



European Parliament

LEGISLATIVE TRAIN 02.2023

2 A EUROPE FIT FOR THE DIGITAL AGE

EUROPEAN CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS ACT

[ANNOUNCED]

NL

CONTENT

In her 2022 State of the Union Address, President Ursula von der Leyen announced a European critical raw materials act, to secure the supply of these key materials. Critical raw materials are the raw materials that are both important economically and present a high supply risk. Critical raw materials (such as lithium for batteries or silicon for semiconductors) are crucial in a wide range of industrial ecosystems. They are also key to secure Europe's green and digital transitions.

A European critical raw materials act is among the key new initiatives announced for 2023 in the letter of intent sent by President Ursula von der Leyen and Maroš Šefčovič to Parliament President Roberta Metsola and to Prime Minister Petr Fiala.

A legislative proposal on the supply of critical raw materials was also announced in the REPowerEU Plan, presented by the Commission on 18 May 2022. In November 2021, Parliament adopted a resolution on a European strategy for critical raw materials, pointing out in particular that an integrated approach throughout the value chain was key to increase the supply of critical raw materials. In March 2022, the European Council stressed in the Versailles Declaration that the supply of critical raw materials should be secured to reduce the EU's strategic dependencies.

On 30 September 2022, the Commission launched a call for evidence concerning the future critical raw materials act. The Commission paper explains that the Commission would put forward a package of regulatory and non-regulatory actions. The following issues would be addressed: low diversification of EU supply sources; untapped potential of EU supply; weak monitoring and risk management capacity to anticipate and prevent supply disruptions of critical raw materials; adverse social and environmental impacts of production of critical raw materials; insufficient support for circularity in the existing regulatory framework; insufficient research and innovation (R&I) in the EU. Interested parties can provide their input until 25 November 2022.

In its work programme for 2023, the Commission confirmed that it would propose an EU critical raw materials act, 'to ensure an adequate and diversified supply for Europe's digital economy as well as for the green transition – and prioritise re-use and recycling'.

The critical raw materials act is also part of Pillar 1 of the Green Deal Industrial Plan for the Net-Zero Age, published by the Commission on the 1st February 2023.

According to the latest version of the indicative agendas of the College of Commissioners, the publication of the proposal is planned

for 14 March 2023.

References:

- European Commission, [Green Deal Industrial Plan for the Net-Zero Age](#), COM(2023), 1st February 2023.
 - European Commission, [Commission work programme 2023 - A Union standing firm and united](#), and [annexes](#), COM(2022) 548, 18 October 2022.
 - European Commission, [Have your say, European Critical Raw Materials Act](#).
 - [2022 State of the Union Address by President von der Leyen](#), 14 September 2022
 - [State of the Union 2022 - President von der Leyen's letter of intent](#), 14 September 2022
 - European Commission, [REPowerEU Plan](#), COM(2022) 230, 18 May 2022
 - European Council, [Versailles Declaration](#), 10-11 March 2022
 - European Parliament, [Resolution on a European strategy for critical raw materials](#), 24 November 2021
-
- European Commission, [Critical Raw Materials Resilience: Charting a Path towards greater Security and Sustainability](#), COM(2020)474, 3 September 2020

Author: Guillaume Ragonnaud, Members' Research Service, legislative-train@europarl.europa.eu

As of 15 December 2024.