

Question for written answer E-004320/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Michał Dworczyk (ECR)

Subject: The dependence of Member States' defence industries on imports of critical raw materials

The Commission's proposals on the defence industry¹ underline the EU's ambition to achieve full industrial and technological self-sufficiency in the field of defence by 2030. The Commission places emphasis on the financing of European projects, the transfer of design rights and intellectual property to Member States and reducing dependence on allies outside the Union – even though it is precisely these allies, especially after the outbreak of full-scale war, who played a key role in the rapid rebuilding of the defence capabilities of many Member States, especially on the EU's eastern flank.

At the same time, in the 'Defence Readiness Roadmap 2030', the Commission acknowledges that defence production depends on access to critical raw materials and that European industry is facing 'strategic dependences and bottlenecks' in this area. This situation is exacerbated by China's decision in October to impose export restrictions on rare earth elements.

Such a policy raises doubts about the coherence of the EU's strategy. By pushing for 'strategic autonomy', which may be perceived negatively by our allies, the EU maintains an actual dependence on raw materials controlled by a third country which NATO describes as a strategic rival.

1. What specific measures is the Commission taking to end the EU's dependence on supplies of rare earth minerals and other critical raw materials from China and to diversify its sources of supply?
2. Does the Commission plan to strengthen strategic partnerships with countries that have deposits of critical raw materials, such as Canada, Australia and Kazakhstan, in order to bolster the resilience of the European defence sector?

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¹ Defence Readiness Roadmap 2030, Security Action for Europe (SAFE), European Defence Industry Programme (EDIP) and the Defence Readiness Omnibus