

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002606/26
to the Commission
Dan-Ștefan Motreanu (PPE)
(24 June 2026)**

Subject: Addressing barriers to the recycling of critical raw materials

In order to address Europe's import dependency on critical raw materials, the Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA) mandated that at least 25% of the EU's strategic raw materials should be sourced from recycled resources by 2030. Nonetheless, 7 out of the 26 materials required for the green transition have recycling rates of between 1% and 5%, while 10 of those materials are not recycled at all. Additionally, overly broad recycling targets fail to incentivise the recovery of harder-to-extract materials, while high processing costs continue to undermine the competitiveness of European recyclers.

In the light of this:

Does the Commission plan to introduce material-specific recycling targets or incentives for particularly strategic and hard-to-recover materials, such as rare earth elements?

Submitted: 24.6.2026

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

The Critical Raw Materials Act ⁽¹⁾ (CRMA) addresses the importance of significantly increasing the recycling of strategic raw materials in the EU through both an overall recycling-capacity benchmark and more targeted measures.

By 2030, the EU's recycling capacity should be able to produce at least 25% of the EU's annual consumption of strategic raw materials, while also ensuring a significant increase in the amounts of each strategic raw material recycled from waste. This objective will be further supported by the forthcoming Circular Economy Act, to be adopted in the fourth quarter of 2026.

The CRMA also recognises that a broad, aggregate benchmark alone may not sufficiently incentivise the recovery of individual materials, particularly those that are technologically more difficult or costly to recycle.

Article 5(3) of the CRMA therefore requires the Commission to establish, by 1 January 2027, additional recycling-capacity benchmarks for strategic raw materials contained in relevant waste streams by means of delegated acts.

These benchmarks will take into account the existing EU recycling capacity, the technological and economic feasibility of recovering individual materials, and relevant recycling and recovery targets under other EU legislation.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02024R1252-20240503>.