

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-004305/25
to the Commission
Pascal Arimont (PPE)
(3 November 2025)**

Subject: European Critical Raw Materials Act and 'strategic projects'

The mining company Tungsten West is seeking to reopen the UK's Hemerdon tungsten mine, an initiative which in June was designated a strategic project under the European Critical Raw Materials Act ⁽¹⁾. The project aims to produce 20% of the world's supply of primary tungsten outside China.

In August, the Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM) addressed a letter of interest to the company stating that EXIM was considering granting up to USD 95 million for the project as part of a supply chain resilience initiative ⁽²⁾.

1. Does the Commission consider that this funding offer jeopardises the Hemerdon project's status as a future source of supply for the EU, and what consequences would it have as to ensuring the security of the relevant supply chains for the EU?

2. How does the Commission intend to position itself in the global competition for similar projects already classed as 'strategic'?

Submitted: 3.11.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European
Commission
(9 December 2025)**

The Commission is aware of the non-legally binding offer from the United States bank to the Tungsten West PLC. The Commission is closely monitoring all relevant developments for the 60 designated strategic projects and their contribution to the objectives enshrined in the Critical Raw Materials Act ⁽¹⁾.

Should any change occur on the project with respect to their ability to meet such criteria, the Commission can withdraw the status of the strategic project considering the Critical Raw Material Board opinion.

In the framework of the ResourceEU Action Plan, the Commission will work to accelerate the work with its global partners to secure diversified access to critical raw materials in the short, medium and long term, and to strengthen the EU industry resilience. Within this orchestrated effort, the materialisation of the designated strategic projects plays an essential role.

¹ https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/document/download/808502c2-21c7-4ca8-855f-ff0b528f91c4_en?filename=C_2025_3491_1_EN_ACT_part1_v4.pdf

² <https://www.londonstockexchange.com/news-article/TUN/news/17203552>

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