

Towards a more secure, resilient and autonomous critical raw materials supply: the European Commission releases new measures

The European Commission has recently endorsed new actions on raw materials for fostering the transition to a green, sustainable and digital economy while making the EU's critical raw materials supply more secure and independent from extra EU countries exports.

On 3rd September, the Commission announced an [Action Plan on Critical Raw Materials](#), the updated [2020 List of Critical Raw Materials](#) along with a [foresight study](#) on critical raw materials addressing sectors and technologies for 2030 and 2050.

The Action Plan presents the current and future challenges for the raw materials sectors and explores the necessary actions to overcome the EU dependency on third countries for primary critical raw materials supply through circular use of re-sources, sustainable products and innovation. These measures will have the ultimate goal to strengthen domestic sources of raw materials in the EU.

The List of Critical Raw Materials now contains 30 sources, including for the first time lithium bauxite, titanium and strontium.

The foresight study focuses on the supply chains of the nine technologies (Li-ion battery, fuel cells, wind energy, photovoltaic, electric traction motors and robotics) used in renewable energy, e-mobility, defense and aerospace. It also attempts to provide a first answer, based on available knowledge and models, to where future challenges lie and how competition for resources may evolve.

In order to support the objectives described in the Action Plan, the Commission will establish a European Raw Materials Alliance, identify mining and processing projects, promote the use of the Earth observation program [Copernicus](#), support research and innovation, implement sustainable financing criteria, support sustainable mining and strengthen cooperation and strategic international partnerships.

The ETP SMR will be following these actions and developments closely, continuing its role in advising the EU institutions on key research and innovation priorities of the European raw materials sector.

ETP SMR Secretariat

c/o EuroGeoSurveys, the Geological Surveys of Europe
Rue Joseph II 36-38
1000 Brussels, Belgium
Phone +32 2 888 75 53
Contact: Patrick Wall
Email: patrick.wall@eurogeosurveys.org