

(English version)

Question for written answer E-001224/26
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Vicent Marzà Ibáñez (Verts/ALE)
(24 March 2026)

Subject: Europe's direct diplomacy with Iran to protect the supply of critical raw materials

In the European Council conclusions of March 2026, the EU makes a commitment to 'contribute to de-escalation' and 'to all diplomatic efforts' in order to 'bring about a lasting solution to end the hostilities', so as to 'ensure maritime security and respect for the freedom of navigation' in the Strait of Hormuz.

Given the EU's reliance on the strait for more than 10% of strategic imports such as aluminium, steel and certain hydrocarbons ⁽¹⁾:

1. How is the EEAS engaging in direct diplomacy with Iran to restore the trade routes of EU-flagged and EU-bound vessels carrying critical raw materials for EU industry?
2. How is the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy coordinating with the Member States so that, as a result of that diplomacy, an illegal war the EU is not part of has as small an impact as possible on our economic interests and price stability?

Submitted: 24.3.2026

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(22 May 2026)

Developments in Iran and the wider region threaten regional and global security. The EU has called for de-escalation, the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure and full respect of international law by all parties, free and safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz, in line with international law, as reflected in United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos).

The EU welcomes the ceasefire agreed by the United States and Iran. Now is the time to design a comprehensive strategy for lasting peace across the entire Middle East.

The EU will contribute to all diplomatic efforts in this endeavour, taking into consideration its full range of interests and concerns, in coordination with partners.

The EU remains committed to contributing to safeguarding freedom of navigation and the security of global maritime trade routes, including through Operation EUNAVFOR ASPIDES ⁽¹⁾.

The High Representative/Vice-President invited Member States to provide more assets to reinforce the Operation. The EU has reached the political agreement to widen the Iran sanctions framework to also be able to target those responsible for a possible prolonged closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

In parallel, the EU is implementing policies to boost the domestic production of critical raw materials (such as the Critical Raw Materials Act ⁽²⁾ and the RESourceEU Action Plan ⁽³⁾), foster access to secondary raw materials through circularity measures (including the upcoming Circular Economy Act), and to diversify its supply with trusted partners, notably via the 16 partnerships it has signed on critical raw materials.

Those measures aim to increase the EU's economic security and the resilience of its industry against external geoeconomic developments.

¹ https://www.ifo.de/DocDL/EconPol_PolicyBrief-81.pdf.

⁽¹⁾ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eunavfor-aspiden_en?s=410381.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EU) 2024/1252, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1252/oj>.

⁽³⁾ COM(2025) 945 final, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025DC0945&qid=1756987182843>.