

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001756/25
to the Commission
Barbara Bonte (Pfe)
(30 April 2025)**

Subject: Raw materials deal between the UK and Ukraine

It would appear that not only the United States is showing great interest in Ukrainian critical minerals. In January, the UK reportedly signed a 100-year partnership agreement with Ukraine for the mining of critical minerals and rare earths.

These are raw materials which are essential in many high-tech sectors and it would be nothing short of a defeat for the EU should Ukraine, despite all the EU's support in the war with Russia, choose non-EU partners for the mining concessions. Such a move would probably weigh heavily on the Union's strategic autonomy and technological innovation capacity for many decades to come.

1. At what point was the Commission informed of the agreement between Ukraine and the UK on critical raw materials?
2. Was the Commission aware of the deal between the UK and Ukraine before January 2025?
3. How does the Commission see the Union's strategic autonomy/innovation capacity evolving in the light of such raw-materials deals concluded by non-EU countries?

Submitted: 30.4.2025

**Answer given by Ms Kos on behalf of the European Commission
(29 July 2025)**

The Commission is not aware of a dedicated agreement on critical raw materials (CRM) between the United Kingdom and Ukraine. The 'One Hundred Year Partnership Agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Ukraine', signed on 16 January 2025, does not contain any specific provisions on CRM.

While the accompanying 'UK-Ukraine 100 Year Partnership Declaration', published on 17 January 2025, makes a general reference to the United Kingdom as a partner for Ukraine's critical minerals strategy, the agreement itself does not include binding or operational commitments in this area.

The Commission is monitoring the raw materials sector in candidate countries and globally with the aim to support the EU's strategic autonomy and innovation, and is exploring opportunities to diversify supply chains, and support research and development.

In this regard, in 2021, the EU and Ukraine established a strategic partnership in the CRM area, aiming to enhance the security and diversification of essential CRM supply chains.

This collaboration highlights the EU's commitment to ensuring a stable and sustainable supply of CRM resources, with Ukraine playing a key role in supporting the EU's objectives of sustainable growth, energy security and environmental protection.
