

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002715/26
to the Commission
Tomas Tobé (PPE), Jessica Polfjärd (PPE)
(30 June 2026)**

Subject: Gold as a strategic raw material

The list of strategic raw materials under the Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA) plays a key role in strengthening Europe's self-sufficiency and strategic autonomy. There are therefore good reasons to regularly review which raw materials are included in the list, in order to ensure that it remains aligned with the EU's strategic needs and industrial priorities.

In the current geopolitical and economic context, the price of gold has risen significantly over the past year. The EU has domestic gold production and several Member States including Sweden, Finland and Greece, host known gold deposits and resources. Gold extraction is also often associated with other strategically important metals, such as cobalt and tungsten, meaning that increased gold mining could also support the supply of these materials.

Furthermore, gold is classified as a conflict mineral, which may strengthen the case for increasing responsible domestic production within the EU.

Against this background:

1. Does the Commission consider it appropriate to include gold as a strategic raw material under the CRMA in order to enhance the EU's strategic autonomy and support mining activity within the EU?
2. Does the Commission consider increased gold extraction within the EU to be of strategic importance?

Submitted: 30.6.2026

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

The Critical Raw Materials Act ⁽¹⁾ sets out the criteria for determining critical and strategic raw materials. Strategic raw materials in particular are selected according to their relevance for strategic technologies, their forecasted demand and the difficulty of increasing production.

Under the Critical Raw Materials Act, the Commission is required to review the lists of Strategic Raw Materials and Critical Raw Materials by 24 May 2027 and, where appropriate, update them.

In the process of reviewing the lists of strategic and critical raw materials, the Commission assesses more than 80 candidate materials, among them gold. The Commission will base its reviews for both lists on this assessment.

Gold, a precious metal, is an economically important material for the EU particularly for the strategic digital sector where it is used in printed circuit boards, connectors, and high-reliability electrical contacts due to its excellent conductivity and corrosion resistance. EU demand for gold in non-monetary applications represents a small share of global gold production, estimated at around 1%.

The supply of gold is relatively well diversified, which also includes active recycling from waste streams such as waste electrical and electronic equipment, for the EU and globally.

⁽¹⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02024R1252-20240503#anx_I.