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Proposal for a

REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

establishing a framework for ensuring a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials and amending Regulations (EU) 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, 2018/1724 and (EU) 2019/1020

(Text with EEA relevance)

{SEC(2023) 360 final} - {SWD(2023) 160 final} - {SWD(2023) 161 final} -
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EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. CONTEXT OF THE PROPOSAL

• Reasons for and objectives of the proposal

Raw materials are found at the beginning of all industrial value chains. The focus of this Regulation is on non-energy, non-agricultural raw materials that are important for the EU economy, the supplies of which are subject to a high level of supply risk. These critical raw materials (CRMs) are often indispensable inputs for a wide set of strategic sectors including renewable energy, the digital industry, the space and defence sectors and the health sector. At the same time, extraction and processing of CRMs can have negative environmental impacts, depending on the methods and processes used, as well as social impacts.

The EU relies almost exclusively on imports for many critical raw materials. Suppliers of those imports are often highly concentrated in a small number of third countries, both at the extraction and processing stage. For example, the EU sources 97% of its magnesium in China. Heavy rare earth elements, used in permanent magnets, are exclusively refined in China. 63% of the world's cobalt, used in batteries, is extracted in the Democratic Republic of Congo, while 60% is refined in China. This concentration exposes the EU to significant supply risks. There are precedents of countries leveraging their strong position as suppliers of CRMs against buyer countries, for instance through export restrictions.

With the global shift towards renewable energy and the digitalisation of our economies and societies, demand for some of these critical raw materials is forecasted to rapidly increase in the coming decades. Global demand for the lithium used to manufacture batteries for mobility and energy storage is expected to increase of up to 89-fold by 2050. EU demand for the rare earth elements from which the permanent magnets used in wind turbines or electric vehicles are manufactured is expected to increase six to seven-fold by 2050. EU demand for gallium, used to manufacture semi-conductors, is expected to grow 17-fold by 2050. Substituting materials and increasing material efficiency and circularity can mitigate the projected rise in demand to a certain extent, but these steps are not expected to reverse the trend. Presently, current and planned capacities risk not meeting more than 50 % of the projected demand for cobalt and future demand increase for rare earths is expected to outpace growth in capacities¹. Against this background, many countries have adopted policies to actively secure their supply of critical raw materials, increasing resource competition.

Disruption in the supply of essential goods during the COVID-19 crisis and the energy crisis sparked by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine have highlighted the EU's structural supply dependencies and their potentially damaging effects in times of crisis. The central importance of critical raw materials for the green and digital transitions, and for defence and space applications, means that a disruption in their supply would have significant adverse effects for industry in the EU. This would jeopardise the functioning of the single market and damage the EU's competitiveness, while putting at stake jobs and job creation and affecting working conditions and wages. In addition, without a secure supply of critical raw materials, the Union will not be able to meet its objective for a green and digital future.

The 2008 raw materials initiative and the 2020 action plan on critical raw materials both provided a framework for initiatives to assess assessing the criticality of different raw

¹ Carrara, S. et al., Supply chain analysis and material demand forecast in strategic technologies and sectors in the EU – A foresight study, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2023, doi:10.2760/386650, JRC132889

materials, the international diversification, research and innovation and the development of CRMs production capacity in the EU. The measures put in place are helping to ensure a more secure supply. For instance, Strategic Partnerships concluded with third countries, as provided in the action plan, are helping to diversify sources of raw materials supply by further integrating the EU's raw materials value chains with those of resource-rich third countries.

However, non-regulatory actions have not been enough to ensure the EU's access to a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials. At present, there is no regulatory framework aimed at structurally reducing supply risks across the range of critical raw materials. First, in the absence of a common framework to ensure that economic operators are resilient and prepared for problems that arise, industry remains overexposed to the risk of supply disruptions. Second, the EU's potential to increase its extraction, processing or recycling capacities remains underexploited. Across Member States, knowledge of mineral deposits often dates back to a time when critical raw materials were not the sought-after resources that they are today. Sometimes difficult access to funding, lengthy and complex permitting procedures and the lack of public acceptance as well as potential environmental concerns are major impediments to the development of critical raw materials projects. Third, legislation on waste management does not create enough incentives to improve the circularity of critical raw materials ('their circularity') or for the development of a market in secondary raw materials. Lastly, there are not enough incentives to report on and limit the negative environmental impacts of CRMs that are placed on the EU market.

Against this background, the present proposal has the following objectives:

- to strengthen the different stages of the European critical raw materials value chain;
- to diversify the EU's imports of critical raw materials to reduce strategic dependencies;
- to improve the EU capacity to monitor and mitigate current and future risks of disruptions to the supply of critical raw materials;
- to ensure the free movement of critical raw materials on the single market while ensuring a high level of environmental protection, by improving their circularity and sustainability.

This memorandum is linked only to the current proposal for a Regulation. The overall strategic vision for strengthening Europe's supply critical raw materials, through action both within and outside the EU, is explained in the Communication accompanying that proposal.

• **Consistency with existing policy provisions in this area**

This proposal is consistent with the European Green Deal strategy and the European Climate Law. This proposal is intended to help equip the EU with the capacities that will be needed to meet its targets for producing renewable energy, for developing strategic manufacturing technologies such as semiconductors and to reach our climate neutrality objectives.

This proposal responds to the 2022 Versailles Declaration adopted by the European Council, which underlined the strategic importance of critical raw materials in guaranteeing the EU's open strategic autonomy and European sovereignty. It is also consistent with the November 2021 resolution of the European Parliament on an EU strategy on CRMs and with the conclusions of the Conference on the Future of Europe. Finally, this Regulation delivers on the commitment to reduce the EU's dependency on critical raw materials made by President von der Leyen in her 2022 State of the Union speech. This would be achieved by diversifying

and securing a sustainable domestic supply of critical raw materials by identifying Strategic Projects across the supply chain and by building up strategic reserves. Ahead of the announcement of a Critical Raw Materials Act, the REPowerEU Communication and the Joint Communication on Defence Investment Gaps Analysis and Way Forward had announced a legislative proposal on CRMs in May 2022.

Whereas this proposal focuses on building the EU's capacity to supply CRMs, the Communication accompanying this proposal explains the underlying strategy to secure the supply of critical raw materials sector, which includes non-regulatory measures to diversify external supplies from outside of the EU and to boost research and innovation and skills. The Regulation is accompanied by the results of the Commission's criticality assessment, the corresponding papers fiches on the critical and strategic raw materials (see detailed explanation on p.15 for more details) targeted by this proposal, and by the latest foresight study. The proposal is presented jointly with the Net Zero Industry Act which, as announced in the Communication on A Green Deal Industrial Plan for the Net-Zero Age, will underpin the industrial manufacturing of key technologies in the EU.

This proposal is consistent with the Commission's Communication updating the 2020 EU Industrial Strategy in May 2021, which identifies areas of strategic dependencies that could lead to vulnerabilities. The two subsequent in-depth reviews provided further analysis on the origins of strategic dependencies and first addressed CRMs overall (among other issues), then rare earth elements and magnesium.

Although there has been no regulatory framework before this Regulation that aimed to secure the supply of CRMs, this proposal is consistent with the previous European CRM strategies. First, this Regulation builds on the criticality assessment, updated every 3 years since the 2008 initiative, which has provided information on CRMs and the EU's dependencies on them. Second, it complements and strengthens the initiatives which followed the 2020 action plan. It also provides a framework to support projects along the critical raw materials value chain, building on the work of the European Raw Materials Alliance. The proposal also builds on the EU principles for sustainable raw materials which aim to align Member States' understanding of sustainable extraction and processing.

In addition, in line with the 2021 action plan on synergies between civil, defence and space industries, the Commission is setting up an observatory of critical technologies. The observatory will identify, monitor and assess critical technologies for the civilian, defence and space sectors, their potential applications and related value and supply chains, including strategic dependencies and vulnerabilities.

Furthermore, the Commission has carried out a Foresight study which assesses the European Union's future needs for critical raw materials and the potential supply chain bottlenecks in key strategic technologies and sectors. The report forecasts an unprecedented increase in demand for the key materials necessary to a successful twin transition and to the EU's defence and aerospace agendas.

This proposal is consistent with other legislation on CRMs. For instance, it is consistent with the Conflict Minerals Regulation², which requires importers of tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold (3TG) to set up and implement due diligence policies addressing human rights impacts linked to armed conflicts and labour rights along their value chain.

² Regulation (EU) 2017/821 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 laying down supply chain due diligence obligations for Union importers of tin, tantalum and tungsten, their ores, and gold originating from conflict-affected and high-risk areas (OJ L 130, 19.5.2017, p. 1–20).

- **Consistency with other EU policies**

Given the presence of critical raw materials in many industrial value chains and the characteristics of the different stages of the critical raw materials value chain such as extraction, processing or recycling, several sets of European policies and legislation are relevant.

First, the EU environmental legislation covers the procedures to obtain permits for raw materials projects, including CRMs, across the whole value chain. The proposed Regulation will apply without prejudice to EU nature protection legislation, including Directive 2011/92/EU³ on the environmental impact assessment, Directive 2010/75/EU⁴ on industrial emissions, Directive 92/43/EEC⁵ on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and Directive 2009/147/EC⁶ of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conservation of wild birds, Directive 2000/60/EC⁷ of the European Parliament and of the Council on water policy⁸. This proposal aims to make national permit procedures more streamlined and more predictable ensuring that projects comply with the EU legislation protecting nature without undermining the effective application of its provisions.

Second, the EU's waste framework governs the collection, reduction, recycling and treatment of waste, including of waste streams containing critical raw materials. The Extractive Waste Directive⁹ requires any operator responsible for managing extractive waste (i.e. the waste generated by mining operations) to obtain a permit. This proposal will complement this by requiring operators (for waste facilities currently operating) and Member States (for closed and abandoned waste facilities) to analyse the CRMs recovery potential in extractive waste. The Waste Framework Directive¹⁰ targets waste in general and obliges Member States to take measures to prevent the generation of waste, targeting products containing CRMs in particular. The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive¹¹ lays down rules to promote the preparation for re-use, recycling and other forms of recovery of waste from electrical and electronic equipment, to contribute to the efficient use of resources and to the retrieval of secondary raw materials, including critical ones. A joint review is being carried out of the End-of-Life Vehicles Directive 2000/53/EC¹², in conjunction with Directive

³ Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (codification) (OJ L 26, 28.1.2012, p. 1–21)

⁴ Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and Of The Council Of 24 November 2010 On Industrial Emissions (Integrated Pollution Prevention And Control) (Oj L 334, 17.12.2010, P. 17–119)

⁵ Council Directive 92/43/Eec Of 21 May 1992 on the Conservation Of Natural Habitats And Of Wild Fauna And Flora (Oj L 206, 22.7.1992, P. 7–50)

⁶ Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (OJ L 20, 26.1.2010, p. 7–25)

⁷ Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (OJ L 327, 22.12.2000, p. 1–73)

⁸ Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy (Marine Strategy Framework Directive) (OJ L 164, 25.6.2008, p. 19–40)

⁹ Directive 2006/21/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2006 on the management of waste from extractive industries and amending Directive 2004/35/EC - Statement by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission (OJ L 102, 11.4.2006, p. 15–34)

¹⁰ Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives (OJ L 312, 22.11.2008, p. 3–30)

¹¹ Directive 2012/19/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2012 on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) (recast) Text with EEA relevance (OJ L 197, 24.7.2012, p. 38–71)

¹² Directive 2000/53/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 September 2000 on end-of life vehicles - Commission Statements (OJ L 269, 21.10.2000, p. 34–43)

2005/64/EC¹³ on the type-approval of motor vehicles regarding their reusability, recyclability and recoverability, aiming to reduce waste from end-of-life vehicles and their components and increase the circularity of both conventional and electric vehicles, which contain significant amounts of CRMs. The legislative initiative based on this review will complement the horizontal recyclability requirements included in this Regulation by introducing more specific requirements to improve the recyclability of permanent magnets in vehicles, which will make their waste treatment and recycling easier.

Third, the classification of hazard provided by the Regulation 1272/2008/EC on the classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures¹⁴ and the risk mitigation measures provided by the Regulation 1907/2006/EC¹⁵ concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), serve to ensure the safety of chemicals and products containing chemicals in the EU, which is highly relevant for CRMs. In this regard, the EU chemicals Strategy for Sustainability¹⁶ lays down the necessary actions to protect better human health and the environment as part of an ambitious approach towards a toxic free environment as regards chemical safety, in line with the European Green Deal. This includes reducing risks and substituting the most hazardous chemicals in consumer and professional products. The Strategy also recognises the need to allow the use of these most harmful chemicals when this is essential for society. This will also apply in many cases to the uses of CRMs.

Fourth, the presence of critical raw materials across many industrial value chains and the characteristics of the different stages of the of critical raw materials value chain require human capacity, including by ensuring an adequate and skilled workforce to support the industry. This is notably guaranteed by the protection of jobs as well as the creation of new quality jobs to address the needs of workforce in the sector at all stages of the industrial value chains, which are key to ensure a fair green transition and to ensure security and supply of critical raw materials, as well as the sector's competitiveness. In line with objectives of the REPowerEU plan and of the European Green Deal, the Council Recommendation of 16 June 2022¹⁷ on ensuring a fair transition towards climate-neutrality provides comprehensive policy guidance as regards the formulation of policies to ensure the protection of jobs, including of working conditions and wages, as well as to support quality job creation across industrial ecosystems and value chains, including through the support of up- and re-skilling of the workforce to match with needs in the sectoral labour market, and through the consultation of social partners through social dialogue.

Lastly, this initiative is also consistent with:

¹³ Directive 2005/64/EC of The European Parliament And Of The Council Of 26 October 2005 On The Type-Approval Of Motor Vehicles With Regard To Their Reusability, Recyclability And Recoverability And Amending Council (Directive 70/156/Eec)

¹⁴ Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, amending and repealing Directives 67/548/EEC and 1999/45/EC, and amending Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 (OJ L 353, 31.12.2008, p. 1–1355)

¹⁵ Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency, (OJ L 396, 30.12.2006, p. 1–850)

¹⁶ COM/2020/667 final

¹⁷ Council Recommendation of 16 June 2022 on ensuring a fair transition towards climate neutrality 2022/C 243/04 (OJ C 243, 27.6.2022, p. 35–51)

- Directive 2007/2/EC¹⁸ establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE), which aims to ensure that the spatial data infrastructures of the Member States are compatible and usable in a European and transboundary context; and
- Regulation (EU) 2020/852¹⁹ (Taxonomy) on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment.

In terms of international instruments, this proposal is consistent with:

- the EU's international trade obligations and the EU common commercial policy. The Communication attached to this regulation includes measures to strengthen and diversify the EU's external supply of CRMs from international sources without undermining trade rules and international competition;
- the EU's updated Arctic policy, published in 2021, which aims to help to preserve the Arctic as a region of peaceful cooperation, tackle the effects of climate change, and support the sustainable development of Arctic regions to the benefit of Arctic communities, not least Indigenous Peoples, and future generations;
- the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy's joint Communication on the Global Gateway, particularly as regards conduct of its Strategic Partnerships with third countries.

The High Representative will fully play its role and cooperate to ensure the consistency of EU external action and its other policies.

The Regulation will also ensure consistency with other ongoing proposals:

- The Regulation is consistent with the Batteries Regulation²⁰, which includes specific provisions on CRMs in batteries placed on the single market, whereas the Regulation aims, to increase the EU's capacity to supply those materials and to make information on their environmental footprint more transparent and available when placed in the EU single market. This follows a similar approach to the progressive deployment of obligations on environmental footprints.
- The Regulation complements the proposal for a Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence (CSDD)²¹. The CSDD proposal might cover companies using CRMs, ensuring that they adequately address adverse human rights and environmental impact in their own operations and value chains, but does not develop the requirement to produce information on the environmental footprint of critical raw materials. Where relevant, the calculation of the environmental footprint of each material under the CRMs Regulation, could contribute to the effective implementation of a due diligence policy.

¹⁸ Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 March 2007 establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE) (OJ L 108, 25.4.2007, p. 1–14)

¹⁹ Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment, and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 (PE/20/2020/INIT)

²⁰ Proposal for A Regulation of The European Parliament and of The Council concerning batteries and waste batteries, repealing Directive 2006/66/EC and amending Regulation (EU) No 2019/1020 (COM/2020/798 final).

²¹ Proposal for a Directive of The European Parliament and of The Council on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence and amending Directive (EU) 2019/1937 (COM/2022/71 final)

- By reinforcing the resilience and preparedness of the European industry with regards to CRM, the Regulation complements the Single Market Emergency Instrument, which allows the Commission in vigilance or emergency mode to activate targeted measures when a threat to or a disruption of the supply of strategic goods emerges, which may include critical raw materials.
- The Regulation also ensures that the manufacturers of key technologies supported in the Chips Act or the Net-Zero Industry Act can rely on a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials.

2. LEGAL BASIS, SUBSIDIARITY AND PROPORTIONALITY

• Legal basis

This Regulation's legal basis is Article 114 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, which allows the European Parliament and the Council to adopt measures to establish and ensure the well-functioning of the single market.

The Regulation intends to ensure a secure and sustainable supply of CRMs for the EU. Without such efforts, current trends in supply and demand are likely to create a serious and structural risk of disruptions to the supply of a range of CRMs. As these are essential to the functioning of multiple strategic sectors, potential supply disruptions must be addressed in order to ensure that European markets remain stable. The onset of supply disruptions, and of the associated shortages and volatility in prices, would be likely to trigger unilateral efforts at national level to address their consequences. Although justified in principle, such efforts have, if left uncoordinated, the potential to distort competition and create intra-EU restrictions to the free movement of goods.

By introducing coordinated measures to structurally reduce the likelihood of supply disruptions, including measures to strengthen domestic supply and to monitor the risk and preparedness, this initiative will contribute to ensuring the well-functioning of the single market:

- it set common objectives and a shared definition of critical and strategic raw materials;
- it establishes a common and consistent approach to increasing European capacities of CRMs by providing and coordinating support to Strategic Projects, thereby helping prevent the potential distortion of competition and market fragmentation that might result from uncoordinated support actions and helping to preserve a level playing field for raw materials companies active on the internal market;
- it introduces risk monitoring and preparedness measures, ensuring that companies have access to similar risk monitoring information across the internal market and face harmonised preparedness measures;
- it harmonises requirements for placing on the market products incorporating permanent magnets (regarding the recyclability and recycled content of the magnets) and products containing CRMs (regarding the declaration of their environmental footprint), thereby preventing intra-EU restrictions and helping to ensure the free movement of goods

• Subsidiarity (for non-exclusive competence)

Member States alone are not capable of effectively meeting the objectives of this Regulation. First, increasing CRMs capacities, would not be efficient at national level due to, for example

to the lack of geological occurrences in an individual Member States, the scale of the investments needed and the substantial economies of scale required to be competitive on the global raw materials market. Secondly, in the absence of coordination and cooperation between Member States and the Commission to increase monitoring of supply risks and risk preparedness, efforts are likely to be duplicated leading to inefficiencies. The framework proposed should allow for a more efficient division of tasks and for the aggregation and sharing of relevant information.

The measures included in this Regulation would not be as effective if implemented by Member States acting alone, as the problems they address concern the single market as a whole. They are not limited to single Member States or to a subset of Member States but concern the EU's industrial base as a whole. In addition, approaches at Member States' level alone are unlikely to be enough to serve the needs of closely intertwined supply chains within the single market.

The authorities in the Member States' are, and will remain, solely responsible for granting permits for Strategic Project, subject to the procedural rules set out in this proposal. Member States, therefore, will be able to prevent the granting of strategic status to a project that would be implemented on its territory.

- **Proportionality**

The proposed measures do not exceed what is necessary to secure the supply of CRMs. There is a demonstrable added value in acting at the Union level due to the scale, urgency and scope of the efforts needed:

- The measures on Strategic Projects focus on strategic raw materials (SRMs) to ensure that the Regulation brings within its scope the materials that are the most needed to achieve the EU's objectives for the green and digital transitions as well as for increased resilience and security.
- The measures on exploration are proportional to the size of each Member State's territory, and Member States would remain able to build on their existing exploration policies. The national programmes of exploration are however necessary to foster the development of the CRM value chain.
- The measures proposed include a review and engagement with Member States on a regular basis, especially as regards the provisions on monitoring and governance.
- The measures on monitoring leave Member States responsible for identifying and monitoring key market operators. The burden on companies to provide information is limited as it only captures large companies active in extraction, refining or recycling of CRMs.
- The measures tackling companies risk preparedness are conscribed to a subset of large companies manufacturing strategic technologies containing SRMs and are limited to internal audits of their supply chains.
- The measures on sustainability do not impose requirements that are beyond what is necessary to incentivise the development of the market for secondary raw materials or to ensure greater transparency of information on the environmental footprint of CRMs, through a gradual and evidence-based approach.

- **The choice of the legal instrument**

A regulation is considered the most appropriate instrument as it makes it possible to set requirements that apply directly to national authorities and relevant economic operators. This

will help ensure that the requirements are implemented in a timely and harmonised way, leading to greater legal certainty.

