

**Question for written answer E-003008/2019
to the Commission
Rule 138
Frédérique Ries (Renew)**

Subject: Mapping lithium reserves in the European Union and self-sufficiency

In October 2017, the European Union launched the European Battery Alliance in an effort to reduce its dependence on Asian manufacturers. The focus of the alliance's work are the Li-ion batteries powered by lithium ions which are used in a huge range of devices, from smartphones to cordless drills and even electric cars. As the electric car market in Europe steadily expands, Europe remains heavily dependent on lithium imports, which meet 86% of demand, even though some EU counties, in particular Portugal and Finland, have substantial lithium reserves.

1. Does the Commission know of any map of exploitable lithium reserves in Europe? If not, does it intend to draw one up?
2. Given the strategic role that electric batteries will play in vehicle fleet renewal and, more generally, in the decarbonisation of our societies, what measures does the Commission intend to take to reduce the Union's dependence on lithium imports?
3. In a highly competitive global market, what industrial development strategy does the Commission recommend to safeguard the economic viability of lithium extraction in the European Union?