

EN

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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné
on behalf of the European Commission
(9.12.2025)

The European Critical Raw Materials Act¹ includes several provisions to increase the exploitation of critical raw materials within the EU. Member States have prepared national exploration programmes that will increase the available information on critical raw materials deposits. Additionally, selected strategic projects across the EU (two in Poland, three in Sweden, six in Finland and seven in Spain)² benefit from streamlined and predictable permitting procedures and support in gaining access to finance.

The Commission, together with Member States, are working for the effective implementation of the provisions related to streamlining the permit-granting process of strategic raw materials projects while maintaining the relevant environmental standards³.

The stockpiling sub-group of the EU Critical Raw Materials Board, formed by the Commission and the Member States, is working on the reporting and coordination of stocks of strategic raw materials⁴. This work will feed into the European Critical Raw Materials Centre, announced for 2026, which will focus on the joint purchasing of raw materials, coordination of strategic stockpiles, supply chain monitoring and the design of financial products to invest in upstream supply in the EU and third countries⁵.

On 25 October 2025, the Commission President announced the upcoming RESourceEU plan, with the aim of stepping up the efforts and accelerating the achievement of EU critical raw material objectives⁶. It will focus on diversification, joint purchasing, stockpiling, boosting investment in strategic projects, reinforcing the EU circular economy⁷ and the recycling of critical raw materials.

¹ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L_202401252.

² https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/raw-materials/areas-specific-interest/critical-raw-materials/strategic-projects-under-crma/selected-projects_en.

³ Articles 11 and 12 of Regulation 2024/1252.

⁴ Articles 22 and 23 of Regulation 2024/1252.

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0085>.

⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/speech_25_2515.

⁷ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0030>.