3. RESULTS OF EX-POST EVALUATIONS, STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS AND IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

- **Ex-post evaluations/fitness checks of existing legislation**

Not Applicable

- **Stakeholder consultations**

In line with the Better Regulation Guidelines, the Commission carried out a comprehensive stakeholder consultation process, following a consultation strategy with the aim of collecting reliable information using a range of methods, consulted parties and tools. The aim of the stakeholder consultation was to collect and assess all relevant evidence, including data and information about the costs, benefits, and potential societal impact of a policy decision. The strategy was designed in line with the intervention logic, focusing on the problem drivers necessitating action and the characteristics identified for the EU's CRM value chain.

The Commission followed the consultation strategy by running multiple activities: an online open consultation organised by DG GROW between September 30 and 25 November 2022, a call for evidence for an impact assessment open for feedback during the same period and a targeted questionnaire on 'stockpiling of raw materials' and 'permitting' in the EU Member States shared with the expert group 'Raw Materials Supply Group'. The Commission received 259 answers to the public consultation and 52 respondents attached a policy paper. The Commission also collected 310 replies to the call for evidence. The results of the public consultation are summarised in the factual summary report published with the answers to the call for evidence on the 'Have your say' portal.

Overall, stakeholders confirmed the benefits of ongoing initiatives under the 2020 EU action plan on critical raw materials to secure critical raw materials supply, notably via the Strategic Partnerships on raw materials. However, they underlined that EU domestic capabilities and the industry's resilience to supply risk have not sufficiently improved. The Commission received broad support for the idea to propose an initiative with the aim of ensuring secure and sustainable access to critical raw materials while improving Europe's resilience and preparedness by addressing supply chain vulnerabilities. On supply chain vulnerabilities, the contributions received underlined a number of structural deficiencies that prevent extracting industries from developing projects in the EU. To respond to these challenges, they underscored the importance of running Strategic Projects in the extraction, processing and recycling stages to develop the EU's value chain in critical raw materials.

In their replies, businesses and firms focused on procedural and administrative costs and called for action to streamline permitting procedures and to facilitate access to finance. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and citizens expressed concerns about the environmental and social impacts of extraction and processing projects that lack appropriate environmental and social safeguards.

Stakeholders agreed with the need to create a sustainable level playing field for the EU's value chain in critical raw materials. NGOs signalled the importance of reducing the environmental footprint of EU raw materials while promoting a more efficient use of resources and developing less harmful activities on the environment. Stakeholders also called for a more coherent and coordinated approach to the challenges inherent in sourcing CRMs

notably by stepping up monitoring, foresight and by taking more concerted risk preparedness measures. However, stakeholder groups had different views on the best form of action needed.

Overall, stakeholders broadly agreed that action by the Member States at national level would not be sufficient to tackle critical raw materials supply vulnerabilities due to their complexity, opacity and transnational dimension, and welcomed EU-level action on this issue.

- **Collection and use of expertise**

Not Applicable

- **Impact assessment**

Following the Better Regulation Guidelines, this regulatory proposal is based on an impact assessment that analyses the problem and sub-problems related to the EU's lack of secure and sustainable supply to critical raw materials. The impact assessment identifies possible policy options to address problem-drivers and assesses their likely impacts. The impact assessment was structured to reflect the consultation of the Commission's Inter-Service Steering Group on critical raw materials.

The impact assessment received a negative opinion from the Regulatory Scrutiny Board (RSB) on 20 January 2023. The Board recommended to:

- clarify the political context surrounding the initiative and specify how parallel initiatives and regulatory gaps will be affected by the upcoming initiative;
- better explain the set of general and specific objectives, their timelines, how they interact and what models are used to measure success;
- improve the baseline, composition and timeline of the policy options and
- improve the assessment of key impacts.

When the revised impact assessment was resubmitted, the Board issued a positive opinion with reservations on 16 February 2023.

The impact assessment is built around a set of policy pillars that tackle the problem drivers identified and aim to reach the objectives of the initiative. It sets out three policy options for each pillar based on the scope, the level of resources, the efficiency and coherence as well as the synergies created and the proportionality and subsidiarity principles. Overall, the policy options range from option 1 (the closest to the business-as-usual scenario) to option 3 (a more wide-ranging approach including measures that go beyond the current regulatory framework but within the limits of what is technically feasible).

Policy option 1 provides for a mechanism to set targets for strategic raw materials. It comprises a governance structure under a dedicated EU CRM board supported by a network of national agencies and operational capacity within the Commission. This entity would develop monitoring capacity, enable the coordination of EU strategic stocks and ensure that companies are better prepared ahead of possible supply disruptions. It contains elements to support the value chain, notably by more coordination during the exploration phase greater support for national CRM projects and better access to finance. In terms of circularity, it provides for a recommendation targeting small consumer electronics and the announcement of future actions. It provides for greater EU action in international standards-setting, as well as minimum requirements for certification schemes on CRM sustainability and information requirements on the environmental footprint of CRMs placed on the EU market.

Policy option 2 has the same governance mechanism as option 1 and tasks in terms of monitoring, strategic stocks and risk preparedness. It goes further to improve the value chain in the EU by developing stronger obligations on exploration and by implementing Strategic Projects along the value chain of strategic raw materials. These projects would benefit from streamlined permitting and a coordinated access to finance. Measures to boost circularity include making targeted amendments of the Extractive Waste Directive. Measures on standards include developing additional standardisation deliverables for industrial processes and measures on the environmental footprint contain the progressive development of thresholds for CRMs, provided that a specific assessment indicates that this would not affect supply security.

Policy option 3 develops an external capacity in terms of governance, which makes it possible to propose ambitious measures on strategic stocks, monitoring and risks preparedness. It also builds on the concept of Strategic Projects, which would benefit from additional permitting support through dedicated resources from Member States and a dedicated European CRM Fund. Like option 2, it contains the measures on circularity, standards and environmental footprint.

Overall, the preferred option is policy option 2, as it receives support from stakeholders and Member States, puts a limited additional burden to institutions, has a relatively lower cost and helps to meet the general and specific objectives. It brings clear added value to the functioning of the single market and has positive economic impacts for critical raw materials producers and downstream sectors by building industrial resilience and boosting the development of the EU's CRMs value chain. Policy option 3 would achieve certain objectives more effectively (especially as regards the pillars on monitoring and access to finance) but it would not be possible to implement given the current budgetary constraints.

Differences compared to the preferred option in the impact assessment

The Regulation contains measures that are not assessed in the impact assessment, namely:

- Measures on the joint purchasing of strategic raw materials. These measures were part of policy option 3 on strategic stocks but were later analysed as feasible under policy option 2 even without a specific stockpiling framework. Measures on recyclability and on the recycled content of rare earth magnets. These measures were not detailed in the impact assessment but they do address an integral part of the problem described in it, notably the problem driver explaining how EU waste legislation does not sufficiently target critical raw materials recovery. The Commission collected additional evidence from experts, think tanks and industry to better understand the circularity challenges relating to magnets and the potential impacts of the measures. It also requires inserting provisions on compliance and on the presumption of conformity to enable the development of the necessary standards.
- Measures on cooperation on Strategic Partnerships. Since the international dimension of the impact assessment was strengthened, as suggested by the Regulatory Scrutiny Board, it was deemed appropriate to add a measure highlighting the need for cooperation and complementarity regarding the EU's Strategic Partnerships on raw materials with third countries, including their coherence with Member States' bilateral cooperation with relevant third countries, complementing the actions announced in the accompanying Communication.
- Measures on the stress tests of value chains were included in policy option 3 but are present in the Regulation with a more targeted scope, focusing on strategic raw

materials only. It is expected that both the Commission and Member States can share the tasks related to their implementation, thereby limiting the administrative burden.

These new measures remain within the overall framework of the topics analysed in the impact assessment and do not significantly alter the comparison of options, or the preferred option.

The proposed regulation also contains measures that were assessed in the impact assessment but which differ in their implementation, namely:

- The proposal integrates the measures on extractive waste planned in the impact assessment directly in the Regulation rather than through a targeted amendment of the Extractive Waste Directive, to ensure that they apply sooner and more directly.
- It integrates measures on increasing the collection of electronic waste and other CRM-rich products and components, anticipated as a Commission Recommendation in the impact assessment, directly in the Regulation. This recommendation is to be announced in the accompanying Communication, along with a list of other circularity measures, as planned. The purpose is to provide guidance to Member States on the implementation of the measures required under the Regulation, at a later point.
- The preferred option in the impact assessment included measures requiring that sustainability claims are based on recognised certification schemes but implemented without reference to sustainability claims. These claims will be subject to horizontal legislation, as announced in the Commission initiative on green claims. The proposal includes a provision allowing the Commission to recognise certification schemes for the sustainability of CRM projects. Participation in one of these schemes will provide project promoters with a clear and efficient way of attesting compliance with the criterion for being a Strategic Project related to sustainability.

- **Regulatory fitness and simplification**

This proposal does not envisage significant additional regulatory burden.

The administrative costs for businesses that will apply directly with this Regulation are limited. They relate first to the reporting obligations for a limited set of large companies operating in the CRM value chain, with reporting remaining voluntary for other companies. The costs incurred are likely to be offset for the same companies, which will benefit, under certain conditions (e.g., having their projects labelled as strategic) from efficiency gains from streamlined permitting obligations. A limited number of large companies manufacturing strategic technologies with strategic raw materials will also incur costs to carry out an audit.

Costs related to the studies required to calculate the underlying environmental footprint are also administrative costs that are accounted in the regulation, which would have to be offset by other initiatives.

The cost assessment also estimates the costs for existing mining sites of reporting further information. Given that the knowledge produced by this information on waste streams is likely to generate further economic activity through recovery, these costs are likely to be offset.

For Member States, the costs are likely to be higher. However, the Regulation will also generate higher synergies and lesser overlap in actions between Member States. This should unlock potential savings by improving coordination, for instance in monitoring and strategic stocks. The initiative does not anticipate any cost for citizens.

- **Fundamental rights**

The proposal requires that the Strategic Projects receiving support are implemented sustainably. Sustainable implementation means that the projects must be not only environmentally sustainable but also that they will respect the human rights set out in international instruments, guidelines and principles.

4. BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

The proposal has budgetary implications for the Commission. Specifically, and when fully operational, it requires up to 33 full-time equivalents per year to implement the regulation and the related delegated acts over the period 2024-27 of the EU's multiannual financial framework.

In addition to EUR 3.2 million counted under Heading 1 for performing a range of studies needed for the implementation of the Regulation, it requires commitments on existing budget lines, amounting to EUR 14.969 million in Heading 7 (Administrative Expenditure). The new commitments will be covered from the existing budgetary envelopes of the relevant programmes. The budget implications are mainly to carry out the work foreseen to:

- draft delegated and implementing acts necessary for the implementation of this Regulation, including:
 - implementing acts related to the application of and annual report of Strategic Project; general exploration programmes; companies risk preparedness; specifying which end-of-life products and waste streams contain relevant amounts of critical raw materials; and
 - delegated acts related to the definition of critical and strategic raw materials; recycled content of products incorporating permanent magnets; customs codes for products incorporating permanent magnets; and the calculation and verification rules and performance classes for the environmental footprint;
- provide the secretariat of the European Critical Raw Materials Board;
- handle the administration of studies and contracts;
- carry out tasks of monitoring, data gathering and risks assessment tasks, notably on: market monitoring and reporting of critical and strategic raw materials and the assessment of their criticality;
- coordinate information from the Member States;
- ensure the enforcement of Member State obligations on circularity measures, including the measures on extractive waste;
- assess the suitability of the environmental footprint method, develop calculation methods and monitor the application of measures;
- enforce actions on standardisation and prepare standardisation requests;
- coordinate the national exploration activities;
- coordinate Member States' information on strategic stocks and the development of guidance when possible;
- provide continuous support and reporting for the Strategic Projects, notably on permitting processes, and provide support for the selection process.

In terms of staffing needs, the Commission has looked carefully at ways to share the work between DGs, reallocate staff where possible and outsource scientific and technical support for the preparation of delegated and implementing acts and for cross-cutting tasks. It remains apparent, however, that the high level of ambition of the measures and the increased importance of critical raw materials call for a structured approach to develop the EU's capacity to take action on this matter.

5. OTHER ELEMENTS

• **Implementation plans and monitoring, evaluation and reporting arrangements**

The Commission will evaluate the coherence, results, impacts, proportionality and subsidiarity of this proposal five years after the date on which it becomes applicable.

The main findings of the evaluation will be presented in a report to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, and the European Committee of the Regions which will be made public.

In order to conduct the evaluation, the European Critical Raw Materials Board, the Member States and national competent authorities will provide information to the Commission on its request. In particular this will include information on progress in reaching the benchmark for the EU capacity across the value chain stages and the effectiveness of monitoring activities.

• **Detailed explanation of specific provisions in the proposal**

Chapter I of the Regulation outlines the general provisions and includes the definitions. The Regulation states that the general objective is to ensure the EU's access to a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials by pursuing four specific objectives: to strengthen EU's capacities along the different stages of the value chain, to diversify EU's imports of raw materials, to improve monitoring and risk mitigation capacities and to ensure a well-functioning single market while improving the sustainability and circularity of critical raw materials. It sets benchmarks to mark progress on the first two objectives described here.

Chapter II sets out lists critical and strategic raw materials, to be reviewed at least every four years, using the methodologies provided in Annexe I and II. These lists set the scope of the different measures.

The Commission assesses more than 80 materials used in the EU economy for their supply risk and economic importance based on average data for the latest complete 5-year period. The supply risk is determined by global and EU supply concentration, EU import reliance, input of secondary materials, and technical substitutability. The economic importance is calculated by the share of use in NACE 2-digit-level-sectors and their value added, taking into account the economic substitutability. The raw materials passing the thresholds are so called critical raw materials.

This well-recognized methodology identifies supply chains challenges in the whole EU economy. However, a complementary approach is required to ensure a more dynamic perspective on expected global demand and supply developments. It should identify the raw materials needed to achieve the EU's twin transition and defence and aerospace objectives, and it should analyse future challenges and key dependencies in the supply of these raw materials.

All raw materials screened within the assessment of their criticality are mapped according to their use in and importance to the technologies that support the twin green and digital

transition and defence and aerospace objectives. To perform this qualitative scoping, the analysis relied on the “Materials Dependencies for Dual-Use Technologies Relevant to Europe’s Defense Sector”²² of 2019, the “Critical Raw Materials for Strategic Technologies and Sectors – a Foresight Study”²³, the “Study on the resilience of critical supply chains for energy security and clean energy transition during and after the COVID-19 crisis”²⁴ of 2020, and the “Supply Chain Analysis and Material Demand Forecast in Strategic Technologies and Sectors in the EU – A Foresight Study”²⁵ of 2023. This analysis also takes into account the work of relevant international organisations such as the IEA²⁶, the OECD²⁷ and other data sources.

If the raw material is of high importance to a technology, additional factors are considered, based on a semi-quantitative approach laid out in Annex 1 of this regulation. To assess whether there may be a gap in supply and if so, its magnitude, demand projections towards 2030 and beyond are identified as far as reliable and available, and the projected demand compared with the current supply, both for the EU and globally. To assess how the production of the raw material would be able to react to market signals, known reserves are compared with the current global production volume of the raw material. The global production volume is furthermore quantified logarithmically, as large production volumes are more difficult to scale up. As a result of these considerations, the list of strategic raw materials introduced in Annex 1 is proposed.

Chapter III sets out the framework to strengthen the EU’s strategic raw materials value chain by selecting and implementing Strategic Projects, that will be eligible for streamlined permitting processes and facilitated access to financing opportunities, which will be also improved by better coordination.

Section 1 sets out the rules governing the selection and implementation of Strategic Projects, including the criteria for being recognised as a Strategic Project, the procedures for their recognition and implementation.

Section 2 sets out streamlined permitting processes for critical raw material projects and in particular Strategic Projects.

Section 3 aims to provide enabling conditions for Strategic Projects, including Member State support to accelerate their implementation, coordination of financial support and facilitation off-take agreements.

Section 4 lays out provisions to develop general exploration programmes in Europe to facilitate the development of exploration and extraction projects.

Chapter IV develops a mechanism for coordinated monitoring of critical raw materials supply chains and provides measures to mitigate supply risks. It sets out a framework for systematically monitoring critical raw materials supply risks at different stages of the value chains. It also sets out a framework for risk mitigation by coordinating strategic stocks for

²² <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC117729>

²³ <https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/42881>

²⁴ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/b80d77b6-2a3b-11ec-bd8e-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-search>

²⁵ tbc

²⁶ <https://www.iea.org/reports/the-role-of-critical-minerals-in-clean-energy-transitions/mineral-requirements-for-clean-energy-transitions>

²⁷ <https://www.oecd.org/environment/global-material-resources-outlook-to-2060-9789264307452-en.htm>

strategic raw materials, by requiring large importers and manufacturers to regularly audit their supply chains, and facilitating the joint purchases of strategic raw materials.

Chapter V contains provisions for developing the circularity of critical raw materials markets and lowering the environmental footprint of critical raw materials.

Section 1 sets out rules for Member States to adopt and implement measures on circularity, in particular with regard to waste streams with high critical raw materials recovery potential, and for Member States and extractive waste operators to assess the potential to recover critical raw materials from extractive waste sites. It also improves the circularity of permanent magnets by requiring information on the type and composition of permanent magnets incorporated in products as well as on their recycled CRM content. It provides, following a dedicated assessment, for the introduction of minimum recycled content thresholds.

Section 2 sets out rules for the recognition by the Commission of certification schemes related to the sustainability of critical raw materials. It also contains provisions regarding the declaration of the environmental footprint of critical raw materials placed on the EU market.

Section 3 contains rules on free movement, conformity and market surveillance related to products incorporating permanent magnets and CRMs for which the environmental footprint has to be declared.

Chapter VI provides a framework for cooperation on Strategic Partnerships with third countries related to raw materials and to achieve greater synergies between Strategic Partnerships and Member States' cooperation with relevant third countries.

Chapter VII sets up a European Critical Raw Materials Board, composed of high-level representatives from the Member States and the Commission, which will chair the Board. The Board will provide advice to the Commission and assist with coordination, cooperation and information exchange to support the implementation of this Regulation.

Chapters VIII and IX are chapters with articles on delegated acts and implementing acts and on the amendments made to other legislation.

Chapter X contains articles on penalties, monitoring progress and on carrying out an evaluation of the Regulation. It also establishes a common reporting for Member States related to different measures and contains an article ensuring that confidential information collected under this Regulation is handled in a consistent manner.

Annex I sets out the list of strategic raw materials and the methodology to select them.

Annex II sets out the list of critical raw materials and the methodology to select them.

Annex III provides elements to be taken into account when assessing a raw material project's compliance with the criteria for recognition as a Strategic Project.

Annex IV specifies the criteria that a recognised certification scheme must meet.

Annex V sets out the element to be taken into account when defining calculation and verification rules for the environmental footprint of critical raw materials.

Annex VI provides a list of Combined Nomenclature codes and product descriptions corresponding to the products covered by the permanent magnet circularity requirements.

Proposal for a

REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

establishing a framework for ensuring a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials and amending Regulations (EU) 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, 2018/1724 and (EU) 2019/1020

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 114 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee²⁸,

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure,

Whereas:

- (1) Access to raw materials is essential for the Union economy and the functioning of the internal market. There is a set of non-energy, non-agricultural raw materials that, due to their high economic importance and their exposure to high supply risk, often caused by a high concentration of supply from a few third countries, are considered critical. Given the key role of many such critical raw materials in realising the green and digital transitions, and in light of their use for defence and space applications, demand will increase exponentially in the coming decades. At the same time, the risk of supply disruptions is increasing against the background of rising geopolitical tensions and resource competition. Furthermore, if not managed properly, increased demand for critical raw materials could lead to negative environmental and social impacts. Considering these trends, it is necessary to take measures to ensure access to a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials to safeguard the Union's economic resilience and open strategic autonomy.
- (2) Given the complexity and the transnational character of critical raw material value chains, uncoordinated national measures to ensure a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials have a high potential of distorting competition and fragmenting the internal market. Therefore, to safeguard the functioning of the internal market, a common Union framework should be created to collectively address this central challenge.
- (3) Firstly, in order to effectively ensure the Union's access to a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials, that framework should include measures to decrease

²⁸ OJ C , , p. .

the Union's growing supply risks by strengthening Union capacities along all stages of the strategic raw materials value chain, including extraction, processing and recycling, towards benchmarks defined for each strategic raw material. Secondly, as the Union will continue to rely on imports, the framework should include measures to increase the diversification of external supplies of strategic raw materials. Thirdly, is necessary to provide measures to reinforce the Union's ability to monitor and mitigate existing and future supply risks. Fourthly, the framework should contain measures to increase the circularity and sustainability of the critical raw materials consumed in the Union.

