

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001200/26
to the Commission
Mathilde Androuët (Pfe)
(23 March 2026)**

Subject: Critical raw materials — centralised technocratic steering or Member States' industrial sovereignty?

The European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 04/2026 notes a fragmentation of funding (over EUR 1.8 billion mobilised), a lack of consolidated monitoring and limited results in terms of effectively securing flows.

It also highlights major internal obstacles: the slowness of permitting procedures, regulatory obstacles, high energy costs and limited processing capacity.

Can the Commission state:

1. what consolidated amount, per material and per programme, has produced effectively secured volumes since 2021?
2. what specific measures are planned to remove the regulatory bottlenecks identified, in particular with regard to mining and industrial permits?
3. how it ensures that the Critical Raw Materials Act fully respects the principle of subsidiarity and does not lead to a technocratic recentralisation of Member States' industrial choices?

Submitted: 23.3.2026

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Mathilde Androuët (Pfe)
(23 March 2026)**

Subject: Green Deal and critical raw materials — a green transition built on greater strategic dependence?

The European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 04/2026 shows that the EU's critical raw materials policy is based on fragile data, non-binding targets for 2030 and continuous dependence — sometimes over 90% — on a single third country.

At the same time, the Green Deal and EU climate goals are driving up demand for those materials in a structural manner.

In view of this:

1. On the basis of transparent numerical analyses, how can the Commission explain that the 2030 objectives of the Critical Raw Materials Act will actually reduce strategic dependence, material by material?
2. What scenarios have been studied in the event that dominant countries, particularly China, place restrictions on exports?
3. How does the Commission square the acceleration of climate targets with the current lack of sufficient industrial and mining security in the EU?

Submitted: 23.3.2026

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

The Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA) ⁽¹⁾ establishes benchmarks for 2030 that give clear indications towards reducing and avoiding excessive dependencies.

The ResourceEU Action Plan ⁽²⁾ aims to accelerate the implementation of the CRMA, especially for strategic projects. Most strategic projects will deliver supply by 2030, significantly strengthening the EU's medium- and long-term resilience ⁽³⁾.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02024R1252-20240503#tocId90>.

⁽²⁾ https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/document/download/01c448d6-dc93-40d7-9afe-4c2af448d00c_en.

⁽³⁾ https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/raw-materials/areas-specific-interest/critical-raw-materials/strategic-projects-under-crma/selected-projects_en.

The Commission regularly collects data on global production, trade and usage of raw materials. This forms the basis of the EU's list of critical raw materials, enables the Commission to analyse the EU's dependencies and promote risk mitigation strategies. In the CRMA, this is further enhanced by stress-testing of strategic raw materials value chains.

To address current bottlenecks in the project development, the CRMA put in place single points of contact for permitting of critical raw materials projects and fast-tracked permitting timelines for strategic projects.

Other enabling conditions for strategic projects include facilitation of access to finance and the support in finding off-takers. The REsourceEU Action Plan also announced the mobilisation of EUR 3 billion of EU funds within 12 months to support the raw materials value chain, of which EUR 300 million is dedicated under the Battery Booster ⁽⁴⁾.

The subsidiarity principle is ensured by coordination of actions at EU level through the Critical Raw Materials Board established by the CRMA. The Board consists of the Commission, Member States representatives and the European Parliament as an observer.

The funding instruments in question are not designed to secure volumes of raw materials. Their role is, for example, to develop new technological solutions and support decarbonisation measures.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/circabc-ewpp/d/d/workspace/SpacesStore/c1e2c753-e327-4d9f-b060-56ab4af2a754/download>.