

EN

E-002980/2024

Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(21.3.2025)

1. Yes, the Commission has been made aware of this. The EU policy on critical raw materials¹ aims to ensure a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials while not weakening the environmental and social rules. Projects should be planned and implemented covering all aspects of sustainability highlighted in the publication 'EU principles for sustainable raw materials'². The environmental effects of projects covering mining activities have to be duly assessed in accordance with EU requirements as the Habitats Directive³ or the Water Framework Directive⁴. In view of the Commission's powers as guardian of the Treaties, it will make every effort to ensure that the environmental and social standards set are respected.

2. The supply of primary antimony is heavily concentrated in a few countries. Therefore, recycling plays a crucial role to ensure secure and sustainable supply of antimony. Secondary antimony is mainly recovered from lead-acid batteries and to a lesser extent from polymers⁵. The Commission aims to increase such recycling efforts by setting the right legal framework in the critical raw materials, waste and product legislation but also by funding several projects to develop innovative antimony recovery processes⁶.

According to the Extractive Waste Directive⁷, operators of extractive waste facilities draw up a waste management plan, which have the objective to encourage the recovery of extractive waste by means of recycling, reusing or reclaiming such waste in accordance with the existing environmental standards.

¹ https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/raw-materials/areas-specific-interest/critical-raw-materials_en

² <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/6d541f66-0f81-11ec-9151-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

³ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7–50.

⁴ Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy, OJ L 327, 22.12.2000, p. 1.

⁵ Raw Materials Information System (RMIS) - <https://rmis.jrc.ec.europa.eu/rmp/Antimony>

⁶ Project Close WEEE – CORDIS - <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/641747>

Project PLAST2bCLEANED – CORDIS - <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/821087>

Project NONTOX – CORDIS - <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/820895/results>

Project Stibiox – CORDIS - <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/824871>

⁷ Directive 2006/21/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2006 on the management of waste from extractive industries and amending Directive 2004/35/EC - Statement by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission, OJ L 102, 11.4.2006, p. 15–34.