- (4) In order to ensure that the measures set out in the Regulation focus on the most relevant materials, a list of strategic raw materials and a list of critical raw materials should be established. Those lists should also serve to guide and coordinate Member States' efforts to contribute to the realisation of the aims of this Regulation. The list of strategic raw materials should contain raw materials that are of high strategic importance, taking into account their use in strategic technologies underpinning the green and digital transitions or for defence or space applications, that are characterised by a potentially significant gap between global supply and projected demand, and for which an increase in production is relatively difficult, for instance due to long lead-times for new projects increasing supply capacity. To take account of possible technological and economic changes, the list of strategic materials should be periodically reviewed and, if necessary, updated. In order to ensure that efforts to increase the Union capacities along the value chain, reinforce the Union's capacity to monitor and mitigate supply risks and increase diversification of supply are focused on the materials for which they are most needed, the relevant measures should only apply to the list of strategic raw materials.
- (5) The list of critical raw materials should contain all strategic raw materials as well as any other raw materials of high importance for the overall Union economy and for which there is a high risk of supply disruption. To take account of possible technological and economic changes, the Commission should, in continuation of current practice, periodically perform an assessment based on data for production, trade, applications, recycling, and substitution for a wide range of raw materials to update the lists of critical and strategic raw materials reflecting the evolution in the economic importance and supply risk associated with those raw materials. The list of critical raw materials should include those raw materials which reach or exceed the thresholds for both economic importance and supply risk, without ranking the relevant raw materials in terms of criticality. This assessment should be based on an average of the latest available data over a 5-year-period. The measures set out in this Regulation related to one stop shop for permitting, planning, exploration, monitoring, circularity, and sustainability should apply to all critical raw materials.
- (6) To strengthen Union capacities along the strategic raw materials value chain, benchmarks should be set to guide efforts and track progress. The aim should be to increase capacities for each strategic raw material at each stage of the value chain, while aiming to achieve overall capacity benchmarks for extraction, processing and recycling of strategic raw materials. Firstly, the Union should increase the use of its own geological resources of strategic raw materials and build up capacity to allow it to extract the materials needed to produce at least 10 % of the Union's consumption of strategic raw materials. Keeping in mind that extraction capacity is highly dependent on the availability of Union geological resources, the achievement of this benchmark is dependent on such availability. Secondly, in order to build a full value chain and

prevent any bottlenecks at intermediate stages, the Union should in addition increase its processing capacity along the value chain and be able to produce at least 40 % of its annual consumption of strategic raw materials. Thirdly, it is expected that in the coming decades a growing share of the Union's consumption of strategic raw materials can be covered by secondary raw materials, which would improve both the security and the sustainability of the Union's raw materials supply. Therefore, Union recycling capacity should be able to produce at least 15 % of the Union's annual consumption of strategic raw materials. These benchmarks refer to the 2030 time horizon, in alignment with the Union's climate and energy targets set under Regulation (EU) 2021/1119 of the European Parliament and of the Council²⁹ and the digital targets under the Digital Decade³⁰, which they underpin. Furthermore, quality jobs, including skills development and job-to-job transitions, will address risks in the sectoral labour market and help ensure the EU's competitiveness.

- (7) For some raw materials, the Union is almost fully dependent on a single country for its supply. Such dependencies entail a high risk of supply disruptions. To limit such potential risk and increase the Union's economic resilience, efforts should be undertaken to ensure that, by 2030, it is not dependent on a single third country for more than 65% of its supply of any strategic raw material, unprocessed and at any stage of processing, giving however special consideration to countries with whom the Union has established a Strategic Partnership on raw materials giving rise to greater assurances regarding supply risks.
- (8) It is necessary to put in place appropriate measures to support Strategic Projects aimed at the extraction, processing or recycling of strategic raw materials in the Union that should, together with Member State efforts, contribute to increasing capacities towards the benchmarks. Other measures, notably on exploration or circularity, should also contribute to the reinforcement of different stages of the value chain and thereby contribute to the achievement of the benchmarks. To ensure that the benchmarks are met in time, the Commission, with the help of the European Critical Raw Materials Board ('the Board') should track and report progress towards the benchmarks. In case the reported progress towards the benchmarks is generally insufficient, the Commission should assess the feasibility and proportionality of additional measures. A lack of progress only on a single or small set of strategic raw material should in principle not trigger the need for additional Union efforts.
- (9) In order to build capacities in the Union, the Commission should, with the support of the Board, identify Strategic Projects in the Union that intend to become active in the extraction, processing or recycling of strategic raw materials. Effective support to Strategic Projects has the potential to improve access to materials for downstream sectors as well as to create economic opportunities along the value chain, including for SMEs, and contribute to the creation of employment. Therefore, to ensure the development of Strategic Projects across the Union, such projects should benefit from streamlined and predictable permitting procedures and support in gaining access to finance. In order to focus support and ensure their added value, projects should, before receiving such support, be assessed against a set of criteria. Strategic Projects in

²⁹ Regulation (EU) 2021/1119 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 June 2021 establishing the framework for achieving climate neutrality and amending Regulations (EC) No 401/2009 and (EU) 2018/1999 (OJ L 243, 9.7.2021, p. 1).

³⁰ Decision (EU) 2022/2481 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 establishing the Digital Decade Policy Programme 2030 (OJL 323, 19.12.2022, p. 4–26)

the Union should strengthen the Union's security of supply for strategic raw materials, show sufficient technical feasibility and be implemented in an environmentally and socially sustainable manner. They should also provide cross-border benefits beyond the Member State concerned. Where the Commission assesses these criteria to be fulfilled, it should publish the recognition as a Strategic Project in a decision. As a speedy recognition is key to effectively supporting the Union's security of supply, the assessment process should remain light and not overly burdensome.

- (10) In order to diversify the Union's supply of strategic raw materials, the Commission should, with the support of the Board, identify Strategic Projects in third countries that intend to become active in the extraction, processing or recycling of strategic raw materials. To ensure that such Strategic Projects are effectively implemented, they should benefit from improved access to finance. In order to ensure their added value, projects should be assessed against a set of criteria. Like projects in the Union, Strategic Projects in third countries should strengthen the Union's security of supply for strategic raw materials, show sufficient technical feasibility and be implemented sustainably. For projects in emerging markets and developing economies, the project should be mutually beneficial for the Union and the third country involved and add value in that country, taking into account also its consistency with the Union's common commercial policy. Such value may be derived from the project's contribution to more than one stage of the value chain as well as from creating through the project wider economic and social benefits, including the creation of employment in compliance with international standards. Where the Commission assesses these criteria to be fulfilled, it should publish the recognition as a Strategic Project in a decision.
- (11) In order to ensure the sustainability of increased raw material production, new raw materials projects should be implemented sustainably. To that end, the Strategic Projects receiving support under this Regulation should be assessed taking into account international instruments covering all aspects of sustainability highlighted in the EU principles for sustainable raw materials³¹, including ensuring environmental protection, socially responsible practices, including respect for human rights such as the rights of women, and transparent business practices. Projects should also ensure engagement in good faith as well as comprehensive and meaningful consultations with local communities, including with indigenous peoples. To provide project promoters with a clear and efficient way of complying with this criterion, compliance with relevant Union legislation, international standards, guidelines and principles or participation in a certification scheme recognised under this Regulation should be considered sufficient.
- (12) Any promoter of a strategic raw materials project should be able to apply to the Commission for the recognition of their project as a Strategic Project. The application should include several documents and evidence related to the criteria. To better assess the social, environmental and economic viability, the feasibility of the project as well as the level of confidence in the estimates, the project promoter should also provide a classification of the project according to the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources, and to allow for objective validation, they should support this classification with relevant evidence. A timetable for the project should also be

³¹ European Commission, Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, EU principles for sustainable raw materials, Publications Office, 2021, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2873/27875>

attached to an application, in order to estimate when the project would be able to contribute towards the benchmarks for domestic capacity or for diversification. As public acceptance of mining projects is crucial for their effective implementation, the promoter should also provide a plan containing measures to facilitate public acceptance. Special attention should be paid to social partners, civil society and other oversight actors. The promoter should also provide a business plan providing information regarding the project's financial viability and giving an overview of funding and off-take agreements already secured as well as estimates for potential job creation and for the project's needs in terms of skilled workforce, including upskilling and reskilling.

- (13) To ensure the effective and efficient treatment of applications, the Commission should be able to prioritise the processing of applications for projects related to specific underrepresented value chain stages or strategic raw materials, in order to be able to ensure the Union's balanced progress towards all benchmark for Union capacity included in this Regulation.
- (14) As the cooperation of the Member State on whose territory a Strategic Project will be implemented is necessary to ensure its effective implementation, that Member State should have the right to object to and thereby prevent that a project is granted the status of Strategic Project against its will. If it does so, the relevant Member State should provide a reasoned justification for its refusal referring to the applicable criteria. Similarly, the Union should not grant the status of Strategic Project to projects that will be implemented by a third country against the will of its government and should therefore refrain from doing so where a third country government objects.
- (15) To prevent misuse of the recognition as Strategic Project, the Commission should be able to repeal its initial decision to recognise a project as strategic if it no longer fulfils the conditions or the recognition was based on an application containing incorrect information. Before it can do so, the Commission should consult the Board and hear the project promoter.
- (16) In light of their importance for ensuring the security of supply of strategic raw materials, Strategic Projects should be considered to be in the public interest. Ensuring the security of supply of strategic raw materials is of crucial importance for the success of the green and digital transitions as well as the resilience of the defence and space sectors. To contribute towards security of supply of strategic raw materials in the Union, Member States may provide for support in national permit granting procedures to speed up the realisation of Strategic Projects in accordance with Union law.
- (17) National permit-granting processes ensure that raw materials projects are safe, secure and comply with environmental, social and safety requirements. Union environmental legislation sets common conditions for the process and content of national permit-granting processes, thereby ensuring a high level of environmental protection and allowing for the sustainable exploitation of the Union's potential along the raw materials value chain. Being granted the status of Strategic Project should therefore be without prejudice to any applicable permitting conditions for the relevant projects, including those set out in Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the

Council³², Council Directive 92/43/EEC³³, Directive 2000/60/EC³⁴ of the European Parliament and of the Council, Directive 2010/75/EU³⁵ of the European Parliament and of the Council and Directive 2004/35/CE³⁶ of the European Parliament and of the Council, Directive 2009/147/EC³⁷ of the European Parliament and of the Council, and Directive 2006/21/EC³⁸ of the European Parliament and of the Council.

- (18) At the same time, the unpredictability, complexity and, at times, excessive length of national permit-granting processes undermines the investment security needed for the effective development of strategic raw material projects. Therefore, in order to ensure and speed up their effective implementation, Member States should apply streamlined and predictable permitting procedure to Strategic Projects. To that end, Strategic Projects should be given priority status at national level to ensure rapid administrative treatment and urgent treatment in all judicial and dispute resolution procedures relating to them. This Regulation should not prevent competent authorities from streamlining permitting for other projects on the critical raw materials value chain that are not Strategic Projects.
- (19) Given their role in ensuring the Union's security of supply for strategic raw materials, and their contribution to the Union's open strategic autonomy and the green and digital transition, Strategic Projects should be considered by the responsible permitting authority as being in the public interest. Strategic Projects which have an adverse impact on the environment, to the extent it falls under the scope of Directive 2000/60/EC, Council Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC³⁹ may be authorised where the responsible permitting authority concludes, based on its case-by-case assessment, that the public interest served by the project overrides those impacts, provided that all relevant conditions set out in those Directives are met. Where relevant, the case-by-case assessment should take into account the geological specificity of extraction sites, which constrains decisions on location.
- (20) In order to reduce complexity and increase efficiency and transparency in permitting process, project promoters of critical raw materials projects should be able to interact with a single national authority, which is responsible for facilitating and coordinating the entire permit granting process and in the case of Strategic Projects shall issue a comprehensive decision within the applicable time limit. To that end, Member States

³² Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (OJ L 26, 28.1.2012, p. 1-21).

³³ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (OJ L 206 22.7.1992, p. 7-50).

³⁴ Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (OJ L 327, 22.12.2000, p.1-73).

³⁵ Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control) (OJ L 334, 17.12.2010, p. 17-119).

³⁶ ^[1] Directive 2004/35/CE of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 on environmental liability with regard to the prevention and remedying of environmental damage (OJ L 143, 30.4.2004, p. 56-75).

³⁷ Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (OJ L 20, 26.1.2010, p. 7-25).

³⁸ Directive 2006/21/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2006 on the management of waste from extractive industries and amending Directive 2004/35/EC - Statement by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission (OJ L 102, 11.4.2006, p. 15-34).

³⁹ Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (OJ L 20, 26.1.2010, p. 7-25).

should designate a single national competent authority. Where needed in light of a Member State's internal organisation, the tasks of the national competent authority should be able to be delegated to a different authority, subject to the same conditions. To ensure the effective implementation of its responsibilities, Member States should provide their national competent authority, or any authority acting on its behalf, with sufficient personnel and resources.

- (21) In order to ensure clarity about the permitting status of Strategic Projects and to limit the effectiveness of potential abusive litigation, while not undermining effective judicial review, Member States should ensure that any dispute concerning the permit granting process for Strategic Projects is resolved in a timely manner. To that end, national competent authorities should ensure that applicants and project promoters have access to simple dispute settlement procedure and that Strategic Projects are granted urgent treatment in all judicial and dispute resolution procedures relating to the projects.
- (22) In order to allow citizens and businesses to directly enjoy the benefits of the internal market without incurring an unnecessary additional administrative burden, Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 of the European Parliament and the Council⁴⁰, which established the Single Digital Gateway, provides for general rules for the online provision of information, procedures and assistance services relevant for the functioning of the internal market. The information requirements and procedures covered by this Regulation should comply with the requirements of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724. In particular, it should be ensured that project promoters of Strategic Project can access and complete any procedure related to the permit granting process fully online, in line with Article 6(1) of and Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2018/1724.
- (23) In order to provide project promoters and other investors with the security and clarity needed to increase development of Strategic Project, Member States should ensure that the permit granting process related to such projects does not exceed pre-set time limit. For Strategic Projects involving only processing or recycling, the length of the permit granting process should not exceed 1 year. However, for Strategic Projects that involve extraction the length of the permit granting process should, considering the complexity and extent of the potential impacts involved, not exceed 2 years. To effectively achieve those time limits, Member States should ensure that the responsible authorities have sufficient resources and personnel. Through the Technical Support Instrument, the Commission supports Member States, upon their request, in designing, developing and implementing reforms including the strengthening the administrative capacity related to national permitting.
- (24) The environmental assessments and authorisations required under Union law, including in relation to water, habitats and birds, are an integral part of the permit granting process for a raw material project and an essential safeguard to ensure that negative environmental impacts are prevented or minimised. However, in order to ensure that the permit granting processes for Strategic Projects are predictable and timely, any potential to streamline the required assessments and authorisations while

⁴⁰ Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 October 2018 establishing a single digital gateway to provide access to information, to procedures and to assistance and problem-solving services and amending Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 1-38).

not lowering the level of environmental protection should be realised. In that regard, it should be ensured that the necessary assessment are bundled to prevent unnecessary overlap and it should be ensured that project promoters and responsible authorities explicitly agree on the scope of the bundled assessment before it is implemented to prevent unnecessary follow-up.

- (25) Land use conflicts can create barriers to the deployment of critical raw material projects. Well-designed plans, including spatial plans and zoning, that take into account the potential for implementing critical raw material projects and whose potential environmental impacts are assessed, have the potential to help balance public goods and interests, decreasing the risk of conflict and accelerating the sustainable deployment of raw materials projects in the Union. Responsible national, regional and local authorities should therefore consider including provisions for raw materials projects when developing relevant plans.
- (26) Within the Union, critical raw materials projects often face difficulties with access to finance. Critical raw materials markets are often characterised by high volatility of prices, long lead times, high concentration and opacity. Additionally, financing for the sector requires a high level of expert knowledge that is often lacking among financial institutions. To overcome these factors and contribute towards ensuring a stable and reliable supply of strategic raw materials, Member States and the Commission should assist in access to finance and administrative support.
- (27) A strong value chain in Europe can be built only with adequate financial means. The Commission will work with InvestEU implementing partners to seek ways to scale up support to investment in line with the common objectives set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/523⁴¹ and in this Regulation. The InvestEU Advisory Hub can contribute to the build-up of pipeline of viable projects.
- (28) In order to overcome the limitations of the currently often fragmented public and private investments efforts, facilitate integration and return on investment, the Commission, Member States and promotional banks should better coordinate and create synergies between the existing funding programmes at Union and national level as well as ensure better coordination and collaboration with industry and key private sector stakeholders. To that end, a dedicated sub-group of the Board bringing together experts from the Member States and the Commission as well as relevant public financial institutions should be set up. This sub-group should discuss the individual financing needs of Strategic Projects and their existing funding possibilities in order to provide project promoters with a suggestion on how to best access existing financing possibilities. When discussing and making recommendations for the financing of Strategic Projects in third countries, the Board should in particular take into account the Global Gateway strategy⁴².
- (29) Private investment by companies, financial investors and off takers is essential. Where private investment alone is not sufficient, the effective roll-out of projects along the critical raw material value chain may require public support, for example in the form

⁴¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/523 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 March 2021 establishing the InvestEU Programme and amending Regulation (EU) 2015/1017 (OJ 64, 26.3.2021, p. 30-89)

⁴² Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment Bank The Global Gateway (JOIN/2021/30 final).

of guarantees, loans or equity and quasi-equity investments. This public support may constitute State aid. Such aid must have an incentive effect and be necessary, appropriate and proportionate. The existing State aid guidelines, which have recently undergone an in-depth revision in line with twin transition objectives, provide ample possibilities to support investments along the critical raw materials value chain subject to certain conditions.

- (30) Public support is used to address specific identified market failures or sub-optimal investment situations in a proportionate manner, and actions should not duplicate or crowd out private financing or distort competition in the internal market. Actions should have a clear added value for the Union.
- (31) The volatile prices of several strategic raw materials, exacerbated by limited means to hedge them on forward markets, create an obstacle both for project promoters to secure financing for strategic raw material projects as well as for downstream consumers looking to secure stable and predictable prices for key inputs. In an effort to reduce uncertainty over future prices for strategic raw materials, it is necessary to provide for the setting up of a system that enables both interested off-takers and promoters of Strategic Projects to indicate their buying or selling bids and to bring them in contact if the respective bids are potentially compatible.
- (32) The existing knowledge and mapping of the Union's raw materials occurrences were developed at a time when ensuring the supply of critical raw materials for the development of strategic technologies was not a priority. To acquire and update information on the critical raw material occurrences, Member States should draw up national programmes for the general exploration of critical raw materials, which should include measure such as mineral mapping, geochemical campaigns, geoscientific surveys as well as the reprocessing of existing geoscientific datasets. The identification of mineral occurrences and the assessment of the technical and economic viability to extract them involves high financial. To lower that risk and facilitate the development of extraction projects, Member States should make publicly available the information acquired during their respective national exploration programme, where appropriate using the framework of the Infrastructure for Spatial Information established by Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and the Council⁴³.
- (33) Space data and services derived from earth observation can support the efforts towards sustainable critical raw materials value chains by providing a continuous flow of information, which could be useful for activities such as monitoring and management of mining areas, the environmental and socio-economic impact assessment, or mineral resource exploration. As earth observation is also able to provide data about remote and inaccessible areas, it should be considered by Member States when drawing up and implementing their national exploration programmes to the extent possible.
- (34) Although the reinforcement of the Union's critical raw materials value chain is necessary to ensure increased security of supply, the supply chains of critical raw materials will remain global and exposed to external factors. Recent or ongoing events

⁴³ Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 March 2007 establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE) (OJ L 108, 25.4.2007, p. 1-14).

ranging from the COVID-19 crisis to the unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine underlined the vulnerability of some of the Union's supply chains to disruptions. In order to ensure that Member States and European industries are able to anticipate supply disruption and prepared to withstand their consequences, measures should be developed to increase monitoring capacity, coordinate strategic stocks and reinforce the preparedness of companies.

