

**Question for written answer E-002604/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Mongolia as a missed opportunity and potential critical raw materials trade partner for the EU

Mongolia is a beneficiary country of the EU Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP+), which supports vulnerable developing countries that have ratified 27 international conventions on human rights, labour rights, environmental protection and climate change, and good governance¹. Thanks to GSP+, Mongolia is being monitored, including through exchanges of information, dialogue and visits, making it a reliable partner.

Even though the country is geographically remote, it is a resource-rich state with which it is possible to forge a critical raw materials partnership that will benefit the EU and reduce dependency on China². Moreover, critical raw materials are indispensable for the EU economy and for a wide range of technologies that are necessary for strategic sectors, such as renewable energy, digital, aerospace and defence³.

1. Why is the Commission blocking the opportunity to start an EU-Mongolia partnership focused on trade in critical raw materials?
2. How does the Commission view the schedule for the conclusion of a potential partnership?
3. Mongolia has a fairly open trade regime that is heavily concentrated on China and Russia⁴. What will the Commission do to encourage an increase in EU-Mongolia trade, especially in the critical raw materials market?

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¹ https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/development-and-sustainability/generalised-scheme-preferences_en.

² [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2024/762379/EPRS_BRI\(2024\)762379_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2024/762379/EPRS_BRI(2024)762379_EN.pdf).

³ https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/raw-materials/areas-specific-interest/critical-raw-materials/critical-raw-materials-act_en.

⁴ [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2024/762379/EPRS_BRI\(2024\)762379_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2024/762379/EPRS_BRI(2024)762379_EN.pdf).