

Question for written answer E-003577/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: EU strategy on access to critical raw materials and limiting dependence on China

The EU is increasingly recognising that access to key raw materials is a strategic economic and geopolitical priority, in accordance with the EU strategy on critical raw materials and the proposed European Critical Raw Materials Act.

Currently, the EU significantly depends on imports of critical raw materials – such as rare earth elements, lithium, cobalt, graphite and magnesium – from third countries, particularly from the People's Republic of China, which controls 60–90 % of the global processing of some of these materials. This structural dependence threatens the security of supply chains in sectors such as e-mobility, renewables, the defence industry and advanced digital technologies.

Despite announcements on diversifying supply, accelerating investments in extraction and recycling, and forging strategic partnerships with third countries, actions so far have been limited and fragmented, and have not created sufficient independence from China's domination of the sector.

1. What specific steps will the Commission take to accelerate the exploitation of critical raw material deposits in EU Member States such as Poland, Finland, Sweden and Spain?
2. Is the Commission planning to create derogation mechanisms to accelerate environmental and administrative procedures that are currently blocking investments in raw material extraction in the EU?
3. Is the Commission considering the mandatory introduction of an EU-wide critical raw materials reserve, like those already in place for gas and crude oil?

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