- (35) Member States do not have the same capacity when it comes to risk-awareness and anticipation, and not all Member States have developed dedicated structures that monitor the supply chains of critical raw materials and can inform companies about potential risks of supply disruptions. Similarly, although some companies have invested in the monitoring of their supply chains, others lack the capacity to do so. Therefore, in light of the global dimension of critical raw materials supply chains as well as their complexity, the Commission should develop a dedicated monitoring dashboard assessing critical raw materials' supply risks and ensure the availability of the information gathered for public authorities and private actors, thereby increasing synergies amongst Member States. In order to ensure that Union value chains are sufficiently prepared against potential supply disruptions, the Commission should conduct stress tests assessing the vulnerability of the strategic raw materials supply chains and their exposure to supply risks. Member States should contribute to this exercise by, when possible conducting such stress tests through their national supply and information agencies covering critical raw materials. The Board should ensure the coordination of the implementation of the stress tests by the Commission and Member States. When no Member State has the capacity to perform a required stress test on a given strategic raw material, the Commission should conduct it itself. When making the results of such stress tests publicly available, the Commission should also suggest potential strategies that can be adopted by the public authorities and private actors to mitigate supply risks, such as building strategic stocks or further diversifying their supply. For the purpose of gathering the information necessary to conduct the monitoring and stress tests measures, the Commission should coordinate with the relevant standing subgroup of the Board and Member States should identify and monitor key market operators that are important to the functioning of the value chain. When no member of the standing sub-group has the capacity to perform a required stress test on a given strategic raw material, the Commission should conduct it itself.
- (36) Strategic stocks are an important tool to mitigate supply disruptions, notably for raw materials. Although the proposed Single Market Emergency Instrument allows for the possible development of such stocks in the event of the activation of the Single Market vigilance mode, Member States and companies do not have obligations to build up or coordinate their strategic stocks ahead of a supply disruption. In addition, there is no coordination mechanism across the European Union that allows for the development of a common assessment and of an analysis of potential overlaps and synergies. Therefore, as a first step, and taking account of the present lack of relevant information, Member States should provide to the Commission information about their strategic stocks, whether they are operated by public authorities or by economic operators on the behalf of the Member States. Such information should include the level of stock available per strategic raw material, the outlook of stock levels, and the rules and procedures applicable to these stocks. Any request should be proportionate, have regard for the cost and effort required to make the data available as well as for its impact on national security, and set out appropriate time limits for providing the requested information. Information on the stocks of economic operators may be added

to the analysis, albeit this does not constitute a request for information on them. The Commission should handle the data in a secure manner, and only publish information on an aggregate level. As a second step, based on the information acquired, the Commission should develop a draft benchmark for what should be considered a safe level of Union stocks, taking into account the total annual Union consumption of the concerned strategic raw materials. Based on a comparison between existing stocks and the overall levels of strategic stocks for strategic raw materials across the Union, the Board, acting in agreement with the Commission, should then be able to issue non-binding opinions to Member States on how to increase convergences and to encourage them in building up their strategies stocks. In doing so, the Board should consider the need to maintain incentives for the development of strategic stocks by private operators using strategic raw materials.

- (37) So as to ensure further coordination, the Commission should ensure necessary consultation ahead of Member States' participation in international fora where such strategic stocks may be discussed, notably via the dedicated standing sub-group of the Board. Similarly, in order to increase complementarity between the present proposal and other horizontal or subject-specific instruments, the Commission should ensure that the gathered and aggregated information are passed to vigilance or crisis governance mechanisms, such as the proposed Single Market Emergency Instrument's advisory group, the proposed Chips Act's European Semiconductor Board, the HERA Board or the Health Crisis Board.
- (38) In order to ensure that they are sufficiently prepared to face supply disruptions, large companies manufacturing strategic technologies in the Union using strategic raw materials should audit their supply chains and report accordingly to their board of directors. This will ensure that they take into account the supply risks of strategic raw materials and develop appropriate mitigation strategies to be better prepared in the event of a supply disruption. Similarly, the large companies falling within this scope should run regular stress tests of their strategic raw materials supply chains to ensure that they consider all different scenarios that may affect their supply in the event of a disruption. These measures will lead to additional considerations being given to the costs of potential supply risks.
- (39) Many markets for strategic raw materials are not fully transparent and are concentrated on the supply side, which increases the negotiating power of sellers and increases prices for buyers. To help lower prices for undertaking established in the Union, the Commission should set up a system that is able to aggregate the demand of interested buyers. In developing such a system, the Commission should take into account experience gained in similar endeavours, in particular regarding the joint purchasing of gas as established under Council Regulation 2022/2576⁴⁴. Member State authorities should also be able to participate in this system in order to build up their strategic stocks. All measures under this mechanism should be compatible with Union competition law.
- (40) The provisions on monitoring and strategic stocks included in this Regulation do not entail the harmonisation of national laws and regulations and do not replace existing mechanisms. Monitoring and risk preparedness incentives should be in line with

⁴⁴ Council Regulation (EU) 2022/2576 of 19 December 2022 enhancing solidarity through better coordination of gas purchases, reliable price benchmarks and exchanges of gas across borders (OJ 335, 29.12.2022, p. 1-35)

European instruments. Therefore, instruments such as the Single Market Emergency Instrument proposal aiming to anticipate, mitigate and respond to crisis affecting the functioning of the Single Market or the Council Regulation (EU) 2022/2372⁴⁵ on a framework of measures for ensuring the supply of crisis-relevant medical countermeasures in the event of a public health emergency at Union level, could still apply to critical and strategic raw materials in the event of a crisis or a threat to the extent that those materials fall within the scope of such instruments. Complementarity and coherence between this Regulation and crisis instruments should be ensured through exchange of information.

- (41) Most critical raw materials are metals, which can be in principle endlessly recycled, albeit with sometimes deteriorating qualities. This offers the potential to move to a truly circular economy in the context of the green transition. After an initial phase of rapid growth of demand for critical raw material for new technologies, where primary extraction and processing will still constitute the predominant source, recycling should become increasingly important and reduce the need for primary extraction and its associated impacts. Today, however, recycling rates of most critical raw materials are low, and recycling systems and technologies are often not adapted to the specificities of these raw materials. Action addressing the different factors holding back the circularity potential is thus required.
- (42) Member States retain important competences in the field of circularity, for example in the area of waste collection and treatment systems. These should be used to increase collection and recycling rates for waste streams with a high potential for recovery of critical raw materials, making use for example of financial incentives such as discounts, monetary rewards or deposit-refund systems. Member State authorities should also make a difference as buyers of critical raw materials and of products containing them, and national research and innovation programmes provide significant resources to increase the state of knowledge and technology for critical raw materials circularity as well as material efficiency. Finally, Member States should promote the recovery of critical raw materials from extractive waste by improving the availability of information and by addressing legal, economic and technical barriers. One possible solution that Member States should look into are risk-sharing mechanisms between operators and the Member State to promote recovery from closed waste facilities.
- (43) The Union has, in many of its regions, a legacy of raw materials extraction and thus substantial amounts of extractive waste on closed facilities which, due to their only recent rise in economic importance, have generally not been analysed for critical raw materials potential. The recovery of critical raw materials from extractive waste facilities has the potential to create economic value and employment in historical mining regions, which are often affected by deindustrialisation and decline. The lack of attention to, and information on critical raw materials content, especially on closed waste facilities, constitutes a key barrier to greater use of the critical raw materials potential of extractive waste.
- (44) The recovery of critical raw materials from extractive waste facilities should be part of the valorisation of relevant waste facilities. Directive 2006/21/EC sets out high requirements of environmental and human health protection for the waste management

⁴⁵ Council Regulation (EU) 2022/2372 of 24 October 2022 on a framework of measures for ensuring the supply of crisis-relevant medical countermeasures in the event of a public health emergency at Union level (OJ 314, 6.12.2022, p.64-78)

of the extractive industry. While these high requirements should be maintained, it is appropriate to establish additional measures to maximise the recovery of critical raw materials from extractive waste.

- (45) Operators of extractive waste facilities, both existing and new, should perform a preliminary economic assessment study regarding the recovery of critical raw materials from extractive waste present on the site and from such waste being generated. In line with the waste hierarchy established in Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴⁶, priority should be given to preventing the generation of waste containing critical raw materials, by extracting critical raw materials from the extracted volume prior to it becoming waste. In elaborating this study, operators should gather the necessary information, including concentrations and quantities of critical raw materials in the extractive waste, and perform an assessment of multiple options regarding processes, operations or business arrangements that could enable an economically viable recovery of critical raw materials. This obligation comes in addition to obligations laid down in Directive 2006/21/EC and the national laws transposing it and is directly applicable. In its implementation, operators and competent authorities should seek to minimise administrative burden and integrate procedures to the extent possible.
- (46) To address the current lack of information on the critical raw materials potential of closed extractive waste facilities, Member States should draw up a database containing all information relevant to promote the recovery, notably the quantities and concentrations of critical raw materials in the extractive waste facility, in compliance with Union competition rules. The information should be made publicly available and in a user-friendly and digital form, enabling access to more detailed, technical information. To facilitate user-friendly access to the information, Member States should for instance provide a point of contact to enable more in-depth exchanges with potential developers of critical raw materials recovery projects. The database should be designed to allow potential project promoters to easily identify facilities with a high potential for economically viable recovery. To focus limited resources, Member States should follow a staged approach in the collection of information and perform the more demanding information collection steps only for the most promising facilities. The information collection activities should be aimed at providing accurate and representative information on the extractive waste facilities and gaining the best possible indication of the critical raw materials recovery potential.
- (47) Permanent magnets are incorporated in a wide variety of products, with wind turbines and electric vehicles being the most important and fastest-growing applications but also other products, including magnet resonance imaging devices, industrial robots, light means of transport, cooling generators, heat pumps, electric motors, industrial electric pumps, automatic washing machines, tumble driers, microwaves, vacuum cleaners and dishwashers containing significant amounts worth recovering. Most permanent magnets, especially the most performant types, contain critical raw materials, such as neodymium, praseodymium, dysprosium and terbium, boron, samarium, nickel or cobalt. Their recycling is possible but today only performed in the Union at a small scale or in the context of research projects. Permanent magnets should therefore be a priority product for increasing circularity.

⁴⁶ Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives (OJ L 312, 22.11.2008, p. 3-30).

- (48) A precondition for effective magnet recycling is for recyclers to have access to the necessary information on the amount, type and chemical composition of magnets in a product, their location and the coating, glues and additives used, as well as information on how to remove the permanent magnets from the product. In addition, to ensure a business case for magnet recycling, permanent magnets incorporated in products placed on the Union market should, over time, contain an increasing amount of recycled materials. While providing transparency on the recycled content in a first stage, a minimum content of recycled content should be set after a dedicated assessment of the appropriate level and likely impacts.
- (49) Critical raw materials sold on the Union market are often certified regarding the sustainability of their production and supply chain. Certification can be obtained in the context of a broad range of public and private certification schemes available with varying scopes and stringency, creating the potential for confusion regarding the nature and veracity of claims made about the relative sustainability of critical raw materials placed on the Union market based on such certification. The Commission should be empowered to adopt implementing acts recognising certification schemes that should be considered comprehensive and trustworthy, providing a common basis for authorities and market participants for assessing the sustainability of critical raw materials. Recognition should be given only to certification schemes that cover a broad range of sustainability aspects, including environmental protection, human rights including labour rights and business transparency, and which contain provisions for independent third party verification and monitoring of compliance. To ensure efficient procedures, promoters of projects applying to be recognised as Strategic Projects should be allowed to rely on participation in a recognised scheme to show that their project is implemented sustainably.
- (50) The production of critical raw materials at different stages of the value chain causes environmental impacts, whether on climate, water, fauna or flora. In order to limit such damage and incentivise the production of more sustainable critical raw materials, the Commission should be empowered to develop a system for the calculation of the environmental footprint of critical raw materials, including a verification process, to ensure that critical raw materials placed on the Union market publicly display information on such footprint. The system should be based on taking into account scientifically sound assessment methods and relevant international standards in the area of life cycle assessment. The requirement to declare the environmental footprint of a material should only apply where it has been concluded, based on a dedicated assessment, that it would contribute to the Union's climate and environmental objectives by facilitating the procurement of critical raw materials with lower environmental footprint and would not disproportionately affect trade flows. When the relevant calculation methods have been adopted, the Commission should develop performance classes for critical raw materials, thereby allowing potential buyers to easily compare the relative environmental footprint of available materials and driving the market towards more sustainable materials. Sellers of critical raw materials should ensure that the environmental footprint declaration is available to their customers. Transparency on the relative footprint of critical raw materials placed on the Union market may also enable other policies at Union and national level, such as incentives or green public procurement criteria, fostering the production of critical raw materials with lower environmental impacts.
- (51) The Environmental Footprint methods constitute a relevant basis for the development of the calculation rules. They rely on scientifically sound assessment methods which

take into account developments on international level and cover environmental impacts, including climate change and impacts related to water, air, soil, resources, land use and toxicity.

- (52) It should be ensured that responsible operators assess the conformity of their products or materials with requirements to improve the circularity of permanent magnets and on the declaration of the environmental footprint of critical raw materials before placing them on the market and that those requirements are effectively enforced by competent national authorities. The conformity and market surveillance provisions established under Regulation 2019/1020 and Regulation (EU) 2023/xxx [OP: please insert reference to ESPR], are designed to address this challenge and should therefore apply also to those requirements. To further ensure that optimal use is made of existing frameworks, it should be ensured that for products that are subject to type approval under Regulation 2018/858 or Regulation 168/2013, compliance is enforced through the existing type approval system.
- (53) The Commission should, as provided in Article 10(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012, request one or more European standardisation organisations to draft European standards in support of the objectives of this Regulation.
- (54) The Union has concluded Strategic Partnerships covering raw materials with third countries in order to implement the 2020 Action Plan on Critical Raw Materials. In order to diversify supply, these efforts should continue. To develop and ensure a coherent framework for the conclusion of future partnerships, the Member States and the Commission should, as part of their interaction on the Board, discuss and ensure coordination on, inter alia, whether existing partnerships achieve the intended aims, the prioritisation of third countries for new partnerships, the content of such partnerships and their coherence and potential synergies between Member States' bilateral cooperation with relevant third countries. The Union should seek mutually beneficial partnerships with emerging market and developing economies, in coherence with its Global Gateway strategy, which contribute to the diversification of its raw materials supply chain as well as add value in the production in these countries.
- (55) In order to support the implementation of tasks pertaining to the development of Strategic Projects and their financing, exploration programmes, monitoring capacities or strategic stocks and to advise the Commission appropriately, a European Critical Raw Materials Board should be established. The Board should be composed of Member States and of the Commission, while being able to ensure participation of other parties as observers. To develop the necessary expertise for the implementation of certain tasks, the Board should establish standing sub-groups on financing, exploration, monitoring and strategic stocks, that should act as a network by gathering the different relevant national authorities and, when necessary, consult industry, academia, civil society and other relevant stakeholders. The Board's advice and opinions should be non-binding and the absence of such an advice or opinion should not prevent the Commission from performing its tasks under this Regulation.
- (56) The absence of progress towards the objectives, including the capacity and diversification benchmarks, may indicate the need for adopting additional measures. The Commission should therefore monitor the progress towards those objectives.
- (57) To keep administrative burden put on Member States to a minimum, the different reporting obligations should be streamlined and the Commission should develop a template allowing Member States to fulfil their reporting obligations on projects,

exploration, monitoring or strategic stocks within a regularly published single document, that may be confidential or restricted.

- (58) In order to ensure trustful and constructive cooperation of competent authorities at Union and national levels, all parties involved in the application of this Regulation should respect the confidentiality of information and data obtained in carrying out their tasks. The Commission and the national competent authorities, their officials, civil servants and other persons working under the supervision of these authorities as well as officials and civil servants of other authorities of the Member States should not disclose information acquired or exchanged by them pursuant to this Regulation and of the kind covered by the obligation of professional secrecy. This should also apply to the European Critical Raw Materials Board. The data should be handled and stored in a secure environment.
- (59) When adopting delegated acts pursuant to Article 290 TFEU, it is of particular importance that the Commission carry out appropriate consultations during its preparatory work, including at expert level, and that those consultations be conducted in accordance with the principles laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement of 13 April 2016 on Better Law-Making⁴⁷. In particular, to ensure equal participation in the preparation of delegated acts, the European Parliament and the Council receive all documents at the same time as Member States' experts, and their experts systematically have access to meetings of Commission expert groups dealing with the preparation of delegated acts.
- (60) In order to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of this Regulation, implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission as regards: (a) specifying the templates to be used for applications for recognition of Strategic Projects, progress reports related to Strategic Projects, the national exploration programmes, and the reporting of Member States pertaining to exploration, monitoring, strategic stocks and circularity; (b) specifying which products, components and waste streams shall be considered to have a high critical raw materials recovery potential; and (c) determining the criteria and their application for the recognition of schemes related to the sustainability of critical raw materials. Those powers should be exercised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴⁸.
- (61) To ensure that the obligations imposed under this Regulation are complied with, in particular as regards the fact that they comply with ecodesign requirements, companies that do not comply with their obligation, including on risk preparedness, project reporting and recyclability information, should be subject to penalties. It is therefore necessary that Member States lay down effective, proportionate and dissuasive penalties in national law for failure to comply with this Regulation.
- (62) The Commission should carry out an evaluation of this Regulation. Pursuant to paragraph 22 of the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making, that evaluation should be based on the five criteria of efficiency, effectiveness, relevance, coherence and EU value added and should provide the basis for impact assessments of possible further measures. The Commission should submit to the European

⁴⁷ OJ L123, 12.5. 2016, p. 1.

⁴⁸ Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 13-18).

Parliament, to the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, a report on the implementation of this Regulation and progress towards achieving its objectives, including the capacity and diversification benchmarks. The report should also, based on the implementation of the measures related the transparency of the environmental footprint of critical raw materials, assess the appropriateness of establishing maximum thresholds related to the environmental footprint.

- (63) To the extent that any of the measures envisaged by the present Regulation constitute State aid, the provisions concerning such measures are without prejudice to the application of Articles 107 and 108 the Treaty.
- (64) Since the objectives of this Regulation, namely to improve the functioning of internal market establishing a framework to ensure the Union's access to a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials, cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States, but can rather, by reason of its scale and effects, only be achieved at Union level, the Union may adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU). In accordance with the principle of proportionality as set out in that Article, this Regulation does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve that objective,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Chapter 1

General provisions

Article 1

Subject matter and objectives

1. The general objective of this Regulation is to improve the functioning of the internal market by establishing a framework to ensure the Union's access to a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials.
2. To achieve the general objective referred to in paragraph 1, this Regulation aims to:
 - (a) strengthen the different stages of the strategic raw materials value chain with a view to ensure that, by 2030, Union capacities for each strategic raw material have significantly increased so that, overall, Union capacity approaches or reaches the following benchmarks:
 - (i) Union extraction capacity is able to extract the ores, minerals or concentrates needed to produce at least 10% of the Union's annual consumption of strategic raw materials, to the extent that the Union's reserves allow for this;
 - (ii) Union processing capacity, including for all intermediate processing steps, is able to produce at least 40% of the Union's annual consumption of strategic raw materials;
 - (iii) Union recycling capacity, including for all intermediate recycling steps, is able to produce at least 15% of the Union's annual consumption of strategic raw materials.

- (b) diversify the Union's imports of strategic raw materials with a view to ensure that, by 2030, the Union's annual consumption of each strategic raw material at any relevant stage of processing can rely on imports from several third countries, none of which provide more than 65% of the Union's annual consumption;
 - (c) improve the Union's ability to monitor and mitigate the supply risk related to critical raw materials;
 - (d) ensure the free movement of critical raw materials and products containing critical raw materials placed on the Union market while ensuring a high level of environmental protection, by improving their circularity and sustainability.
3. Where, based on the report referred to in Article 42, the Commission concludes that the Union is likely not to achieve the objectives set out in paragraph 2, it shall assess the feasibility and proportionality of proposing measures or exercising its powers at Union level in order to ensure the achievement of those objectives.
4. The Commission shall take into account the objectives and benchmarks laid down in paragraph 2, point a(iii), as related Union priorities within the meaning of Article 5(4)(a)(i) of Regulation XX/XXXX [OP please insert: the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation], when preparing ecodesign requirements to improve the following product aspects: durability, reusability, reparability, resource use or resource efficiency, possibility of remanufacturing and recycling, recycled content and possibility of recovery of materials.

