

EN

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Answer given by Ms McGuinness
on behalf of the European Commission
(17.3.2022)

In line with Article 19 of the Taxonomy Regulation¹, the EU Taxonomy should consider all activities that have the strongest potential to make a substantial contribution to one of the environmental objectives while not causing significant harm to the other objectives.

In this context, the Platform on Sustainable Finance, an independent Commission expert group, has been reflecting on possible technical screening criteria for the mining sector. Although the sector was not included in the draft report of the Platform submitted for public feedback in August 2021, further work on the mining sector is still being considered.

The Commission is conscious of the ecological risks linked to extracting battery raw materials, which is why sustainability is at the heart of the Commission's proposal for a Regulation on batteries and waste batteries². It addresses sustainability across the entire life cycle of batteries including measures to ensure sustainable and ethical mining and maximising the reuse of materials through effective recycling at the end of life of batteries.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088, OJ L 198, 22.6.2020, p. 13.

² COM(2020) 798 final; <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=COM:2020:798:FIN>