

EN

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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné
on behalf of the European Commission
(1.4.2026)

The second selection round of Strategic Projects under the Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA)¹ is currently ongoing. The assessment will be conducted with the help of external experts and in consultation with the CRM Board. The Commission cannot comment on whether projects have applied and cannot prejudice possible outcomes of the assessment.

With regards to the sustainability selection criterion, the Commission conducts an overall assessment of a project's compliance with relevant EU or national law, taking into account the location of the project.

Without prejudice to the Commission's role as guardian of the Treaties, Member States are primarily responsible to ensure compliance with EU law, including conducting environmental assessments where required². Under Article 6(3) of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC³ and applicable also to the Directive 2009/147/EC⁴, any project likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site.

In accordance with Directive 2011/92/EU⁵, if a Member State is aware that a project is likely to have significant effects on the environment in another Member State or where a Member State likely to be significantly affected requests, transboundary consultations shall be carried out before authorization of the project.

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

² In accordance with Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds and/or Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:01992L0043-20250714>.

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02009L0147-20190626>.

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02011L0092-20140515>.