

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000115/26
to the Commission
Emma Fourreau (The Left)
(13 January 2026)**

Subject: Dumping at sea and involving the Sámi people in EU decision-making

The Nussir copper mine project in Norway, which is being challenged by the Saami communities and many environmental organisations, will see millions of tonnes of mining waste dumped into the Repparfjord fjord through discharges into the sea, a practice widely banned around the world and denounced within the European Union ⁽¹⁾. The EU is funding this project under the Critical Raw Materials Act, which designates it as a strategic project ⁽²⁾.

Moreover, the Sámi Indigenous Summit of 10 December 2025 highlighted the need to improve communication and involve Sámi communities more closely in the work being carried out. Allowing them to participate in the European decision-making process would ensure enhanced democratic representation and a better understanding of the local situation in Sápmi ⁽³⁾.

1. Will the Commission denounce and withhold funding from projects involving discharges into the sea in order to fulfil its environmental commitments?
2. Will it initiate a specific legislative process to include the Sámi people in EU decision-making procedures?

Submitted: 13.1.2026

**Question for written answer E-000116/26
to the Commission
Emma Fourreau (The Left)
(13 January 2026)**

Subject: Financing of Critical Raw Materials Act in Sápmi and copper substitutes

The Critical Raw Materials Act, which entered into force on 23 May 2024, classes the Nussir copper mine as a strategic project ⁽¹⁾. It is partly financed by the EU. Although the RESourceEU Action Plan was published on 3 December 2025 ⁽²⁾, a year and a half after the Critical Raw Materials Act entered into force, to date there have been no details nor any transparency concerning the financing of the projects.

This situation raises concerns as to the EU's choices and guidelines when it comes to access to information on various projects and the selection of so-called strategic projects, in particular with regard to their environmental impact, such as that of the Nussir copper mine.

1. How much EU funding is estimated to be spent annually on supporting each of the projects under the Critical Raw Materials Act, including those outside EU territory?
2. Does the Commission intend to seek sustainable and less restrictive solutions for replacing copper, a pollutant that is toxic for the environment and local populations?

Submitted: 13.1.2026

**Joint answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission
(16 March 2026)**

Under the Critical Raw Materials Act ⁽¹⁾ (CRMA), the Commission can recognise certain projects as Strategic Projects. This assessment does not result in automatic funding being granted from the EU and does not result in a permitting decision.

Permitting remains a competence of authorities in the countries concerned following EU and national legislation, including public consultations, according to national rules.

¹ <https://www.eca.europa.eu/en/publications/sr-2025-06>.

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 <https://www.saamicouncil.net/en/euu>

¹ https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/raw-materials/areas-specific-interest/critical-raw-materials/strategic-projects-under-crma/selected-projects_en

² https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_2891

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

Under Article 7(j) of the CRMA, Strategic Projects that potentially affect indigenous peoples should contain a plan containing measures dedicated to a meaningful consultation of indigenous peoples and measures to address the outcome of such consultation. The Nussir project application included relevant information on these aspects.

The Commission understands that competent authorities in Norway granted the necessary permits to the Nussir project, following an assessment based on applicable procedures.

Projects can also focus on substitution of strategic raw materials. The Commission invites stakeholders to submit such proposals. Under the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026-2027, the Commission will devote EUR 36 million for a topic on research and innovation projects focusing on substitution of strategic and critical raw materials under the topic HORIZON-CL4-2027-01-MAT-PROD-22 ⁽²⁾.

The Commission regularly engages with Sámi communities, notably through the ‘Filling the EU-Sápmi knowledge gaps’ project funded under Interreg ⁽³⁾ with around EUR 1 million budget.

This initiative aims to enhance understanding and exchange of experience regarding the impact of EU laws on Sámi peoples and to have a stronger voice within the EU, including through Sámi weeks organised in Brussels or the Sámi-EU strategy.

⁽²⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2026-2027/wp-7-digital-industry-and-space_horizon-2026-2027_en.pdf.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32021R1059>.