Article 2

Definitions

For the purposes of this Regulation, the following definitions shall apply:

- (1) 'raw material' means a substance in processed or unprocessed state used as an input for the manufacturing of intermediate or final products, excluding substances predominantly used as food, feed or combustion fuel;
- (2) 'critical raw materials' means the raw materials as defined in Article 4;
- (3) 'strategic raw materials' means the raw materials as defined in Article 3;
- (4) 'raw materials value chain' means all activities and processes involved in the exploration, extraction, processing and recycling of raw materials;
- (5) 'exploration' means all activities aimed at identifying and establishing the properties of mineral occurrences;
- (6) 'extraction' means the primary extraction of ores, minerals and plant products from their original source, including from a mineral occurrence underground, mineral occurrence under water, sea brine and trees;
- (7) 'Union extraction capacity' means an aggregate of the maximum annual production volumes of extractive operations for ores, minerals, plant products and concentrates containing strategic raw materials, including processing operations that are typically located at or near the extraction site, located in the Union;
- (8) 'reserves' means all mineral occurrences that are economically viable to extract;

- (9) 'processing' means all physical, chemical and biological processes involved in the transformation of a raw material from ores, minerals, plant products or waste into pure metals, alloys or other economically usable forms;
- (10) 'Union processing capacity' means an aggregate of the maximum annual production volumes of processing operations for strategic raw materials, excluding such operations that are typically located at or near the extraction site, located in the Union;
- (11) 'recycling' means any recovery operation by which waste materials are reprocessed into products, materials or substances whether for the original or other purposes;
- (12) 'Union recycling capacity' means an aggregate of the maximum annual production volume of recycling operations for strategic raw materials, including the sorting and pre-treatment of waste and its processing into secondary raw materials, located in the Union;
- (13) 'annual consumption of strategic raw materials' means an aggregate of the amount of strategic raw materials consumed by undertakings established in the Union in processed form, excluding strategic raw materials incorporated in intermediate or final products placed on the Union market;
- (14) 'supply risk' means supply risk as calculated in line with Annex II;
- (15) 'raw material project' means any planned facility or planned significant extension or repurposing of an existing facility active in extraction, processing or recycling of raw materials;
- (16) 'off-taker' means an undertaking that has entered into an off-take agreement with a project promoter;
- (17) 'off-take agreement' means any contractual agreement between an undertaking and a project promoter containing either a commitment on part of the undertaking to procure a share of the raw materials produced by a specific raw material project over a certain period of time or a commitment on part of the project promoter to provide the undertaking with the option to do so;
- (18) 'project promoter' means any undertaking or consortium of undertakings developing a raw material project;
- (19) 'permit granting process' means a process covering all relevant administrative permits to plan, build and operate the Strategic Projects referred to in Article 5, including building, chemical and grid connection permits and environmental assessments and authorisations where these are required, and encompassing all administrative applications and procedures from the acknowledgment of the validity of the application to the notification of the comprehensive decision on the outcome of the procedure by the responsible national competent authority referred to in Article 8(1);
- (20) 'comprehensive decision' means the decision or set of decisions taken by Member State authorities not including courts or tribunals that determines whether or not a project promoter is authorised to implement a raw material project, without prejudice to any decision taken in the context of an administrative appeal procedure;

- (21) ‘general exploration’ means exploration at national or regional level, not including targeted exploration;
- (22) ‘targeted exploration’ means the detailed investigation of an individual mineral occurrence;
- (23) ‘deep ore deposits’ means mineral occurrences that are located deeper in the Earth’s crust than conventionally exploited ore occurrences;
- (24) ‘predictive map’ means a map indicating areas that are likely to contain mineral occurrences of a given raw material;
- (25) ‘supply disruption’ means the unexpected significant decrease in the availability of a raw material or significant increase in the price of a raw material;
- (26) ‘raw materials supply chain’ means all activities and processes of the raw materials value chain up to the point where a raw material is used as an input for the manufacturing of intermediate or final products;
- (27) ‘mitigation strategies’ means the policies developed by an economic operator to limit the likelihood of a supply disruption to its supply chain or to mitigate the damages caused by such a disruption to its economic activity;
- (28) ‘key market operators’ means producers involved in the extraction, processing or recycling of critical raw materials, traders and distributors of critical raw materials, and downstream companies consuming significant amounts of critical raw materials;
- (29) ‘strategic stock’ means a quantity of a particular raw material in whichever form that is stored by a public or private operator with a view to releasing it in the event of a supply disruption;
- (30) ‘large company’ means any company that had more than 500 employees on average and had a net worldwide turnover of more than EUR 150 million in the last financial year for which annual financial statements have been prepared;
- (31) ‘strategic technologies’ means the technologies needed for the green and digital transitions as well as for defence and space applications;
- (32) ‘board of directors’ means the administrative or supervisory body responsible for supervising the executive management of the company, or, if no such body exists, the person or persons performing equivalent functions;
- (33) ‘collection’ means the gathering of waste, including the preliminary sorting and preliminary storage of waste for the purposes of transport to a waste treatment facility;
- (34) ‘treatment’ means recovery or disposal operations, including preparation prior to recovery or disposal;
- (35) ‘recovery’ means any operation the principal result of which is waste serving a useful purpose by replacing other materials which would otherwise have been used to fulfil a particular function, or waste being prepared to fulfil that function, in the plant or in the wider economy;
- (36) ‘extractive waste’ means extractive waste within the meaning of Directive 2006/21/EC;

- (37) ‘extractive waste facility’ means waste facility within the meaning of Directive 2006/21/EC;
- (38) ‘preliminary economic assessment’ means an early-stage, conceptual assessment of the potential economic viability of a raw material project for the recovery of critical raw materials from extractive waste;
- (39) ‘magnetic resonance imaging device’ means a non-invasive medical device that uses magnetic fields to make anatomical images or any other device that uses magnetic fields to make images of the inside of object;
- (40) ‘wind energy generator’ means the part of an onshore or offshore wind turbine that converts the mechanical energy of the rotor into electrical energy;
- (41) ‘industrial robot’ means an automatically controlled, reprogrammable, multipurpose manipulator, programmable in three or more axes, which can either be fixed or mobile for use in industrial automation applications;
- (42) ‘motor vehicle’ means any type-approved vehicle of the M or N categories in the meaning of Regulation (EU) 2018/858;
- (43) ‘light means of transport’ means any wheeled vehicle that can be powered by the electric motor alone or by a combination of motor and human power, including electric scooters, electric bicycles and type-approved vehicles of category L in the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 168/2013;
- (44) ‘cooling generator’ means the part of a cooling system that generates a temperature difference allowing heat extraction from the space or process to be cooled, using an electric vapour compression cycle;
- (45) ‘heat pump’ means the part of a heating system that generates a temperature difference allowing heat supply to the space or process to be heated, using an electric vapour compression cycle;
- (46) ‘electric motor’ means a device that converts electrical input power into mechanical output power, and with a rated output equal to or above 0.12 kW ;
- (47) ‘automatic washing machine’ means a washing machine where the load is fully treated by the washing machine without the need for user intervention at any point during the programme;
- (48) ‘tumble dryer’ means an appliance in which textiles are dried by tumbling in a rotating drum through which heated air is passed;
- (49) ‘microwave’ means any appliance intended to be used for the heating of food using electromagnetic energy;
- (50) ‘vacuum cleaner’ means an appliance that removes soil from a surface to be cleaned by means of an airflow created by under pressure developed within the unit;
- (51) ‘dishwasher’ means a machine which cleans and rinses tableware;
- (52) ‘permanent magnet’ means a magnet that retains its magnetism after being removed from an external magnetic field;
- (53) ‘data carrier’ means a linear bar code symbol, a two-dimensional symbol or other automatic identification data capture medium that can be read by a device;

- (54) ‘unique product identifier’ means a unique string of characters for the identification of products;
- (55) ‘magnet coating’ means a layer of material generally used to protect magnets from corrosion;
- (56) ‘removal’ means manual, mechanical, chemical, thermal or metallurgic handling with the result that the targeted components or materials are identifiable as a separate output stream or part of an output stream;
- (57) ‘recycler’ means any natural or legal person who carries out recycling in a permitted facility;
- (58) ‘making available on the market’ means any supply of a product for distribution, consumption or use on the Union market in the course of a commercial activity, whether in return for payment or free of charge;
- (59) ‘critical raw material type’ means a critical raw material placed on the market that is differentiated by its stage of processing, its chemical composition, its geographical origin or the production methods used;
- (60) ‘placing on the market’ means the first making available of a product on the Union market;
- (61) ‘conformity assessment’ means the process demonstrating whether the requirements set out Article 27, 28 or 34 have been fulfilled;
- (62) ‘Strategic Partnership’ means a commitment between the Union and a third country to increase cooperation related to the raw materials value chain that is established through a non-binding instrument setting out concrete actions of mutual interest.

Chapter 2

Critical and strategic raw materials

Article 3

List of strategic raw materials

1. The raw materials listed in Annex I, Section 1 shall be considered strategic raw materials.
2. The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 36 to amend Annex I, Section 1 in order to update the list of strategic raw materials.

An updated list of strategic raw materials shall include, from among the raw materials assessed, the raw materials that score among the highest in terms of strategic importance, forecasted demand growth and difficulty of increasing production. The strategic importance, projected demand growth and difficulty of increasing production shall be determined in accordance with Annex I, Section 2.
3. The Commission shall review and, if necessary, update the list of strategic raw materials by [OP please insert: four years after the date of entry into force of this Regulation], and every 4 four years thereafter.

Article 4

List of critical raw materials

1. The raw materials listed in Annex II, Section 1 shall be considered critical raw materials.
2. The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 36 to amend Annex II, Section 1 in order to update the list of critical raw materials.

An updated list of critical raw materials shall include the strategic raw materials listed in Annex I, Section 1 as well as any other raw material that reaches or exceeds the thresholds for both economic importance and supply risk referred to in paragraph 3. Economic importance and supply risk shall be calculated in accordance with Annex II, Section 2.
3. The thresholds shall be 1 for supply risk and 2.8 for economic importance.
4. The Commission shall review and, if necessary, update the list of critical raw materials by [OP please insert: four years after the date of entry into force of this Regulation], and every 4 four years thereafter.

Chapter 3

Strengthening the Union raw materials value chain

SECTION 1

STRATEGIC PROJECTS

Article 5

Criteria for recognition of Strategic Projects

1. Following an application of the project promoter and in accordance with the procedure established in Article 6, the Commission shall recognise as Strategic Projects raw material projects that meet the following criteria:
 - (a) the project would make a meaningful contribution to the security of the Union's supply of strategic raw materials;
 - (b) the project is or will become technically feasible within a reasonable timeframe and the expected production volume of the project can be estimated with a sufficient level of confidence;
 - (c) the project would be implemented sustainably, in particular as regards the monitoring, prevention and minimisation of environmental impacts, the use of socially responsible practices including respect of human and labour rights, quality jobs potential and meaningful engagement with local communities and relevant social partners, and the use of transparent business practices with adequate compliance policies to prevent and minimise risks of adverse impacts on the proper functioning of public administration, including corruption and bribery;
 - (d) for projects in the Union, the establishment, operation or production of the project would have cross-border benefits beyond the Member State concerned, including for downstream sectors;
 - (e) for projects in third countries that are emerging markets or developing economies, the project would be mutually beneficial for the Union and the third country concerned by adding value in that country.

2. The fulfilment of the recognition criteria set out in paragraph 1 shall be assessed by the Commission in accordance with the elements and evidence set out in Annex III.
The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 36 to amend Annex III in order to adapt the elements and evidence to be taken into account when assessing the fulfilment of the recognition criteria set out in paragraph 1 to technical and scientific progress or to take into account changes to the Union legislation or international instruments listed in Annex III, point 4, or the adoption of additional Union legislation or international instruments relevant for the fulfilment of the criterion referred to in paragraph 1, point (c).
3. The recognition of a project as a Strategic Project shall not affect the requirements applicable to the relevant project or project promoter under international, Union or national law.

Article 6

Application and recognition

1. Applications for recognition of a raw material project as a Strategic Project shall be submitted by the project promoter to the Commission. The application shall include:
 - (a) relevant evidence related to fulfilment of the criteria laid down in Article 5(1);
 - (b) a classification of the project according to the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources, supported by appropriate evidence;
 - (c) a timetable for the implementation of the project, including an overview of the permits required for the project and the status of the corresponding permit granting process;
 - (d) a plan containing measures to facilitate public acceptance including, where appropriate, the establishment of recurrent communication channels with the local communities and organisations, including social partners, the implementation of awareness-raising and information campaigns and the establishment of mitigation and compensation mechanisms;
 - (e) information on the control of the undertakings involved in the project, defined pursuant to Article 3(2) and (3) of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004;
 - (f) a business plan evaluating the financial viability of the project;
 - (g) an estimate of the project's potential for quality job creation and the project's needs in terms of skilled workforce as well as upskilling and reskilling.
2. The Commission is empowered to adopt implementing acts establishing a template to be used by project promoters for the applications referred to in paragraph 1. The template may indicate how the information referred to in paragraph 1 shall be expressed. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the advisory procedure referred to in Article 37(2).
3. Where the Commission considers that information provided in the application is incomplete, it shall give the applicant the opportunity to submit the additional information required to complete the application in a timely manner.

4. The European Critical Raw Materials Board referred to in Article 34 ('the Board') shall, based on a fair and transparent process, discuss and issue an opinion on the completeness of the application and whether the proposed project fulfils the criteria set out in Article 5(1).
5. Where the Member State whose territory is concerned by a proposed project objects to granting the proposed project strategic status, it shall present substantiated reasons for doing so during the discussion referred to in paragraph 4. The Board shall discuss the substantiated reasons presented by a Member State for its objection. If, after the discussion, the Member State maintains its objection, the project shall not be considered for the status of Strategic Project.

For Strategic Projects in third countries, the Commission shall share the application received with the third country whose territory is concerned by the proposed project. The Commission shall not approve the application before receiving the explicit approval of the relevant third country.
6. The Commission shall, taking account of the Board's opinion referred to in paragraph 4, adopt its decision on the recognition of the project as Strategic Project within 60 days and notify the applicant thereof.

The Commission's decision shall be reasoned, including, where applicable, where it is different from the Board's opinion. The Commission shall share its reasons with the Board as well as with the project promoter.
7. The Commission may prioritise the processing of applications for projects active on specific stages of the value chain in order to:
 - (a) ensure a balanced representation of Strategic Projects for all strategic raw materials and in all stages of the value chain;
 - (b) ensure progress is achieved towards all the benchmarks set out in Article 1(2), points (a) and (b).
8. Where the Commission finds that a Strategic Project no longer fulfils the criteria set out in Article 5(1) or where its recognition was based on an application containing incorrect information, it may, taking into account the opinion of the Board and the responsible project promoter, repeal the decision granting a project the status of Strategic Project.
9. Projects which are no longer recognised as Strategic Projects shall lose all rights connected to that status under this Regulation.

Article 7

Implementation of Strategic Projects

1. Strategic Projects shall be considered to contribute to the security of supply of strategic raw materials in the Union.
2. With regard to the environmental impacts addressed in Articles 6(4) and 16(1)(c) of Directive 92/43/EEC, Article 4(7) of Directive 2000/60/EC and Article 9(1)(a) of Directive 2009/147/EC, Strategic Projects in the Union shall be considered as being of public interest or serving public health and safety, and may be considered as having an overriding public interest provided that all the conditions set out in those Directives are fulfilled.

3. The Member State whose territory is concerned by a Strategic Project shall take measures to contribute to its timely and effective implementation.
4. The Board shall periodically discuss the implementation of the Strategic Projects and, where necessary, measures that could be taken by the project promoter or the Member State whose territory is concerned by a Strategic Project to further facilitate the implementation of those Strategic Projects.
5. The project promoter shall, every two years after the date of recognition as a Strategic Project, submit a report to the Board containing information on at least:
 - (a) progress in the implementation of the project, in particular with regard to the permit granting process;
 - (b) where relevant, reasons for delays compared to the timetable referred to in Article 6(1), point (c) and a plan to overcome such delays;
 - (c) progress in financing the project, including information on public financial support.
6. The Board may request additional information from project promoters relevant to the implementation of the Strategic Project at any moment.
7. The project promoter shall notify the Commission of:
 - (a) changes to the project affecting its fulfilment of the criteria set out in Article 5(1);
 - (b) changes in control of the undertakings involved in the project on a lasting basis, compared to the information referred to in Article 6(1), point (e).
8. The Commission is empowered to adopt implementing acts establishing a template to be used by project promoters for the reports referred to in paragraph 5. The template may indicate how the information referred to in paragraph 5 shall be expressed. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the advisory procedure referred to in Article 37(2).
9. The project promoter shall establish and regularly update a dedicated project website with relevant information about the Strategic Project, including information on the environmental, social and economic impacts and benefits associated with the Strategic Project. The website shall be freely accessible to the public and shall be available in a language or languages that can be easily understood by the local population.

SECTION 2

PERMIT GRANTING PROCESS

Article 8

One stop shop

1. By [OP please insert: 3 months after the date of entry into force of this Regulation], Member States shall designate one national competent authority which shall be responsible for facilitating and coordinating the permit-granting process for critical raw material projects and provide information on the elements referred to in Article 17.

2. The national competent authority referred to in paragraph 1 shall be the sole point of contact for the project promoter in the permit granting process leading to a comprehensive decision for a given critical raw material project and shall coordinate the submission of all relevant documents and information.
3. The responsibilities of the national competent authority referred to in paragraph 1 or the tasks related to it may be delegated to, or carried out by, another authority, for each critical raw material projects, provided that:
 - (a) the national competent authority referred to in paragraph 1 notifies the project promoter of that delegation;
 - (b) a single authority is responsible for each critical raw material projects.
 - (c) a single authority coordinates the submission of any relevant documents and information.
4. Project promoters shall be allowed to submit all documents relevant to the permit granting process in electronic form.
5. The national competent authority referred to in paragraph 1 shall take into consideration any valid studies conducted and permits or authorisations issued for a given critical raw material project before the project entered the permit granting process in accordance with this Article, and shall not require duplicate studies and permits or authorisations, unless otherwise required under Union law.
6. The national competent authority referred to in paragraph 1 shall ensure that applicants have easy access to information on and simple procedures for the settlement of disputes concerning the permit granting process and the issuance of permits for critical raw materials projects, including, where applicable, alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.
7. Member States shall ensure that the national competent authority referred to in paragraph 1 has a sufficient number of qualified staff and sufficient financial, technical and technological resources necessary, including for up- and re-skilling, for the effective performance of its tasks under this Regulation.
8. The Board shall:
 - (a) periodically discuss the implementation of this Section and share best-practices for speeding up permitting procedure for critical raw material projects as well as to improve their public acceptance;
 - (b) where relevant, propose to the Commission guidelines for the implementation of this Section to be taken into account by national competent authorities referred to in paragraph 1.

Article 9

Priority status of Strategic Projects

1. For the purpose of ensuring efficient administrative processing of the permitting processes related to Strategic Projects in the Union, project promoters and all authorities concerned shall ensure that those processes are treated in the most rapid way possible in accordance with Union and national law.
2. Without prejudice to obligations provided for in Union law, Strategic Projects in the Union shall be granted the status of the highest national significance possible, where

such a status exists in national law, and be treated accordingly in the permit granting processes.

3. All dispute resolution procedures, litigation, appeals and judicial remedies related to the permit-granting process and the issuance of permits for Strategic Projects in the Union in front of any national courts, tribunals, panels, including mediation or arbitration, where they exist in national law, shall be treated as urgent, if and to the extent to which national law provides for such urgency procedures and provided that the normally applicable rights of defence of individuals or of local communities would be respected. Project promoters of Strategic Projects shall participate in such urgency procedure, where applicable.

Article 10

Duration of the permit granting process

1. For Strategic Projects in the Union, the permit granting process shall not exceed:
 - (a) 24 months for Strategic Projects involving extraction;
 - (b) 12 months for Strategic Projects only involving processing or recycling.
2. For Strategic Projects in the Union that had entered in the permit granting process before being granted the status of Strategic Project, the duration of the remaining steps of the permit granting process after the project is granted strategic status shall, in derogation from paragraph 1, not exceed:
 - (a) 21 months for Strategic Projects involving extraction;
 - (b) 9 months for Strategic Projects only involving processing or recycling.
3. In exceptional cases, where the nature, complexity, location or size of the proposed project so require, the national competent authority referred to in Article 8(1) may extend the time limits referred to in paragraph 1, point (a), and 2, point (a), by a maximum of 3 months and the time limits referred to in paragraph 1, point (b), and 2, point (b), by a maximum of 1 month, before their expiry and on a case-by-case basis. In that event, the national competent authority referred to in Article 8(1) shall inform the project promoter of the reasons justifying the extension and of the date when the comprehensive decision is expected in writing.
4. For Strategic Projects only involving processing or recycling, the lack of comprehensive decision by the national competent authority referred to in Article 8(1) within the applicable time limits referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall result in the relevant permit granting application to be considered as approved, except in those cases where the specific project requires an environmental impact assessment pursuant to Council Directive 92/43/EEC or Directives 2000/60/EC, 2008/98/EC, 2009/147/EC 2010/75/EU, 2011/92/EU or 2012/18/EU or a determination of whether such environmental impact assessment is necessary and the relevant assessments have not yet been carried out.
5. No later than one month following the receipt of a permit granting application related to a Strategic Project, the national competent authority referred to in Article 8(1) shall validate the application or, if the project promoter has not sent all the information required to process an application, request the project promoter to submit a complete application within fourteen days from this request.

The date of the acknowledgement of the validity of the application by the national competent authority referred to in Article 8(1) shall serve as the start of the permit granting process.

6. No later than one month following the date of the acknowledgement of the validity of the permit granting application, the national competent authority referred to in Article 8(1) shall draw up, in close cooperation with the project promoter and other authorities concerned, a detailed schedule for the permit granting process. The schedule shall be published by either the project promoter on the website referred to in Article 7(7) or by the national competent authority referred to in Article 8(1) on a free access website.
7. The time limits set in this Article shall be without prejudice to obligations arising from Union and international law, and without prejudice to administrative appeal procedures and judicial remedies before a court or tribunal.

The time limits set in this Article for any of the permit granting procedures shall be without prejudice to any shorter time limits set by Member States.

Article 11

Environmental assessments and authorisations

1. Where an environmental impact assessment must be carried out for a Strategic Project in accordance with Articles 5 to 9 of Directive 2011/92/EU, the relevant project promoter shall request an opinion to the national competent authority referred to in Article 8(1) on the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the environmental impact assessment report under Article 5(1) of that Directive.

The national competent authority referred to in Article 8(1) shall ensure that the opinion referred to in the first subparagraph is issued as soon as possible and within a period of time not exceeding 30 days from the date on which the project promoter submitted its request.

