Civil Nuclear Energy:

- a. encourage nuclear industry entities to seek opportunities to participate in the construction of nuclear power plants, including next generation nuclear technology, the provision of related supporting infrastructure and services, and the provision of maintenance supplies and services for the existing nuclear facilities portfolio;
- b. promote fair, open, and transparent tender procedures and award processes in the nuclear energy sector;
- c. advance the principle that contractual awards for the construction of nuclear power plants, and the provision of related parts and services for either new or existing nuclear power plants, should be based on the commercial, safety and technical merits of the different proposals and industrial partnerships;
- d. foster the continued development of reliable manufacturing supply chains to support the construction of new nuclear power plants and the provision of related supporting infrastructure and services;
- e. encourage nuclear industry and governmental entities to address key issues in the deployment of small modular reactors (SMRs) and advanced reactors, including technological readiness, regulatory frameworks, economics and financing, nuclear waste management, and public involvement;
- f. foster the cooperation in the diversification of nuclear fuel supplies for VVER nuclear reactors, with special attention to the issue of licensing of fuel supplied by alternative providers;
- g. promote international arrangements that would help future civil nuclear reactors deployed in the Participants' countries obtain access to reliable, comprehensive nuclear fuel cycle services;
- h. encourage the development of a safe and secure civil nuclear energy infrastructure, including research, training and human resource development, as well as appropriate application of civil nuclear energy and related energy technology, in accordance with evolving IAEA guidance and standards on infrastructure development.

Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG):

- i. foster the strengthening of the energy security of Slovakia, in particular by encouraging the facilitation of imports of LNG from reliable sources;
- j. explore the logistical and infrastructure needs to enable LNG imports and local production;

Renewable Energy and Hydrogen:

- k. explore the development of clean hydrogen production and hydrogen-related technologies;
- l. explore opportunities for cooperation in the commercial deployment of renewables and green hydrogen;
2. This *Joint Declaration* is intended to replace the 2012 *Joint Declaration* between the Department of Commerce of the United States of America and the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic.
3. Each Participant is expected to bear its own costs and any expenses related to its activities aiming at the realization of the provisions of this *Joint Declaration*.
4. The Participants do not intend to exchange any business confidential information in the course of the activities contemplated by this *Joint Declaration*.
5. This *Joint Declaration* is not legally binding and is not intended to give rise to any legal rights or obligations under domestic or international law.
6. Either Participant may cease cooperation under this *Joint Declaration*, but should endeavor to provide at least 30 days' advance written notice to the other Participant.
7. The Participants intend to commence this *Joint Declaration* on the date of signing and to continue for a period of five years.

Signed at Zagreb, Croatia, on _____

FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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FOR THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Karel Hirman

Deputy Secretary of Commerce

Minister of Economy