

Question for written answer E-001433/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: EU strategy on access to critical raw materials

Securing reliable and unhindered access to raw materials is of key economic importance to the EU. This is particularly true of critical raw materials (CRMs), as such materials are relatively scarce in Europe and most supplies therefore need to be imported from non-EU countries. However, in order to protect their own interests, the countries from which CRMs are sourced are increasingly placing restrictions on competition for their extraction and marketing, as they regard them as economically strategic materials.

Under the Raw Materials Initiative launched in 2008, the Commission is required to conduct regular reviews of the EU list of critical raw materials. The aim is to improve the setting of priorities for meeting the needs of EU industry, including by planning and coordinating efforts to find new sources of CRMs by means of, for example, raw materials diplomacy, the design and development of new extraction techniques and the identification of substitutes for raw materials that are in short supply.

Given the economic importance of this issue, what efforts is the Commission making to coordinate EU policies, in particular in the fields of industry, trade, the environment, research, innovation and development assistance, in such a way as to ensure that EU businesses have proper access to CRMs? When does it plan to bring forward a strategy on access to CRMs?