

**Question for written answer E-001671/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Support for European projects in the field of critical raw materials

The Regulation on Critical Raw Materials proposed by the Commission is at the debate and amendment stage in the European Parliament. This is a priority topic for the EU, with the global economic landscape and outlook dictating that we act urgently, from simplifying authorisation for European strategic projects to increasing recycling capacity.

The Commission has put forward realistic extraction and processing objectives, and these have been endorsed by the rapporteur: ensuring by 2030 a minimum EU own production capacity of 10 % and a minimum EU processing capacity of at least 40 % of the annual consumption of strategic raw materials. These are realistic targets in view of the time line, but are insufficient to meet medium- and long-term needs.

I appreciate the determination of the Swedish EU Council Presidency to reach a political agreement on this legislation by the end of its mandate.

In these circumstances, I consider that the Commission needs to further clarify the European funding mechanisms for extraction and processing projects. How does the Commission intend to boost – with EU funding – the pinpointing and exploitation of the EU's natural resources in the area of critical raw materials, along with its industrial processing capacity?

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