2. In the case of Strategic Projects for which the obligation to carry out assessments of the effects on the environment arises simultaneously from Council Directive 92/43/EEC, Directives 2000/60/EC, 2008/98/EC, 2009/147/EC 2010/75/EU, 2011/92/EU or 2012/18/EU of the European Parliament and the Council, the national competent authority referred to in Article 8(1) shall ensure that a coordinated or a joint procedure fulfilling the requirements of that Union legislation is applied.

Under the coordinated procedure referred to in the first subparagraph, the national competent authority referred to in Article 8(1) shall coordinate the various individual assessments of the environmental impact of a particular project required by the relevant Union legislation.

Under the joint procedure referred to in the first subparagraph, the national competent authority referred to in Article 8(1) shall provide for a single assessment of the environmental impact of a particular project required by the relevant Union legislation.

3. The national competent authority referred to in Article 8(1) shall ensure that the authorities concerned issue the reasoned conclusion referred to in Article 1(2), point (g)(iv) of Directive 2011/92/EU on the environmental impact assessment of a Strategic Project within three months of receiving all necessary information gathered

pursuant to Articles 5, 6 and 7 of that Directive and completing the consultations referred to in Articles 6 and 7 of that Directive.

4. The time-frame for consulting the public concerned on the environmental impact assessment report referred to in Article 5(1) of Directive 2011/92/EU shall not be longer than 90 days in the case of Strategic Projects.
5. Paragraph 1 of this Article shall not apply to the permit granting process for Strategic Projects that had entered in the permit granting process before the being granted the status of Strategic Project.

Paragraphs 2 to 4 of this Article shall apply to the permit granting process for Strategic Projects that had entered in the permit granting process before being granted the status of Strategic Project only to the extent that the steps addressed in those paragraphs have not yet been completed.

Article 12

Planning

1. Member States shall ensure that national, regional and local authorities responsible for preparing plans, including zoning, spatial plans and land use plans, include in such plans, where appropriate, provisions for the development of critical raw materials projects. Priority shall be given to artificial and built surfaces, industrial sites, brownfield sites, and, where appropriate, greenfield sites not usable for agriculture and forestry.
2. Where plans including provisions for the development of critical raw material projects are subject to an assessment pursuant to Directive 2001/42/EC and pursuant to Article 6 of Directive 92/43/EEC, those assessments shall be combined. Where relevant, this combined assessment shall also address the impact on potentially affected water bodies and verify whether the plan would cause deterioration of the status or of the potential referred to in Article 4 of Directive 2000/60/EC or would potentially hamper that a water body achieves good status or good potential. Where relevant Member States are required to assess the impacts of existing and future activities on the marine environment, including land-sea interactions, as referred to in Article 4 of Directive 2014/89/EU, these impacts shall also be covered by the combined assessment.

Article 13

Applicability of UNECE conventions

1. The provisions set out in this Regulation are without prejudice to the obligations under Articles 6 and 7 of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, signed at Aarhus on 25 June 1998, and under the UNECE Convention on environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context, signed at Espoo on 25 February 1991.
2. All decisions adopted pursuant to this Section shall be made publicly available.

SECTION 3

ENABLING CONDITIONS

Article 14

Accelerating implementation

1. The Commission and the Member States shall undertake activities to accelerate and crowd-in private investments in Strategic Projects. Such activities may, without prejudice to Article 107 and Article 108 of the TFEU, include providing and coordinating support to Strategic Projects facing difficulties in accessing finance.
2. Member States may provide administrative support to Strategic Projects to facilitate their rapid and effective implementation, including by providing:
 - (a) assistance to ensure compliance with applicable administrative and reporting obligations;
 - (b) assistance to project promoters to further increase the public acceptance of the project.

Article 15

Coordination of financing

1. The standing sub-group referred to in Article 35(6), point (a) shall, at the request of a project promoter of a Strategic Project, discuss and advise on how the financing of its project can be completed, taking into account the funding already secured and considering at least the following elements:
 - (a) additional private sources of financing;
 - (b) support through resources from the European Investment Bank Group or other international financial institutions including the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development;
 - (c) existing Member State instruments and programmes, including from national promotional banks and institutions;
 - (d) relevant Union funding and financing programmes.

Article 16

Facilitating off-take agreements

1. The Commission shall set up a system to facilitate the conclusion of off-take agreements related to Strategic Projects, in compliance with competition rules.
2. The system referred to in paragraph 1 shall allow potential off-takers to make bids indicating:
 - (a) the volume and quality of strategic raw materials they intend to purchase;
 - (b) the intended price or price range;
 - (c) the intended duration of the off-take agreement.

3. The system referred to in paragraph 1 shall allow project promoters of Strategic Projects to make offers indicating:
 - (a) the volume and quality of strategic raw materials for which they are seeking to conclude off-take agreements;
 - (b) the intended price or price range at which they are willing to sell;
 - (c) the intended duration of the off-take agreement.
4. Based on the bids and offers received pursuant to paragraph 2 and 3, the Commission shall bring project promoters of Strategic Projects in contact with potential off-takers relevant for their project.

Article 17

Online accessibility of administrative information

Member States shall provide the following information on administrative processes relevant to critical raw material projects online, and in a centralised and easily accessible manner:

- (a) the permit-granting process;
- (b) financing and investment services;
- (c) funding possibilities at Union or Member State level;
- (d) business support services, including but not limited to corporate tax declaration, local tax laws, labour law.

SECTION 4 EXPLORATION

Article 18

National exploration programmes

1. Each Member State shall draw up a national programme for general exploration targeted at critical raw materials. Each Member State shall draw up the first such programme by [OP please insert: 1 year after the date of entry into force of this Regulation]. The national programmes shall be reviewed and, if necessary, updated, at least every 5 years.
2. The national exploration programmes referred to in paragraph 1 shall include measures to increase available information on the Union's critical raw material occurrences, including deep ore deposits. They shall include, as appropriate, the following measures:
 - (a) mineral mapping at a suitable scale;
 - (b) geochemical campaigns, including to establish the chemical compositions of soils, sediments, rocks;
 - (c) geoscientific surveys, such as geophysical surveys;
 - (d) processing of the data gathered through general exploration, including through the development of predictive maps;

- (e) reprocessing of existing geoscientific survey data to check for unidentified mineral occurrences containing critical raw materials.
 - 3. Member States shall communicate to the Commission their national programmes referred to in paragraph 1.
 - 4. Member States shall, as part of the report referred to in Article 43, provide information on progress in the implementation of the measures included in their national programmes.
 - 5. Member States shall make the information on their mineral occurrences containing critical raw materials gathered through the measures set out in the national programmes referred to in paragraph 1 publicly available on a free access website. This information shall, where applicable, include the classification of the identified occurrences using the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources.
- The Commission is empowered to adopt implementing acts establishing a template for making available the information referred to in the first subparagraph. The template may indicate how the information referred to in the first subparagraph shall be expressed. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the advisory procedure referred to in Article 37(2).
- 6. Taking into consideration existing cooperation on general exploration, the standing sub-group referred to in Article 35(6), point (b) shall discuss the national programmes referred to in paragraph 1 and their implementation, including at least:
 - (a) the potential for cooperation, including on exploration of cross-border mineral occurrences and common geological formations;
 - (b) best practices related to the measures listed in paragraph 2;
 - (c) the possibility to create an integrated database for storing the results of the national programmes referred to in paragraph 1.

Chapter 4

Risk monitoring and mitigation

Article 19

Monitoring and stress testing

- 1. The Commission shall monitor supply risk related to critical raw materials. That monitoring shall cover at least the evolution of the following parameters:
 - (a) trade flows;
 - (b) demand and supply;
 - (c) concentration of supply;
 - (d) Union and global production and production capacities at different stages of the value chain.
- 2. The national authorities participating in the standing sub-group referred to in Article 35(6), point (c) shall support the Commission in the monitoring referred to in paragraph 1 by:

- (a) sharing any information they have at their disposal on the evolution of the parameters listed in paragraph 1, including the information referred to in Article 20;
 - (b) gathering, in coordination with the Commission and the other participating authorities, information on the evolution of the parameters listed in paragraph 1, including the information referred to in Article 20;
 - (c) providing an analysis of the supply risks for critical raw materials in light of the evolution of the parameters listed in paragraph 1.
3. The Commission, in collaboration with the national authorities participating in the standing sub-group referred to in Article 35(6), point (c), shall ensure that a stress test is performed for each strategic raw material's supply chain at least every three years. To that end, the standing sub-group referred to in Article 35(6), point (c) shall coordinate and divide the implementation of stress tests for the different strategic raw materials by the different participating authorities.
- The stress tests referred to in the first subparagraph shall consist of an assessment of the vulnerability of the Union's supply chain of the relevant strategic raw material to supply disruptions by estimating the impact of different scenarios that may cause such disruptions and their potential effects, taking into account at least the following elements:
- (a) where the raw material concerned is extracted, processed or recycled;
 - (b) the capacities of economic operators along the value chain as well as the market structure;
 - (c) factors that might affect supply, including but not limited to the geopolitical situation, logistics, energy supply, workforce or natural disasters;
 - (d) the availability of alternative supply sources and of substitute materials;
 - (e) the users of the relevant raw material along the value chain and their share of demand, with special attention to the manufacturing of technologies relevant for the green and digital transitions as well as defence and space applications.
4. The Commission shall make publicly available on a free access website and regularly update a monitoring dashboard containing:
- (a) the available information on the evolution of the parameters referred to in paragraph 1;
 - (b) a calculation of the supply risk for critical raw materials in light of the information referred to in point (a);
 - (c) the results of the stress tests referred to in paragraph 3;
 - (d) where appropriate, suggestion for suitable mitigation strategies to decrease supply risk.
5. Where, based on the information gathered pursuant to paragraphs 1, 2 and 3, the Commission considers that there is a clear indication of the risk of a supply disruption, the Commission shall alert Member States, the Board and the Union governance bodies of crisis vigilance or crisis management mechanisms whose scope covers relevant critical or strategic raw materials.

Article 20

Information obligations for monitoring

1. Member States shall, as part of the report referred to in Article 43, provide information to the Commission on any new or existing raw material project on their territory that is relevant regarding to Article 19(1), point (d), including a classification of new projects according to the United Nations Framework Classification of Resources.
2. Member States shall identify key market operators along the critical raw materials value chain established in their territory and shall:
 - (a) monitor their activities through regular and proportionate surveys with a view to gathering information required for the monitoring tasks referred to in Article 19;
 - (b) as part of the report referred to in Article 43, provide information on the results of those surveys;
 - (c) without delay notify the Commission of major events that may hinder the regular operations of the activities of key market operators.
3. Member States shall transmit the data collected pursuant to paragraphs 2(a) and (b) of this Article to national statistical authorities and to Eurostat for the purposes of compiling statistics in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council. Member States shall designate the national authority responsible for transmitting the data to national statistical offices and Eurostat.

Article 21

Reporting of strategic stocks

1. Member States shall, as part of the report referred to in Article 43, submit to the Commission information on the state of their strategic stocks of strategic raw materials.
2. The information referred to in paragraph 1 shall cover stocks held by all public authorities, publicly owned companies or economic operators charged by a Member State to build up strategic stocks on its behalf and shall at least include a description of:
 - (a) the level of stocks available for each strategic raw material, measured both in tonnes and as a percentage of annual national consumption of the relevant materials, as well as the chemical form and purity of the materials stocked;
 - (b) the evolution of the level of stocks available for each strategic raw material over the preceding 5 years;
 - (c) any rules or procedures applicable to the release, allocation and distribution of strategic stocks.
3. The report may also include information of strategic stocks of critical and other raw materials.

Coordination of strategic stocks

1. By [OP please complete: 2 year after the date of entry into force of this Regulation] and every 2 years after that, the Commission shall, based on the information received pursuant to Article 21(1), share with the Board:
 - (a) a draft benchmark indicating a safe level of Union stocks for each strategic raw material, defined pursuant to paragraph 2;
 - (b) a comparison of the overall level of Union stocks for each strategic raw material and the draft benchmark referred to in point (a);
 - (c) information on the potential cross-border accessibility of strategic stocks, in light of the rules or procedures for their release, allocation and distribution.
2. The Commission, taking account of the views of the Board, shall adopt a benchmark indicating a safe level of Union stocks of strategic raw materials, which shall:
 - (a) be expressed as the amount needed to cover an amount of days of average daily net imports in case of a supply disruption, calculated on the basis of the amount of imports during the previous calendar year;
 - (b) take into account stocks held by private operators, to the extent that information on such stocks is available;
 - (c) be proportionate to the supply risk and economic importance associated with the relevant strategic raw material.
3. The Commission, taking account of the views of the Board, may issue opinions addressed to Member States:
 - (a) to increase the level of strategic stocks, taking into account the comparison referred to in paragraph 1, point (b), the relative distribution of existing stocks among Member States and the consumption of strategic raw materials by economic operators in the Member States' respective territories;
 - (b) to amend or coordinate the rules or procedures for the release, allocation and distribution of strategic stocks in order to improve the potential cross-border accessibility, in particular where necessary for the production of strategic technologies.
4. In preparing opinions referred to in paragraph 3, the Board shall give particular weight to the need to maintain incentives for private operators, which rely on strategic raw materials as inputs, to constitute their own stocks or to take other measures to manage their exposure to supply risks.
5. Member States shall, as part of the report referred to in Article 43, provide information on whether and how they have implemented or intend to implement the opinions referred to in paragraph 3.
6. Ahead of the participation of at least two Member States in international or multilateral fora in the areas of strategic stocks for strategic raw materials, the Commission shall ensure a prior coordination either between the Member States concerned and the Commission or by a dedicated meeting of the Board.
7. The data collected on the available Union stocks shall be provided by the Commission to the Union governance bodies responsible for crisis vigilance or crisis management mechanisms covering relevant strategic raw materials.

Article 23

Company risk preparedness

1. Member States shall identify the large companies that manufacture strategic technologies using strategic raw materials on their territory.

The strategic technologies referred to in the first subparagraph shall include, but are not limited to, batteries for energy storage and e-mobility, equipment related to hydrogen production and utilisation, equipment related to renewable energy generation, traction motors, heat pumps, data transmission and storage, mobile electronic devices, equipment related to additive manufacturing, robotics, drones, rocket launchers, satellites and advanced chips.
2. Large companies identified by Member States pursuant to paragraph 1 shall, every two years, perform an audit of their supply chain, including:
 - (a) a mapping of where the strategic raw materials they use are extracted, processed or recycled;
 - (b) a stress test of their supply chain of strategic raw materials, consisting of an assessment of its vulnerability to supply disruptions by estimating the impact of different scenarios that may cause such disruptions and their potential effects, taking into account at least the elements listed in Article 19(3).
3. Companies referred to under paragraph 1 shall present a report containing the results of the audit referred to in paragraph 2 to their board of directors.

Article 24

Joint purchasing

1. The Commission shall set up and operate a system to aggregate the demand of interested undertakings consuming strategic raw materials established in the Union and Member State authorities responsible for strategic stocks and seek offers from suppliers to match that aggregated demand. This shall cover both unprocessed and processed strategic raw materials.
2. In setting up and operating the system referred to in paragraph 1, the Commission shall:
 - (a) choose for which strategic raw materials, at which processing stage, the system can be used, taking into account the relative supply risk of different strategic raw materials and the need for building up strategic stocks related to those material based on the information gathered pursuant to Articles 21 and 22;
 - (b) set minimum amounts of demanded material to participate in the system, taking into account the expected number of interested participants and the need to ensure a manageable amount of participants.
3. Participation in the system referred to in paragraph shall be open and transparent to all interested undertakings established in the Union and to Member State authorities. Participation of Member States or any national entities subject to the procurement Directives 2014/24 or 2014/25 shall be possible only in cases where such participation is compatible with these Directives.
4. Union undertakings and Member State authorities participating in the system referred to in paragraph 1 may, on a transparent basis, jointly negotiate the purchase,

including the prices or other terms and conditions of the purchasing agreement or use joint purchasing in order to achieve better conditions with their suppliers or to prevent shortages. Participating Union undertakings and Member State authorities shall comply with Union law, including Union competition law.

5. Entities shall be excluded from participation as supplier, in the demand aggregation and joint purchasing or as service provider if they are:
 - (a) targeted by Union restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU;
 - (b) directly or indirectly owned or controlled by, or acting on behalf or at the direction of natural or legal persons, entities or bodies targeted by such Union restrictive measures.
6. By derogation from Article 176 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, the Commission may contract the necessary services of an entity established in the Union through a procurement procedure under Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, acting as a service provider to set up and operate the system under paragraph 1. The Service provider selected shall not have any conflict of interest.
7. The Commission shall define in the service contract the tasks to be provided by the service provider, including the allocation of demand, the allocation of access rights for supply, registration and verification of all participants, publication and reporting of the activities and any other task necessary to set up and operate the system. The service contract shall also deal with practicalities of the operation of the service provider including the use of the IT tool, the security measures, the currency or currencies, the payment regime, and liabilities.
8. The service contract with the service provider shall reserve to the Commission the right to monitor and audit it. For that purpose, the Commission shall have full access to the information held by the service provider in relation to the contract. All servers and information shall be physically located and stored in the territory of the Union.
9. The service contract with the selected service provider shall determine the ownership of the information obtained by the service provider, and shall provide for the possible transfer of that information to the Commission at the termination or expiry of the service contract.

Chapter 5

Sustainability

SECTION 1

CIRCULARITY

Article 25

National measures on circularity

1. Each Member State shall by [OP please insert: 3 years after the date of entry into force of this Regulation] adopt and implement national programmes containing measures designed to:
 - (a) increase the collection of waste with high critical raw materials recovery potential and ensure their introduction into the appropriate recycling system,

with a view to maximising the availability and quality of recyclable material as an input to critical raw material recycling facilities;

- (b) increase the re-use of products and components with high critical raw materials recovery potential;
 - (c) increase the use of secondary critical raw materials in manufacturing, including, where appropriate, by taking recycled content into account in award criteria related to public procurement;
 - (d) increase the technological maturity of recycling technologies for critical raw materials and to promote materials efficiency and the substitution of critical raw materials in applications, at least by including support actions to that effect under national research & innovation programmes;
 - (e) ensure that their workforce is equipped with the skills needed to support circularity of the critical raw materials value chain.
2. The programmes referred to in paragraph 1 shall cover in particular products and waste which are not subject to any specific requirement on collection, treatment, recycling or re-use under Union legislation. For other products and waste, the measures shall be implemented in coherence with existing Union legislation.
- With respect to points (a) and (b) of paragraph 1, the programmes referred to in that paragraph may include, without prejudice to Articles 107 and 108 of the TFEU, the introduction of financial incentives, such as discounts, monetary rewards or deposit-refund systems, to encourage the re-use of products with high critical raw materials recovery potential and the collection of waste from such products.
3. Each Member State shall by [OP please insert: 4 years after the date of entry into force of this Regulation] adopt and implement measures to promote the recovery of critical raw materials from extractive waste, in particular from closed waste facilities identified in the database created in accordance with Article 26 as containing potentially economically recoverable critical raw materials.
4. The national measures referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be designed so as to avoid barriers to trade and distortions of competition in conformity with the TFEU.
5. When reporting to the Commission the data concerning the quantities of waste electrical and electronic equipment recycled, pursuant to Article 16(6) of Directive 2012/19/EU on waste electrical and electronic equipment, Member States shall identify separately, and report, the quantities of components containing relevant amounts of critical raw materials removed from such waste equipment and the quantities of critical raw materials recovered from the waste electrical and electronic equipment. The Commission shall adopt implementing acts specifying the format and details of such reporting. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 37(3). The first reporting period shall cover the first full calendar year after the adoption of those implementing acts.
6. Member States shall, as part of the report referred to in Article 43, provide information on the adoption of the national programmes referred to in paragraph 1 and on progress in the implementation of the measures taken pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 2.
7. The Commission shall adopt implementing acts specifying a list of products, components and waste streams that shall at least be considered as having a high

critical raw materials recovery potential within the meaning of paragraph 1 (a) and (b).

In drawing up this list, the Commission shall take account of:

- (a) the total amount of critical raw materials recoverable from those products, components and waste streams;
- (b) the extent to which those products, components and waste streams are covered by Union legislation;
- (c) regulatory gaps;
- (d) particular challenges affecting their collection and waste treatment;
- (e) existing systems of collection and waste treatment applying to them.

The implementing acts referred to in the first subparagraph shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 37(3).

