Question for written answer E-003733/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Joint purchasing of critical materials

Energy decarbonisation will require large amounts of raw materials. An IEA report entitled 'The Role of Critical Minerals in Clean Energy Transitions' estimates that demand for some raw materials will grow in the coming years, with production peaking in the coming decades. According to the study, consumption of lithium, for example, could multiply by up to 42 times, and copper consumption could triple.

This process will lead Europe to shift from an energy dependence to a material dependence, with a very limited number of suppliers, which might jeopardise the development of the energy transition, cause serious geopolitical conflicts and ruin European industry.

In the light of recent developments with the joint procurement of scarce goods such as vaccines and natural gas, and in connection with the public consultation on the legislative proposal on critical materials:

1. Does the Commission consider joint purchasing of critical materials for which we are dependent on third countries and the establishment of strategic stocks of these materials to be the best option in order to guarantee European independence and avoid a lack of supplies of materials which are so fundamental to European industry and strategic autonomy?

2. Does it believe that there are any technical disadvantages?

Submitted: 16.11.2022