

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002336/26
to the Commission
Alvise Pérez (NI)
(8 June 2026)**

Subject: Spanish bureaucratic obstacles to critical minerals and European industrial autonomy

The Critical Raw Materials Act ⁽¹⁾ sets targets for industrial self-sufficiency in critical raw materials by 2030. These include extracting at least 10% of annual consumption of strategic raw materials within the EU, processing 40% of strategic raw materials in the EU, and reducing dependence on any single non-EU country to below 65%. The Commission has identified strategic projects in Spain in Extremadura, Galicia, Andalusia and Castile-La Mancha for lithium, copper, nickel, cobalt and tungsten extraction.

However, Spain remains hamstrung by a Mining Act dating from 1973, more than half a century old, with slow authorisation processes, administrative opposition and a ‘no to everything’ culture that deters private investment. Deposits in Jaén, Cáceres, Ciudad Real and other regions could bolster European industry, defence, the automotive sector, permanent magnets and the value chain for neodymium, monazite, tungsten, copper and strontium. Added to this is the Spanish ban on new concessions for radioactive minerals, including uranium, despite their strategic importance. The answer cannot be to create inefficient state-owned mining companies, but rather to unlock private investment under clear rules, binding deadlines and legal certainty.

1. Does the Commission consider that Spain is properly applying the deadlines and operating one-stop shops (single points of contact) as provided for in the Critical Raw Materials Act?
2. Will the Commission assess whether Spanish regulations are hindering European objectives of strategic autonomy?
3. Will the Commission support pro-investment reforms over inefficient state-run models?

Submitted: 8.6.2026

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

Spain has nominated single points of contact (SPOCs) for permitting as set out in the Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA) ⁽¹⁾ at a regional level ⁽²⁾.

The Commission is aware of ongoing collaboration between the SPOCs and the designated strategic projects in Spain. For extraction projects, the permitting timeline for strategic projects are 27 months from the acknowledgment of completeness of the permit applications.

For already ongoing permit-granting procedures the timeline is 24 months. Since the first strategic projects were designated on 25 March 2025, this deadline has not yet been reached.

Potential regulatory changes at national or regional level to ensure the meeting of the objectives and legal requirements under the CRMA are to be assessed at the respective governance level.

As outlined in the RESourceEU Action Plan ⁽³⁾ the Commission, Member States and public and private financial institutions are already engaged to support strategic projects and other priority raw material projects.

The Commission is actively working with Member States and financial institutions to ensure the required framework for de-risking investments in the sector for which public-private collaboration is required.

Fostering the development of a European critical raw material value chain also requires sufficient private capital from within the EU.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2024/1252 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 establishing a framework for ensuring a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials (ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1252/oj>).

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

⁽²⁾ <https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/energia/mineria-explivos/materias-primas-fundamentales/puntos-de-contacto-unicos/castilla-la-mancha.html>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025DC0945>.