

**Question for written answer E-003573/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Fresh markets for lithium and rare earths

China currently enjoys a dominant position on the global market and in the manufacturing sector, processing almost 90% of rare earths and 60% of lithium. Lithium and rare earths are already supplanting natural gas and oil and, according to experts, demand for them will increase fivefold by 2030. This is a good sign because it shows that the European Green Deal is proceeding on schedule. At the same time, it is essential to avoid dependence on one country, as was the case with Russia, for example, regarding supplies of oil and gas.

In view of this:

1. Can the Commission say what action it is taking to promote a new trade policy?
2. Bearing in mind that new partnerships will promote our vital interests and strengthen the position of the European Union in the international community, can the Commission say with which countries it is accordingly concluding strategic agreements for supplies of lithium and rare earths?

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