

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000513/26
to the Commission
Mihai Tudose (S&D)
(9 February 2026)**

Subject: EU supplies of critical raw materials

I would invite the Commission not to take lightly the conclusions of the European Court of Auditors' report on critical raw materials. What concrete solutions does the Commission have in mind to remedy the supply problems being reported and how does it propose to rectify recycling and domestic production bottlenecks?

The Court of Auditors draws specific attention to import diversification not producing tangible results, bottlenecks hindering domestic production and recycling still being in its infancy.

All the talk of strategic autonomy, competitiveness and decarbonisation of the energy sector will be in vain if we fail to overcome the chronic dependence on third countries.

1. How it possible for imports to have fallen over the past five years, for half of the raw materials examined in the Court's report, precisely from the 14 countries with which the EU concluded strategic partnerships during that period?
2. Furthermore, how will the Commission respond to the Court's observation that EU targets do not incentivise recycling because they are not specific to individual raw materials? The audit shows that out of 26 materials needed for the energy transition, ten are not recycled at all in the EU and seven have merely symbolic recycling rates — far from the target of 25% of EU consumption coming from recycled sources by 2030.

Submitted: 9.2.2026

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

Access to critical raw materials remains exposed to trade distortions, market volatility and geopolitical developments beyond the EU's control.

This is why the EU pursues a comprehensive approach combining boosting domestic production, promoting diversification of supply, circularity and increasing international cooperation.

In this context, strategic partnerships are long-term framework instruments. They are designed to de-risk investment, improve governance and unlock projects along the value chain. Short-term bilateral trade fluctuations are therefore not always a reliable measure of their performance.

On recycling, the Commission recognises the need to strengthen circularity of critical raw materials, in line with the Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA) ⁽¹⁾'s 25% recycling benchmark.

To achieve it, the Commission already recognised 60 Strategic Projects, 10 of them are recycling projects, while RESourceEU ⁽²⁾ announced measures to boost investment in those projects while retaining strategic scrap in the EU.

The Commission also proposed amending the CRMA to advance circularity by including pre-consumer waste in recycling measures expanding labelling requirements for recyclability. Lastly, the forthcoming Circular Economy Act will further strengthen secondary raw material markets.

⁽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>.