

**Question for written answer E-003636/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Mathilde Androuët (PfE)

Subject: Protecting the capacity of France and the rest of Europe to process critical raw materials

A study published in July 2026 by the European Parliament¹ highlights that the West's main vulnerability in the area of critical raw materials is not so much extraction as refining and midstream processing. It estimates that China controls around 90 % of rare earth refining and 74 % of lithium refining, while European support schemes remain far below those in the US.

Meanwhile, French manufacturers face high energy prices, long approval periods and competition from imported products benefiting from foreign subsidies or lower standards.

In view of the above:

1. What specific measures will the Commission propose to boost the capacity of France and the rest of Europe to refine and process critical raw materials?
2. Does it plan to introduce mandatory criteria for European products in public procurement and support schemes?
3. How will it ensure that any European stocks remain accessible as a matter of priority to the industries of the Member State that financed them?

Submitted: 11.9.2026

¹

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2026/786415/ECTI_STU\(2026\)786415_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2026/786415/ECTI_STU(2026)786415_EN.pdf)