



# EU-US Global Security & Climate Change

## Policy Proposal

Team #2

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Word Count: 300

### Strategic Background

- **Climate Change:** Coal and LNG produce over 65% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Current energy sources produce a carbon dioxide concentration measuring 415.7 ppm globally.<sup>1</sup> Coal and LNG currently account for 60% of US energy production and 35% of EU energy production.<sup>2,3</sup> This increases the severity of global natural disasters and famine, impacting over 216 million lives.<sup>4</sup>
- **Global Security:** The EU increased Russian LNG imports by 12% despite attempts to reduce dependency.<sup>5</sup> As China controls 80-90% of manufacturing for alternative energy components, the US and EU cannot transition to alternative energy without substantially harming energy security and energy independence.<sup>6</sup>

### Policy Proposal: Small Modular Reactors (SMR)

#### Joint Research Committee



- Policy: Harmonize Nuclear Regulatory Commission's and the Directorate-General for Energy's standards, form a joint EU-US research committee aiming to develop SMR manufacturing capabilities, streamline waste management, and foster innovative SMR designs that recycle waste byproducts.
- Advantages: Creates regulatory consistency and accelerates approval process; removes logistical barriers hindering SMR tech development and installation; creates sustainable and responsible solutions for nuclear waste.

#### Implement SMRs



- Policy: Construct SMRs while prioritizing the replacement of current coal and natural gas power plants and placing them where nuclear plants cannot function.
- Advantages: Promotes energy security while advancing EU-US goal of net-zero emissions; strengthens domestic energy grids and reduces EU-US reliance on foreign rivals; provides developing countries with sustainable energy solutions that have low carbon footprints.

#### Manufacturing



- Policy: Create EU-US manufacturing supply chains for SMRs to provide jobs for the manufacturing class, allow direct, domestic oversight of the supply chains, prevent foreign influence, and prevent corporate abuse of developing countries' lack of climate and labor standards.
- Advantages: Creates jobs and prevents corporate abuse of climate/labor loopholes; join forces and focus on efficiency of supply chains; allows for domestic oversight and prevents foreign energy involvement.

<sup>1</sup> *Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Energy Data Explorer – Data Tools* (2020). International Energy Agency. <https://www.iea.org/data-and-statistics/data-tools/greenhouse-gas-emissions-from-energy-data-explorer>

<sup>2</sup> *Electricity generation, capacity, and sales in the United States*. (2022, Feb.) U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA). <https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/electricity/electricity-in-the-us-generation-capacity-and-sales.php>

<sup>3</sup> *Shedding light on energy in the EU: Where does our energy come from?* (2020). Eurostat. <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/infographs/energy/bloc-2a.html>

<sup>4</sup> Kurtzer, J., Larned, N. J., & Abdullah, H. F. *The Global Humanitarian Overview 2022: Climate, Gender, and Humanitarian Response*. CSIS. (2023, March 14). <https://www.csis.org/analysis/global-humanitarian-overview-2022-climate-gender-and-humanitarian-response>

<sup>5</sup> Kardaś, S. *Conscious uncoupling: Europeans' Russian gas challenge in 2023*. ECFR. (2023, February 13). <https://ecfr.eu/article/conscious-uncoupling-europeans-russian-gas-challenge-in-2023/>

<sup>6</sup> Hendrix, Cullen S. *The Senate's climate change agreement will not secure US solar supply chains from China*. (2022, July 29). PIIE. <https://www.piiie.com/blogs/realtime-economic-issues-watch/senates-climate-change-agreement-will-not-secure-us-solar>

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