

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004787/25
to the Commission
Jan Farský (PPE)
(3 December 2025)**

Subject: Commission response to recent Chinese export restrictions on critical raw materials

China has recently introduced or announced a series of export restrictions on critical raw materials, including, *inter alia*, rare earths and other inputs essential for the production of semiconductors, batteries, renewable energy technologies and defence applications. These measures risk aggravating existing supply bottlenecks, undermining the EU's industrial competitiveness, and jeopardising the objectives of the Green Deal and the digital and security transitions.

In this context:

1. How does the Commission assess the compatibility of these Chinese export restrictions with World Trade Organisation rules, and is it considering launching consultations or dispute settlement proceedings, either alone or in coordination with like-minded partners?
2. What immediate steps is the Commission taking to secure alternative supply routes and to accelerate the diversification of EU imports of critical raw materials, including through the implementation of the Critical Raw Materials Act ⁽¹⁾, strategic partnerships with third countries, and support for domestic extraction, processing and recycling in the EU?
3. Does the Commission intend to propose additional trade defence, industrial or research and innovation measures to mitigate the impact of these restrictions on key European value chains, in particular those related to clean energy, advanced manufacturing and security and defence, and if so, on what timeline?

Submitted: 3.12.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission
(10 February 2026)**

The Commission is concerned by China's use of export controls targeting rare earths and other critical raw materials (CRMs). These export controls, notably those introduced in April 2025 on rare earths and permanent magnets, have in the past six months led to disruptions for EU and global supply chains.

The Commission is in constant dialogue with the Chinese authorities to restore stability and predictability to EU industry. The Commission maintains that these measures lack a solid security justification and are incompatible with the international practice of export controls.

The Commission raised its concerns on the broad scope of the measures, including at the World Trade Organisation's Council on Trade in Goods. The Commission continues to analyse the measures and keeps all options open.

Building on the CRM Act ⁽¹⁾, the Commission adopted the RESourceEU Action Plan ⁽²⁾ on 3 December 2025 to secure access to CRMs for the EU industry.

The action plan seeks to accelerate the deployment of CRMs projects, with EUR 3 billion of EU funds mobilised. Under Horizon Europe ⁽³⁾, close to EUR 600 million will be dedicated to supporting RESourceEU objectives through research and innovation for 2026-2027. Chinese entities are ineligible to participate in these activities.

The action plan also aims to support circularity of CRMs, notably by increasing access to rare earth scrap. Furthermore, the Commission will work to facilitate a steady supply of critical raw materials to EU industries through rapidly deploying the instruments at its disposal (e.g. the Anti-Coercion Instrument) in cases when a third country restricts the supplies of critical raw materials to the EU, conditioning access to the Single Market.

To protect EU value chains against non-market practices, the Commission will deploy a robust policy approach containing trade instruments.

¹ OJ L, 2024/1252, 3.5.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1252/oj>.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02024R1252-20240503>.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0945>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02021R0695-20240301>.

In 2026, an EU CRM Centre will be operational and responsible for financing, joint purchasing, stockpiling and monitoring activities. The Commission will also operationalise its CRM partnerships through a projects-based approach.