Article 26

Recovery of critical raw materials from extractive waste

1. Operators obliged to submit waste management plans in accordance with Article 5 of Directive 2006/21/EC shall provide to the competent authority as defined in Article 3 of Directive 2006/21/EC a preliminary economic assessment study regarding the potential recovery of critical raw materials from:
 - (a) the extractive waste stored in the facility; and
 - (b) the extractive waste being generated or, where considered more effective, from the extracted volume prior to it becoming waste.
2. The study referred to in paragraph 1 shall at least include an estimation of the quantities and concentrations of critical raw materials contained in the extractive waste and in the extracted volume and an assessment of their technical and economic recoverability.
3. Operators of existing waste facilities shall submit the study referred to in paragraph 1 to the competent authority as defined in Article 3 of Directive 2006/21/EC by [OP please insert: 3 years after the date of entry into force of this Regulation]. Operators of new waste facilities shall submit this study to the competent authority when submitting their waste management plans in accordance with Article 5 of Directive 2006/21/EC.
4. Member States shall establish a database of all closed waste facilities, including abandoned waste facilities, located on their territory. This database shall contain information on:
 - (a) the location, areal extent and waste volume of the waste facility;
 - (b) the operator or former operator of the waste facility and, where applicable, their legal successor;
 - (c) the approximate quantities and concentrations of all raw materials contained in the extractive waste and, where available, in the original mineral deposit, in accordance with paragraph 6 of this Article;

- (d) any additional information considered relevant by the Member State to enable the recovery of critical raw materials from a waste facility.
- 5. The database referred to in paragraph 4 shall be put in place by [OP please insert: 1 year after the date of entry into force of this Regulation] and all information completed by [OP please insert: 3 years after the date of entry into force of this Regulation]. It shall be made available in a publicly accessible and digital form and updated at least every 2 years to incorporate additional available information and newly closed or newly identified facilities.
- 6. In order to provide the information referred to in paragraph 4, point (c), Member States shall undertake at least the following activities:
 - (a) for all closed waste facilities, Member States shall comprehensively review the available permitting files by [OP please insert: 1 year after the date of entry into force of this Regulation];
 - (b) for such waste facilities where available information does not a priori exclude the presence of potentially economically recoverable quantities of critical raw materials, Member States shall additionally conduct, by [OP please insert: 2 years after the date of entry into force of this Regulation], a representative geochemical sampling;
 - (c) for such waste facilities where the activities described under points (a) and (b) of this paragraph have indicated potentially economically recoverable quantities of critical raw materials, Member States shall additionally carry out, by [OP please insert: 3 years after the date of entry into force of this Regulation], a more detailed analysis involving core logging or equivalent techniques, where this is environmentally sound in accordance with applicable environmental requirements at Union level and with the requirements of Directive 2006/21/EC where relevant.
- 7. The activities described in paragraph 6 shall be carried out within the limits of national legal systems pertaining to property rights, ownership of land, mineral resources and waste, and any other relevant provisions. Where such factors inhibit the activities, the Member State authorities shall seek the cooperation of the operator or owner of the waste facility. The results of the activities described under paragraph 6 shall be made accessible as part of the database. Where possible, the Member States shall include in the database a classification of the closed extractive waste facilities according to the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources.

Article 27

Recyclability of permanent magnets

- 1. From [OP please insert: 3 years after the date of entry into force of this Regulation], any natural or legal person that places on the market magnetic resonance imaging devices, wind energy generators, industrial robots, motor vehicles, light means of transport, cooling generators, heat pumps, electric motors, including where they are integrated in other products, automatic washing machines, tumble driers, microwaves, vacuum cleaners or dishwashers shall ensure that those products bear a conspicuous, clearly legible and indelible label indicating:
 - (a) whether or not those products incorporate one or more permanent magnets;

- (b) if the product incorporates one or more permanent magnets, whether those magnets belong to any of the following types:
 - (i) Neodymium-Iron-Boron;
 - (ii) Samarium-Cobalt;
 - (iii) Aluminium-Nickel-Cobalt;
 - (iv) Ferrite.
- 2. The Commission shall adopt an implementing act establishing the format for the labelling referred to in paragraph 1. That implementing act shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 37(3).
- 3. From [OP please insert: 3 years after the date of entry into force of this Regulation], any natural or legal person that places on the market products referred to in paragraph 1 incorporating one or more permanent magnets of the types referred in paragraph 1, point (b), points (i) to (iii), shall ensure that a data carrier is present on or in the product.
- 4. The data carrier referred to in paragraph 3 shall be linked to a unique product identifier that provides access to the following:
 - (a) the name, registered trade name or registered trade mark and the postal address of the responsible natural or legal person and, where available, electronic means of communication where they can be contacted;
 - (b) information on the weight, location and chemical composition of all individual permanent magnets included in the product, and on the presence and type of magnet coatings, glues and any additives used;
 - (c) information enabling access and removal of all permanent magnets incorporated in the product, at least including the sequence of all removal steps, tools or technologies required for the access and removal of the permanent magnet, without prejudice to Article 15(1) of Directive 2012/19/EU.
- 5. For products where the incorporated permanent magnets are exclusively contained in one or more electric motors incorporated in the product, the information referred to in paragraph 4, point (b), may be replaced by information on the location of those electric motors, and the information referred to in paragraph 4, point (c), may be replaced by information on the access and removal of the electric motors, at least including the sequence of all removal steps, tools or technologies required for the access and removal of the electric motors.
- 6. For products referred to in paragraph 3 for which a product passport as defined in Regulation XX/XXXX [the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation] is required pursuant to another Union legislative act, the information referred to in paragraph 4 shall be included in that product passport.
- 7. The information referred to in paragraph 3 shall be complete, up-to-date and accurate and shall remain available for a period at least equal to the product's typical lifetime plus ten years, including after an insolvency, a liquidation or a cessation of activity in the Union of the responsible natural or legal person.

The information referred to in paragraph 4 shall refer to the product model or, where the information differs between units of the same model, to a particular batch or unit.

The information referred to in paragraph 4 shall be accessible to recyclers, market surveillance authorities and customs authorities.

8. Article 9(1), point (c) and (d) and Articles 10 and 13 of Regulation (EU) .../...[OP: please insert reference to the *Ecodesign for Sustainable Products*], as well as the corresponding definitions in Article 2 of that Regulation, shall apply.

Before placing a product referred to in paragraph 3 on the market, natural or legal persons shall ensure that the unique product identifier referred to in paragraph 4 is uploaded in the registry referred to in [Article 12(1)] of Regulation (EU) .../... [Ecodesign for Sustainable Products].

For purposes of the first and second subparagraph, the references to ‘the applicable delegated act adopted pursuant to Article 4’ in Article 10, point (b) and to ‘delegated acts adopted pursuant to Article 4’ in Article 10, point f, and Article 13(2) of Regulation (EU) 2023/xxx [OP: please insert reference to ESPR] shall be read as references to this Regulation.

9. Where information requirements relating to the recycling of permanent magnets are established in delegated acts adopted in accordance with Article 4 of the Regulation XX/XXXX [OP please insert: the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation] or in other Union harmonisation legislation for any of the products listed in paragraph 1, those requirements shall apply in replacement of the provisions of this Article.
10. Products primarily designed for defence or space applications shall be exempted from the requirements of this Article
11. For magnetic resonance imaging devices, motor vehicles and light means of transport that are type-approved vehicles of category L, the requirements of this Article shall apply from [OP please insert: 5 years after the date of entry into force of this Regulation].
12. The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 36 to amend Annex VI in order to provide or update a list of Combined Nomenclature⁴⁹ codes and product descriptions corresponding to the products referred to in paragraph 1 with the aim of facilitating the work of customs authorities in relation to those products and the requirements set out in this Article and in Article 28.

Article 28

Recycled content of permanent magnets

1. From either [OP please insert: 3 years after the date of entry into force of this Regulation] or 2 years after the entry into force of the delegated act referred to in paragraph 2, whichever is later, any natural or legal person that places on the market products referred to in Article 27(1) which incorporate one or more permanent magnets referred to in Article 27(1), point (b)(i) to (iii) and for which the total weight of all such permanent magnets exceeds 0.2 kg shall make publicly available on a free access website the share of neodymium, dysprosium, praseodymium, terbium, boron, samarium, nickel and cobalt recovered from post-consumer waste present in the permanent magnets incorporated in the product.

⁴⁹ Combined Nomenclature in Annex I to Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87

2. By [OP please insert: 2 years after the date of entry into force of this Regulation], the Commission shall adopt a delegated act in accordance with Article 36 to supplement this Regulation by establishing rules for the calculation and verification of the share of neodymium, dysprosium, praseodymium, terbium, boron, samarium, nickel and cobalt recovered from manufacturing waste or post-consumer waste present in the permanent magnets incorporated in the products referred to in paragraph 1.

The calculation and verification rules shall specify the applicable conformity assessment procedure from among the modules set out in Annex II to Decision No 768/2008/EC, with the adaptations necessary in view of the products concerned. When specifying the applicable conformity assessment procedure, the Commission shall consider the following criteria:

- (a) whether the module concerned is appropriate to the type of product and proportionate to the public interest pursued;
- (b) the availability of competent and independent third parties able to perform potential third party conformity assessment tasks;
- (c) where third party involvement is mandatory, the need for the manufacturer to have a choice between quality assurance and product certification modules set out in Annex II of Decision No 768/2008/EC.

3. After 31 December 2030, the Commission may adopt delegated acts supplementing this Regulation by laying down minimum shares for neodymium, dysprosium, praseodymium, terbium, boron, samarium, nickel and cobalt recovered from post-consumer waste that must be present in the permanent magnet incorporated in the products referred to in paragraph 1.

Delegated acts referred to in the first subparagraph shall provide for transitional periods adapted to the difficulty of adopting the products covered by the measure to ensure compliance.

The minimum share referred to in the first subparagraph shall be based on a prior assessment of impacts, taking into account:

- (a) the existing and forecasted availability of neodymium, dysprosium, praseodymium, terbium, boron, samarium, nickel and cobalt recovered from post-consumer waste;
- (b) the information collected pursuant to paragraph 1 and the relative distribution of the share of recycled content in permanent magnets incorporated in products referred to in paragraph 1 placed on the market;
- (c) technical and scientific progress, including considerable changes in permanent magnet technologies impacting the type of materials recovered;
- (d) the effective and potential contribution of a minimum share to the Union's climate and environmental objectives;
- (e) possible impacts on the functioning of products incorporating permanent magnets;
- (f) the need to prevent disproportionate negative impacts on the affordability of permanent magnets and products incorporating permanent magnets.

4. Where requirements relating to the recycled content of permanent magnets are established in delegated acts adopted in accordance with Article 4 of the Regulation

XX/XXXX [OP please insert: the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation] or other Union harmonisation legislation for any of the products listed in paragraph 1, those requirements shall apply in replacement of the provisions of this Article.

5. From the date of application of the requirement of paragraph 1, when offering the products referred to in paragraph 1 for sale, including in case of distance selling, or displaying them in the course of a commercial activity, natural and legal persons placing on the market products referred to in paragraph 1 shall ensure that their customers have access to the information referred to in paragraph 1 before being bound by a sales contract.

Natural and legal persons placing on the market products referred to in paragraph 1 shall not provide or display labels, marks, symbols or inscriptions that are likely to mislead or confuse customers with respect to the information referred to in paragraph 1. Products primarily designed for defence or space applications shall be exempted from the requirements of this Article.

6. For magnetic resonance imaging devices, motor vehicles and light means of transport that are type-approved vehicles of category L, the requirements set out in paragraphs 1 and 6 shall apply from 5 years after the date of entry into force of the delegated act referred to in paragraph 2.

SECTION 2

CERTIFICATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT

Article 29

Recognised schemes

1. Governments or organisations that have developed and oversee certification schemes related to the sustainability of critical raw materials ("scheme owners") may apply to have their schemes recognised by the Commission.

Applications referred in the first subparagraph shall contain any relevant evidence related to the fulfilment of the criteria laid down in Annex IV. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt implementing acts specifying the information that applications shall at least contain. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 37(3).

2. Where, on the basis of the evidence provided pursuant to the paragraph 1, the Commission determines that a certification scheme meets the criteria laid down in Annex IV, it shall adopt an implementing act granting that scheme a recognition. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 37(3).
3. The Commission shall periodically verify that recognised schemes continue to fulfil the criteria laid down in Annex IV.
4. Owners of recognised schemes shall inform the Commission without delay of any changes or updates made to recognised schemes. The Commission shall assess whether such changes or updates affect the basis for the recognition and take appropriate action.
5. If there is evidence of repeated or significant cases where economic operators implementing a recognised scheme have failed to fulfil the requirements of that scheme, the Commission shall examine, in consultation with the owner of the

recognised scheme, whether those cases indicate deficiencies in the scheme affecting the basis for the recognition and take appropriate action.

6. Where the Commission identifies deficiencies in a recognised scheme affecting the basis for the recognition, it may grant the scheme owner an appropriate period of time to take remedial action.
7. Where the scheme owner fails or refuses to take the necessary remedial action, and where the Commission has determined that the deficiencies referred to in paragraph 6 mean that the scheme no longer fulfils the criteria laid down in Annex IV, the Commission shall adopt an implementing act withdrawing the recognition of the scheme. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 37(3).
8. The Commission shall establish and keep up-to-date a register of recognised schemes. That register shall be made publicly available on a free access website.

Article 30

Environmental footprint declaration

1. The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 36 to supplement this Regulation by establishing rules for the calculation and verification of the environmental footprint of different critical raw materials, in accordance with Annex V and taking into account scientifically sound assessment methods and relevant international standards. The calculation and verification rules shall identify which is the most important impact category. The footprint declaration shall be limited to that impact category.
2. The Commission may adopt calculation and verification rules for a specific critical raw material if it has concluded, having considered the various relevant environmental impact categories, that the critical raw material in question has a significant environmental footprint and that therefore an obligation to declare the environmental footprint of that material regarding the most important impact category, when placing it on the market, is necessary and proportionate to contribute to the Union's climate and environmental objectives by facilitating the supply of critical raw materials with lower environmental footprint.
3. When considering whether the obligation foreseen in paragraph 2 is necessary, the Commission shall take into account:
 - (a) whether and how the Union's climate and environmental objectives are already being achieved through other Union legislation applicable to the critical raw material in question;
 - (b) the existence and uptake of relevant international standards and guidelines, or the prospects of agreeing on such standards at international level, as well as sustainable practices on the market, including the voluntary schemes recognised pursuant to Article 29;
 - (c) the effectiveness of strategic partnerships, strategic projects, trade agreements and other international instruments and outreach conducted by the Union in achieving the Union's climate and environmental objectives.

4. The Commission shall conduct a prior assessment of impacts in order to decide whether to adopt a delegated act under paragraph 1. Such assessment shall:
 - (a) be based, inter alia, on a consultation of:
 - (i) all relevant stakeholders, such as industry including downstream industry, SMEs and, where relevant, the craft industry, social partners, traders, retailers, importers, environmental protection groups and consumer organisations;
 - (ii) third countries whose trade with the Union may be significantly affected by this obligation;
 - (iii) the Board;
 - (b) ensure that any such measure is not prepared, adopted or applied with a view to or with the effect of creating unnecessary obstacles to international trade and is no more trade-restrictive than necessary to achieve the Union's climate and environmental objectives, having regard to the ability of third-country suppliers to comply with such a declaration such that aggregate trade flows and critical raw materials costs are not disproportionately affected;
 - (c) assess whether the measure would contribute to achieving the Union's climate and environmental objectives without disproportionately impacting the ability of Union industry to source the critical raw material in question.
5. Any natural or legal person that places on the market critical raw materials for which the Commission has adopted calculation and verification rules pursuant to paragraph 1 shall make available an environmental footprint declaration.

The requirement set out in the first subparagraph shall apply to each individual critical raw material type placed on the market and shall not apply to critical raw materials included in intermediate or final products.
6. The environmental footprint declaration referred to in paragraph 5 shall contain the following information:
 - (a) the name, registered trade name or registered trade mark and the postal address of the responsible natural or legal person and, where available, electronic means of communication where they can be contacted;
 - (b) information about the critical raw material type for which the declaration applies;
 - (c) information about the country and region where the critical raw material was extracted, processed, refined and recycled, as applicable;
 - (d) the environmental footprint of critical raw material, calculated in accordance with the applicable verification and calculation rules adopted pursuant to paragraph 1;
 - (e) the environmental footprint performance class that the critical raw material corresponds to, established in accordance with the applicable delegated act adopted pursuant to paragraph 7;
 - (f) a web link providing access to a public version of the study supporting the environmental footprint declaration results.
7. The Commission may adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 36 to supplement this Regulation by establishing environmental footprint performance

classes for critical raw materials for which calculation and verification rules have been adopted pursuant to paragraph 1, in accordance with Annex V.

8. The environmental footprint declaration shall be made available on a free access website.

The Commission is empowered to adopt an implementing act establishing the format for the environmental footprint declaration referred to in paragraph 5. That implementing act shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 37(3).

9. When offering critical raw materials for sale, including in case of distance selling, or displaying them in the course of a commercial activity, natural and legal persons placing on the market critical raw materials shall ensure that their customers have access to the environmental footprint declaration before being bound by a sales contract.

Natural and legal persons placing on the market critical raw materials shall not provide or display labels, marks, symbols or inscriptions that are likely to mislead or confuse customers with respect to the information included in the environmental footprint declaration.

SECTION 3

FREE MOVEMENT, CONFORMITY AND MARKET SURVEILLANCE

Article 31

Free movement

1. Member States shall not, for reasons relating to information for recycling or recycled content of permanent magnets or for reasons relating to information on the environmental footprint of critical raw material covered by this Regulation, prohibit, restrict or impede the making available on the market or the putting into service of products incorporating permanent magnets or of critical raw materials that comply with this Regulation.
2. At trade fairs, exhibitions, demonstrations or similar events, Member States shall not prevent the showing of products incorporating permanent magnets or of critical raw materials which do not comply with this Regulation, provided that a visible sign clearly indicates that such products or materials do not comply with this Regulation and that they cannot be made available on the market until they have been brought into conformity.

Article 32

Conformity and market surveillance

1. Before placing a product covered by Article 27 or 28 on the market, the responsible natural or legal persons shall ensure that the applicable conformity assessment procedure has been carried out and that the required technical documentation has been drawn up. Where compliance of a product with the applicable requirements have been demonstrated by the conformity assessment procedure, the responsible natural or legal persons shall ensure that an EU declaration of conformity has been drawn up and the CE marking has been affixed.

2. The conformity assessment procedure for products covered by the requirements set out in Article 27 shall be the procedure set out in Annex IV of Regulation (EU) 2023/xxx [OP: please insert reference to ESPR], unless those products are also covered by the requirements set out in Article 28, in which case the conformity assessment procedure shall be the procedure set out in the calculation and verification rules adopted pursuant to Article 28(2).
3. Chapter IX and Articles 37, 38 and 39 of Regulation (EU) 2023/xxx [OP: please insert reference to ESPR], as well as the corresponding definitions in Article 2 of that Regulation, shall apply with respect to the requirements applicable to products placed on the Union market laid down in Articles 27 and 28.
4. Regarding market surveillance, the following rules shall apply:
 - (a) Chapter XII of Regulation (EU) 2023/xxx [OP: please insert reference to ESPR], as well as the corresponding definitions in Article 2 of that Regulation, shall apply with respect to the requirements applicable to products placed on the Union market laid down in Articles 27, 28 or 30.
 - (b) Member States shall, in addition to the ecodesign requirements set under Regulation (EU) 2023/xxx [OP: please insert reference to ESPR], consider the requirements laid down in Articles 27, 28 and 30 in the context of the action plan referred to in Article 59(1) of that Regulation;
 - (c) Article 60 and 61(1) of Regulation (EU) 2023/xxx [OP: please insert reference to ESPR] shall also apply for the requirements laid down in Articles 27, 28 and 30;
 - (d) the Commission shall, in addition to the ecodesign requirements set under Regulation (EU) 2023/xxx [OP: please insert reference to ESPR], include information related to the requirements laid down in Articles 27, 28 and 30 in the report referred to in Article 61(2) and (3) of that Regulation;
 - (e) in implementing Article 62 of Regulation (EU) 2023/xxx [OP: please insert reference to ESPR], the administrative cooperation group ('ADCO') referred to that Article and the Commission shall also take into account the requirements laid down in Articles 27, 28 and 30.
5. For purposes of paragraphs 3 and 4, the relevant parts of Regulation (EU) 2023/xxx [OP: please insert reference to ESPR] shall be applied as follows:
 - (a) references to 'ecodesign requirements specified in the applicable delegated acts adopted pursuant to Article 4' in Article 37(1), 'requirements laid down in the applicable delegated acts adopted pursuant to Article 4' in Article 63(1) and 'requirements set out in the relevant delegated act adopted pursuant to Article 4' in Article 63(5) of Regulation (EU) 2023/xxx [OP: please insert reference to ESPR] shall be read as references to 'the requirements laid down in Articles 27 and 28 of this Regulation';
 - (b) references to 'product covered by a delegated act adopted pursuant to Article 4' in Article 37(3) and 63(1) of Regulation (EU) 2023/xxx [OP: please insert reference to ESPR] shall be read as a reference to 'product or materials covered by the requirements laid down in Articles 27 and 28 of this Regulation';
 - (c) references to 'conformity assessment tasks provided for under the delegated acts adopted pursuant to Article 4' in Article 41 and 'conformity assessment tasks under the relevant delegated acts adopted pursuant to Article 4' in Article

45(10) of Regulation (EU) 2023/xxx [OP: please insert reference to ESPR] shall be read as a reference to ‘conformity assessment tasks provided for under the calculation and verification rules adopted pursuant to Article 28(2) of this Regulation’;

- (d) references to ‘conformity assessment procedures provided for under the delegated acts adopted pursuant to Article 4’ in Article 53(1) of Regulation (EU) 2023/xxx [OP: please insert reference to ESPR] shall be read as a reference to ‘conformity assessment procedures provided for under the calculation and verification rules adopted pursuant to Article 28(2) of this Regulation’.

