

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000471/26
to the Commission
Jordan Bardella (Pfe)
(5 February 2026)**

Subject: Court of Auditors report on the EU's supply of critical metals

According to a recent report by the European Court of Auditors (ECA), the European Union remains heavily dependent on a very limited number of third countries for critical raw materials essential for implementation of the Green Deal (lithium, nickel, copper and rare earths). Despite the adoption in 2024 of the Critical Raw Materials Act, the ECA's auditors note a lack of tangible results, extremely low recycling rates, little progress in European extraction projects and a lack of industrial processing capacity notably owing to high energy costs.

1. Against this backdrop, how can the Commission justify pursuing ever more stringent climate targets without first securing strategic supply chains, thus running the risk of increasing external dependence, undermining European industrial competitiveness and transferring environmental impacts outside the EU?
2. What immediate corrective measures does it intend to take to prevent the Green Deal from resulting, in practice, in a loss of strategic autonomy and increased geopolitical vulnerability for the EU?

Submitted: 5.2.2026

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

The Commission fully recognises the strategic importance of securing resilient supply chains for critical raw materials. Supply security and climate ambition are mutually reinforcing.

A competitive, resilient and decarbonised industry requires access to robust and diversified value chains. For this reason, the EU has accelerated implementation of the Critical Raw Materials Act ⁽¹⁾ (CRMA) and adopted the RESourceEU Action Plan ⁽²⁾.

These initiatives directly contribute to addressing some of the challenges identified by the Court of Auditors, such as financing gaps, lengthy permitting procedures and limited processing capacity.

The Commission has already identified 60 strategic projects, and concrete implementation to deploy these projects and strengthen international partnerships is ongoing.

Measures to boost recycling and circularity also contribute to further reduce structural dependency. For instance, the Commission will propose targeted measures to retain certain types of scrap in the EU to support critical raw materials recycling capacity of the EU.

Minimum shares of secondary materials in products, set by the CRMA and the Battery Regulation ⁽³⁾, are also a leverage to promote uptake of secondary raw materials.

By integrating climate, industrial and raw materials policies, the EU is reducing external dependencies, including on fossil fuel, while reinforcing competitiveness and long-term resilience. To this objective, the Commission plans to adopt a Circular Economy Act for the third quarter of 2026.

The Act will help create a single market for secondary raw materials, by among others fostering the recovery of CRMs from waste.

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

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=COM:2025:945:FIN>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02023R1542-20250731>.