

(English version)

Question for written answer E-001028/26
to the Commission
Dan-Ștefan Motreanu (PPE)
(11 March 2026)

Subject: Critical raw materials

A recent report by the European Court of Auditors (ECA) warns that the EU is unlikely to secure a stable supply of critical raw materials by 2030, despite the adoption of the Critical Raw Materials Act in 2024. According to the ECA, EU efforts to diversify imports have produced limited tangible results, domestic extraction faces persistent obstacles and recycling remains in its early stages.

Of the 26 materials needed for the energy transition, the EU is fully dependent on imports for 10. In a small number of third countries, supply chains remain highly concentrated, exceeding the 65% dependency threshold set for 2030. Although 14 strategic partnerships have been signed, imports from partner countries decreased in many cases between 2020 and 2024.

Recycling targets also appear out of reach: several materials have recycling rates of below 5% and many are not recycled at all. Meanwhile, mining projects can take up to 20 years to become operational, casting doubt on the objective of achieving 10% domestic extraction.

In light of these findings, what additional measures does the Commission intend to propose to ensure that the 2030 targets on diversification, recycling and domestic extraction can be realistically achieved?

Submitted: 11.3.2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission
(2 June 2026)

The Commission welcomed the observations of the European Court of Auditors (ECA), which recognised the growing strategic importance of critical raw materials and the progress achieved so far in developing an integrated policy response in this area.

The Commission is actively addressing the challenges identified by the Court by accelerating the implementation of the Critical Raw Materials Act ⁽¹⁾ (CRMA), which entered into force only two years ago, and through the RESourceEU Action Plan ⁽²⁾, which was not covered by the ECA's analysis.

Both the CRMA and the action plan will help achieving the ambitious benchmarks for extraction processing and recycling. The Commission is acting on permitting acceleration, strategic project designation, access to financing instruments and diversification partnerships. Together, these elements create the conditions for investment decisions and production to materialise.

RESourceEU fast-tracks delivery of the EU raw materials strategy by directly supporting strategic projects in batteries, rare earths and defence value chains, with the objective to cut single-supplier dependencies by up to 50% by 2029. The EU, as part of Team Europe ⁽³⁾, is mobilising EUR 3 billion to support these value chains.

So far, Team Europe has already committed EUR 1.5 billion in support for strategic projects. This includes equity, loans and grants, from the European Investment Bank, Member State and EU funds.

The action plan also announces the establishment of a European CRMs Centre with the mandate to help securing access to CRMs for the European industry.

Strategic partnerships with resource rich countries are designed to de-risk investment and projects along the value chain.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1252/2024-05-03/eng>.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025DC0945&qid=1774448105138>.

⁽³⁾ https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/policies/team-europe-initiatives_en.