

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002608/26
to the Commission
Dan-Ștefan Motreanu (PPE)
(24 June 2026)**

Subject: Mobilising private investment for critical minerals projects

On 10 June 2026, the French G7 Presidency announced that 39 European and international companies, financial institutions and trade federations had presented a joint statement calling for greater investment in the resilience and diversification of critical minerals value chains. The signatories highlighted the continued difficulties in financing mining, processing and refining projects at an early stage.

Given the strategic importance of critical raw materials for the EU's industrial competitiveness, energy transition and security:

How does the Commission intend to safeguard the EU's supply by improving access to finance for projects that are at an early stage and are not yet eligible for traditional commercial financing?

Submitted: 24.6.2026

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

As part of the implementation of the Critical Raw Materials (CRM) Act⁽¹⁾ and the RESourceEU Action Plan⁽²⁾, the Commission is working to support securing Europe's supply of critical raw materials by derisking capital to crowd in private investment.

In particular, in 2025, sixty projects were designated as strategic, in the EU and abroad, and a second call for strategic projects is currently under assessment.

Since RESourceEU in December 2025, Team Europe has mobilised over EUR 1.7 billion in support for strategic projects combining loans, grants and equity.

For instance, a battery raw materials recycling project in Poland received over EUR 150 million from the Innovation Fund⁽³⁾. The Commission also works closely with the European Investment Bank, which committed an additional EUR 2 billion financing per year for CRMs⁽⁴⁾. This led to unlocking EUR 250 million for a German lithium project and EUR 90 million for a Greek gallium project⁽⁵⁾.

Through the financing subgroup under the Critical Raw Materials Board, the Commission has engaged with public and private financial institutions, including for pitching sessions to connect project promoters.

Looking ahead, the proposed European Competitiveness Fund⁽⁶⁾ and, more broadly, the next multiannual financial framework⁽⁷⁾, aim to provide more financial capacity to derisk and crowd in CRM investment.

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

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0945>.

⁽³⁾ This refers to the Strategic Project POLVOLT (<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/80d17245-2634-11f0-8a44-01aa75ed71a1>), which received a grant under the Innovation Fund Call — Manufacturing (https://climate.ec.europa.eu/eu-action/eu-funding-climate-action/innovation-fund/innovation-fund-projects_en).

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0945>.

⁽⁵⁾ The German lithium project is Vulcan Energy Resources (<https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2025-486-vulcan-energy-secures-eur250-million-eib-financing-for-landmark-lithium-project-in-germany>). Lionheart Phase One, in the Upper Rhine Valley; it is a geothermal-brine lithium extraction project, financed at EUR 50 million by the EIB in December 2025, targeting ~24,000 tonnes/year of battery-grade lithium hydroxide by 2028 — one of the 47 Strategic Projects the Commission designated under the CRM Act in March 2025. The Greek project is METLEN Energy & Metals' gallium recovery facility at the Aluminium of Greece complex, financed at EUR 90 million by the EIB in January 2026; it is Europe's first EIB-financed gallium production project.

⁽⁶⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/publications/european-competitiveness-fund_en.

⁽⁷⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/long-term-eu-budget/eu-budget-2028-2034_en.