

**Question for written answer E-002268/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Impending lithium shortage

According to a study by the German Federal Institute for Geosciences and Raw Materials (BGR), a shortage of lithium is approaching. While there are sufficient quantities of lithium in the world, the expected bottleneck will result from the fact that not enough is being extracted. Even taking all of the projects currently planned and under way into account, there will not be enough to meet global demand in 2030. According to the authors of the study, Europe is nowhere near able to meet its potential needs itself and is almost exclusively dependent on imports.

However, the shortage of lithium, which is currently an essential element of electric car batteries, jeopardises the Commission's proposal to transition to fully electric passenger cars and light commercial vehicles by 2035.

In the light of these findings, what strategy is the Commission developing to ensure current and future lithium needs are met?