

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3522/10  
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to the Commission

Subject: Raw materials

It was announced in the Commission working programme 2010 that the Commission Communication on raw materials will be published at the end of the year.

In 2008, the Commission identified that securing access to, and affordability of, mineral raw materials was not only crucial for the functioning of the EU's economy but had become an important factor for the EU's competitiveness as this touches upon a variety of sectors, such as the construction, chemicals, automotive, aerospace, machinery and equipment sectors.

The EU is highly dependent on imports of metallic minerals, as its domestic production is limited to about 3% of world production. In the case of high-tech metals, this dependence can even be considered critical in view of their economic value and high supply risks.

The EU 2020 strategy has set targets and a 'resource efficient Europe' is one of the flagship initiatives of that strategy.

In view of the above facts, is the Commission willing to set the raw material issue high on the EU's agenda?

Does the Commission have, at this stage, an overall view on all raw material resources on the EU's territory?

How does the Commission intend to support the European extractive industry and reconcile environmental protection with competition and industrial needs? What would be EU's model of 'sustainable extraction activities'?