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E-002549/2026

Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(28.8.2026)

The Commission is not aware of the plans referred to by the Honourable Member.

Under the principle of subsidiarity¹, spatial planning and land-use management are in principle within the remit of Member States. EU law establishes a harmonised framework of ex-ante procedural obligations to identify and evaluate the environmental and public health risks of projects such as the one in question. These assessment requirements are governed inter alia by the Environmental Impact Assessment², Extractive Waste³ and Water Framework⁴ Directives, which Member States may implement via a joint or coordinated procedure. Furthermore, national authorities must guarantee public participation and ensure that the public concerned has access to a review procedure to challenge the substantive or procedural legality of any development consent granted in breach of these obligations.

The Commission is committed to fostering sustainable and resilient raw material value chains for strategic sectors. The Critical Raw Materials Act⁵ introduces projects which are designated as strategic projects by the Commission. To be designated as strategic project, projects have to fulfil environmental, social and governance aspects. This includes the prevention and minimisation of socially adverse impacts using socially responsible practices. The Commission notes that, according to the available information, the project referred to by the Honourable Member has not been designated as strategic under the Critical Raw Materials Act⁶.

¹ Enshrined in Article 5(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

² Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment. OJ L 26, 28.1.2012, p. 1–21, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU of 16 April 2014 - OJ L 124, 25.4.2014, p. 1–18. Point 2 a) of Annex II of the EIA Directive refers to ‘Open-cast mining’.

³ Directive 2006/21/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2006 on the management of waste from extractive industries and amending Directive 2004/35/EC - Statement by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission, OJ L 102, 11.4.2006, p. 15–34.

⁴ Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy - OJ L 327, 22.12.2000, pp. 1–73.

⁵ 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 and amending Regulations (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1724 and (EU) 2019/1020 (Text with EEA relevance) - OJ L, 2024/1252, 3.5.2024.

⁶ 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, OJ L, 2024/1252, 3.5.2024.