- 6. This Article shall not apply to products covered by type approval under Regulation 2018/858 and Regulation 168/2013.

Chapter 6

Strategic Partnerships

Article 33

Strategic Partnerships

- 1. The Board shall periodically discuss:
 - (a) the extent to which Strategic Partnerships concluded by the Union contribute towards:
 - (i) improving the Union's security of supply;
 - (ii) the benchmark set out in Article 1, paragraph 2, point (b);
 - (iii) improving cooperation along the critical raw materials value chain between the Union and partner countries;
 - (b) the coherence and potential synergies between Member States’ bilateral cooperation with relevant third countries and the actions carried out by the Union in the context of Strategic Partnerships;
 - (c) which third countries should be prioritised for the conclusion of Strategic Partnerships, taking into account the following criteria:
 - (i) the potential contribution to security of supply, taking into account a third country's potential reserves, extraction, processing and recycling capacities related to critical raw materials;
 - (ii) whether a third country's regulatory framework ensures the monitoring, prevention and minimisation of environmental impacts, the use of socially responsible practices including respect of human and labour rights and meaningful engagement with local communities, the use of transparent business practices and the prevention of adverse impacts on the proper functioning of public administration and the rule of law;
 - (iii) whether there are existing cooperation agreements between a third country and the Union and, for emerging markets and developing economies, the potential for the deployment of Global Gateway investment projects.

- (iv) for emerging markets and developing economies, whether and how a partnership could contribute to local value addition and would be mutually beneficial for the partner country and the Union.
- 2. The Board shall, in the context of paragraph 1 and in so far as relates to emerging market and developing economies, ensure cooperation with other relevant coordination fora, including those established as part of the Global Gateway strategy.
- 3. Member States shall:
 - (a) coordinate with the Commission to ensure coherence between their bilateral cooperation with relevant third countries and the Union's non-binding Strategic Partnerships with third countries, whose scope at least includes critical raw materials value chain;
 - (b) support the Commission in the implementation of the cooperation measures set out in Strategic Partnerships.

Chapter 7

Governance

Article 34

European Critical Raw Materials Board

- 1. The European Critical Raw Materials Board is established.
- 2. The Board shall perform the tasks set out in this Regulation.

Article 35

Composition and functioning of the European Critical Raw Materials Board

- 1. The Board shall be composed of Member States and the Commission. It shall be chaired by the Commission.
- 2. Each Member State shall appoint a high-level representative to the Board. Where relevant as regards the function and expertise, a Member State may appoint different representatives in relation to different tasks of the Board. Each member of the Board shall have an alternate.
- 3. The Board shall, on a proposal by the Commission, adopt its rules of procedure by a simple majority of its members.
- 4. The Board shall meet at regular intervals in order to allow the effective performance of its tasks specified in this Regulation. Where necessary, the Board shall meet at the reasoned request of the Commission.

The Board shall meet at least:

- (a) every 3 months for the assessment of applications for Strategic Projects pursuant to Chapter 3, Section 1;
- (b) every 6 months for the development of monitoring pursuant to Chapter 4;

- (c) once a year in order to discuss the progress of the implementation of Member State obligations linked to exploration set out in Chapter 3, Section 4, including in light of updates to the lists of critical or strategic raw materials.
- 5. The Commission shall assist the Board by means of an executive secretariat that provides technical and logistical support.
- 6. The Board may establish standing or temporary sub-groups to deal with specific questions and tasks.

The Board shall at least establish the following standing sub-groups:

- (a) a subgroup to discuss and coordinate financing for Strategic Projects pursuant to Article 15; representatives of national promotional banks and institutions, the European development financial institutions, the European Investment Bank Group, other international financial institutions including the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and, as appropriate, private financial institutions shall be invited as observers;
 - (b) a subgroup bringing together national geological institutes or surveys or, in the absence of such institute or survey, the relevant national authority in charge of general exploration, with the purpose of contributing to the coordination of national exploration programmes referred to in Article 18;
 - (c) a subgroup bringing together national supply and information agencies covering critical raw materials or, in the absence of such agency, the relevant national authority in charge of that matter, with the purpose of contributing to the monitoring tasks as set out in Article 19;
 - (d) a subgroup bringing together national emergency agency and national authorities responsible for strategic stocks or, in the absence of such agency and authority, the relevant national authority in charge of that matter, with the purpose of contributing to the coordination of strategic stocks as set out in Article 22.
7. The Board shall invite representatives of the European Parliament to attend, as observers, its meetings, including of the standing or temporary sub-groups referred to in paragraph 6.

Where appropriate, the Board may invite experts, other third parties or representatives of third countries to attend meetings of the standing or temporary sub-groups referred to in paragraph 6 as observers or to provide written contributions.

In performing its tasks, the Board shall, where appropriate, ensure coordination, cooperation and information exchange with the relevant crisis response and crisis preparedness structures established under Union law.

- 8. The Board shall take the necessary measures to ensure the safe handling and processing of confidential and commercially sensitive information.
- 9. The Board shall use its best endeavours to reach consensus.

Chapter 8

Delegated powers and committee procedure

Article 36

Exercise of the delegation

1. The power to adopt delegated acts is conferred on the Commission subject to the conditions laid down in this Article.
2. The power to adopt delegated acts referred to in Article 3(2), Article 4(2), Article 5(2), Article 27(12), Article 28(2) and Article 30(1) and (5) shall be conferred on the Commission for a period of eight years from [OP please insert: one month after the date of entry into force of this Regulation]. The Commission shall draw up a report in respect of the delegation of power not later than nine months before the end of the six-year period. The delegation of power shall be tacitly extended for periods of an identical duration, unless the European Parliament or the Council opposes such extension not later than three months before the end of each period.
3. The delegation of power referred to in Article 3(2), Article 4(2), Article 5(2), Article 27(12), Article 28(2) and Article 30(1) and (5) may be revoked at any time by the European Parliament or by the Council. A decision to revoke shall put an end to the delegation of the power specified in that decision. It shall take effect on the day following the publication of the decision in the *Official Journal of the European Union* or at a later date specified therein. It shall not affect the validity of any delegated acts already in force.
4. Before adopting a delegated act, the Commission shall consult experts designated by each Member State in accordance with the principles laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement of 13 April 2016 on Better Law-Making. The consultation of Member States' experts shall take place after the consultation pursuant to Article 14.
5. As soon as it adopts a delegated act, the Commission shall notify it simultaneously to the European Parliament and to the Council.
6. A delegated act adopted pursuant to Article 3(2), Article 4(2), Article 5(2), Article 27(12), Article 28(2) and Article 30(1) and (5) shall enter into force only if no objection has been expressed either by the European Parliament or the Council within a period of two months of notification of that act to the European Parliament and the Council or if, before the expiry of that period, the European Parliament and the Council have both informed the Commission that they will not object. That period may be extended by two months at the initiative of the European Parliament or of the Council.

Article 37

Committee procedure

1. The Commission shall be assisted by the Committee on the implementation of [OP: please insert reference to this act]. That committee shall be a committee within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.
2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 4 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.

3. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.

Chapter 9

Amendments

Article 38

Amendment to Regulation (EU) 2018/1724

Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 is amended as follows:

- (1) in Annex I, in the first column, a new row ‘S. Critical raw materials projects’ is added.
- (2) in Annex I, in the second column, in the row ‘S. Critical raw materials projects’, the following point are added:
 - ‘1. information on the permit-granting process.’
 - ‘2. information on financing and investment services’
 - ‘3. information on funding possibilities at Union or Member State level’
 - ‘4. information on business support services, including but not limited to corporate tax declaration, local tax laws, labour law’
- (3) in Annex II, in the first column, a new row ‘Critical raw materials projects’ is added.
- (4) in Annex II, in the second column, in the row ‘Critical raw materials projects’, the following points are added:
 - ‘Procedure related to all relevant administrative permits to plan, build and operate net-zero technology manufacturing projects, including building, chemical and grid connection permits and environmental assessments and authorisations where these are required, and encompassing all administrative applications and procedures’.
- (5) in Annex II, in the third column, in the row ‘Critical raw materials projects’, the following point is added:
 - ‘All outputs pertaining to the procedures ranging from the acknowledgment of the validity of the application to the notification of the comprehensive decision on the outcome of the procedure by the responsible national competent authority’.
- (6) in Annex III, the following point is added:
 - ‘(9) The national competent authorities referred to in Article 8(1) of [OP: please insert reference to this proposal]’.

Article 39

Amendment to Regulation (EU) 2019/1020

Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 is amended as follows:

- (1) in Article 4(5), the text “(EU) 2016/425(35) and (EU) 2016/426(36)” is replaced by the following: “(EU) 2016/425 (*), (EU) 2016/426 (**) and [(EU) [...]] [year of adoption of this Regulation]/...(***)”;

- (2) in Annex I, the following point is added: ‘X [OP please insert the next consecutive number] Regulation (EU).../... establishing a framework for ensuring a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 [OP please insert the publication details of this Regulation], in so far as it concerns the requirements set out Articles 27, 28 or 30 of that Regulation.

Article 40

Amendment to Regulation (EU) 2018/858

Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2018/858 is amended as follows:

In Part I, in the table, the following entry is added:

[OP Please insert the next consecutive number under heading G]	Permanent magnet circularity requirements	Regulation (EU) XX/XXXX [OP please insert: OJ publication details of this Regulation]	X	X	X	X	X	X							X	X
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Article 41

Amendment to Regulation (EU) 168/2013

Annex II to Regulation (EU) 168/2013 is amended as follows:

In Part I, in the table, the following entry is added:

[OP Please insert the next consecutive number under heading C1]	Permanent magnet circularity requirements	Regulation (EU) XX/XXXX [OP please insert: OJ publication details of this Regulation]	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
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Chapter 10

Final provisions

Article 42

Monitoring progress

- The Commission shall, taking into account the advice of the Board, monitor progress towards the objectives set out in Article 1(2) and publish, at least every 3 years, a report detailing the Union’s progress towards achieving those objectives.

The first report shall be drawn up by [OP please insert: 4 years after the date of entry into force of this Regulation].

2. The report referred to in paragraph 1 shall include quantitative information on the extent of the Union's progress towards the benchmarks set out in Article 1(2), points (a) and (b).

Article 43

Reporting of Member States

1. Member States shall each year send a report to the Commission containing the information referred to in Article 18(4), Article 20(1) and (2), Article 21(1), Article 22(5) and Article 25(6). The first report shall be sent [OP please insert: one year after the date of entry into force of this Regulation].
2. The Commission is empowered to adopt implementing acts setting out a template for the reports referred to in paragraph 1. The template may indicate how the information referred to in paragraph 1 shall be expressed. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the advisory procedure referred to in Article 37(2).
3. The information contained in the reports referred to in paragraph 1 shall be treated in accordance with Article 44.

Article 44

Treatment of confidential information

1. Information acquired in the course of implementing this Regulation shall be used only for the purposes of this Regulation and shall be protected by the relevant Union and national legislation.
2. Member States and the Commission shall ensure the protection of trade and business secrets and other sensitive, confidential and classified information acquired and generated in application of this Regulation, including recommendations and measures to be taken, in accordance with Union and the respective national law.
3. Member States and the Commission shall ensure that classified information provided or exchanged under this Regulation is not downgraded or declassified without the prior written consent of the originator.
4. If a Member State assesses that the presentation of aggregated information in the context of Article 21 may nonetheless compromise its national security interest, it may object to the Commission's presentation through a justified notice.
5. The Commission and the national authorities, their officials, employees and other persons working under the supervision of these authorities shall ensure the confidentiality of information obtained in carrying out their tasks and activities. This obligation also applies to all representatives of Member States, observers, experts and other participants attending meetings of the Board pursuant to Article 35.

Article 45

Penalties

By 12 months after entry into force of the Regulation, Member States shall lay down rules on penalties applicable to infringements of this Regulation and shall take all measures necessary to ensure that they are implemented. The penalties provided for shall be effective,

proportionate and dissuasive. Member States shall, without delay, notify the Commission of those rules and of those measures and shall notify it, without delay, of any subsequent amendment affecting them.

Article 46

Evaluation

1. By [OP please insert: 5 years after the date of entry into force of this Regulation], the Commission shall carry out an evaluation of this Regulation in light of the objectives that it pursues and shall present a report thereon to the European Parliament, to the Council and to the European Economic and Social Committee.
2. The report referred to in paragraph shall at least assess the appropriateness of establishing maximum environmental footprint thresholds for critical raw materials for which calculation and verification rules have been adopted.

Article 47

Entry into force

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the European Parliament
The President

For the Council
The President

LEGISLATIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1. FRAMEWORK OF THE PROPOSAL/INITIATIVE

1.1. Title of the proposal/initiative

1.2. Policy area(s) concerned

1.3. The proposal/initiative relates to:

1.4. Objective(s)

1.4.1. General objective(s)

1.4.2. Specific objective(s)

1.4.3. Expected result(s) and impact

1.4.4. Indicators of performance

1.5. Grounds for the proposal/initiative

1.5.1. Requirement(s) to be met in the short or long term including a detailed timeline for roll-out of the implementation of the initiative

1.5.2. Added value of Union involvement (it may result from different factors, e.g. coordination gains, legal certainty, greater effectiveness or complementarities). For the purposes of this point 'added value of Union involvement' is the value resulting from Union intervention, which is additional to the value that would have been otherwise created by Member States alone.

1.5.3. Lessons learned from similar experiences in the past

1.5.4. Compatibility with the Multiannual Financial Framework and possible synergies with other appropriate instruments

1.5.5. Assessment of the different available financing options, including scope for redeployment

1.6. Duration and financial impact of the proposal/initiative

1.7. Method(s) of budget implementation planned

2. MANAGEMENT MEASURES

2.1. Monitoring and reporting rules

2.2. Management and control system(s)

2.2.1. Justification of the management mode(s), the funding implementation mechanism(s), the payment modalities and the control strategy proposed

2.2.2. Information concerning the risks identified and the internal control system(s) set up to mitigate them

2.2.3. Estimation and justification of the cost-effectiveness of the controls (ratio of "control costs ÷ value of the related funds managed"), and assessment of the expected levels of risk of error (at payment & at closure)

2.3. Measures to prevent fraud and irregularities

3. ESTIMATED FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THE PROPOSAL/INITIATIVE

- 3.1. Heading(s) of the multiannual financial framework and expenditure budget line(s) affected**
- 3.2. Estimated financial impact of the proposal on appropriations**
 - 3.2.1. Summary of estimated impact on operational appropriations*
 - 3.2.2. Estimated output funded with operational appropriations*
 - 3.2.3. Summary of estimated impact on administrative appropriations*
 - 3.2.3.1. Estimated requirements of human resources*
 - 3.2.4. Compatibility with the current multiannual financial framework*
 - 3.2.5. Third-party contributions*
- 3.3. Estimated impact on revenue**

1. FRAMEWORK OF THE PROPOSAL/INITIATIVE

1.1. Title of the proposal/initiative

Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for ensuring a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials (European Critical Raw Materials Act)

1.2. Policy area(s) concerned

“A European Green Deal”

“A Europe fit for the digital age”

“A stronger Europe in the world”

1.3. The proposal/initiative relates to:

☒ a new action

☐ a new action following a pilot project/preparatory action⁵⁰

☐ the extension of an existing action

☐ a merger or redirection of one or more actions towards another/a new action

1.4. Objective(s)

1.4.1. General objective(s)

The general objective of the European Critical Raw Materials Act is to ensure the EU's secure access to critical raw materials, while incentivising the development of sustainable supply sources. This ultimately contributes to economic growth and high living standards in the EU, prevents disruptions and distress within the European single market and increases the competitiveness of European businesses, while not neglecting the EU's role in promoting sustainable development and environmental protection globally.

1.4.2. Specific objective(s)

Specific objective No

- strengthen the different stages of the strategic raw materials value chain;
- diversify the Union's imports of raw materials;
- improve Union capacities to monitor and mitigate the risk of disruptions of supply of critical raw materials;
- ensure the free movement of critical raw materials placed on the Union market while ensuring a high level of environmental protection, by improving their circularity and sustainability.

1.4.3. Expected result(s) and impact

Specify the effects which the proposal/initiative should have on the beneficiaries/groups targeted.

⁵⁰

As referred to in Article 58(2)(a) or (b) of the Financial Regulation.

The expected result of the CRM Act is the secure supply of CRMs and strengthened EU capacity along its CRM value chain. The CRM Act will incentivise the further development of sustainable supply sources for achieving the EU's strategic ambitions, notably the green and digital transitions and strengthened defence investments.

The availability of additional data, mapping and exploration programmes of EU mineral resources will support the competitiveness of the value chain; equipped by additional information, companies would benefit from a de-risking at the early exploration stages that would then support higher investment further down the value chain.

The designation of Strategic Projects with streamlined permitting and improved access to finance will result in stronger support for the CRM value chain in the EU and in third countries and henceforth a more secure supply of CRM for downstream users in the EU. This will bring clear added value to the functioning of the Single Market and have positive economic impacts for CRM producers and downstream sectors by ensuring industrial resilience and enabling the development of EU CRM value chain. Its social impacts on jobs and cohesion of EU regions will also be positive.

The CRM Act will provide for the development of monitoring capacities and risk assessment ahead of crisis. A governance system with a dedicated Critical Raw Materials Board, a network of Member States agencies and internal capacity in the Commission will support the EU CRM value chain. The companies will directly benefit from the regular publication of up-to-date information on supply risks under the form of a monitoring dashboard that will enable them to tailor their mitigation strategies. The monitoring and risk assessment actions, such as EU stress tests, will create demand from governments and companies to purchase secure CRMs.

The strategic stockpiling relates to the coordination of national strategic stocks for strategic raw materials. Coordination will incentivise Member States to strengthen their strategic stocks, adding an extra-layer of security for the companies whose value chain comprise strategic raw materials. The European dimension of this coordination will ensure to avoid overlaps and build on synergies amongst national strategic stocks. This coordination amongst national stockpiles ahead of any crisis will also ensure a better crisis preparedness in the event of activation of any vigilance or crisis response framework mechanism which can cover raw materials.

To ensure companies' risk preparedness, a specific set of large companies concerned by the dispositions will invest in their resilience and will take into account the real costs of strategic raw materials production by ensuring that they regularly audit and stress test their supply chains if they contain a certain set of strategic raw materials.

Measures on joint purchasing will enable national authorities or economic operators to join forces when purchasing strategic raw materials.

The development of a more sustainable production of critical raw materials is supported by provisions for developing the circularity of the critical raw materials markets. The proposal sets out rules in particular for the recovery, collection and treatment of end-of-life products and waste streams containing critical raw materials, to support the development of recycling technologies and markets, promote the use of secondary critical raw materials in manufacturing. Actions will also focus on recovery of critical raw materials from closed and abandoned waste sites. Provisions

regarding the declaration of the environmental footprint of and other information on the critical raw materials placed on the Union market are also included.

The Regulation will create a European Critical Raw Materials Board bringing together the best expertise available in the European Commission and the Member States to analyse and monitor markets, assess risks and advise on mitigation strategies, assist with strategic projects and coordinate strategic stockpiling. The Board will also discuss the priorities and objectives of Strategic Partnerships with third countries covering raw materials, and the coordination of those partnerships with similar ones concluded by Member States.

1.4.4. *Indicators of performance*

Specify the indicators for monitoring progress and achievements.

- The amount of data and maps of EU mineral resources developed in the Member States.
- The number of Strategic projects financed in EU and abroad along the CRM value chain.
- The total volume of investments by companies operating in the EU in CRM taking into consideration the segment of the value chain in which they operate.
- Monitoring data on projects evolution, demand and supply developments, and trade flows in CRMs.
- The amount of strategic stocks at the national level.
- The amount and percentage of recycled CRMs. The amount of secondary CRMs used in the new production processes.

1.5. **Grounds for the proposal/initiative**

1.5.1. *Requirement(s) to be met in the short or long term including a detailed timeline for roll-out of the implementation of the initiative*

The Regulation should be fully applicable the day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.

However, few actions need to be taken beforehand in order to prepare the implementation of the Regulation. The Board should be set up and Member States should have appointed a point of contact to its meeting. By the time of applicability the Board should be fully operational.

Information gathering from representative of companies along the CRM value chain should already be on-going and Member States should have already discussed and carried out monitoring of the CRM value chain.

1.5.2. *Added value of Union involvement (it may result from different factors, e.g. coordination gains, legal certainty, greater effectiveness or complementarities). For the purposes of this point 'added value of Union involvement' is the value resulting from Union intervention, which is additional to the value that would have been otherwise created by Member States alone.*

Reasons for action at European level (ex-ante)

No single Member State alone is capable of effectively addressing the growing critical raw materials supply risks – not least due to lack of geological occurrences in an individual Member State and to the substantial economies of scale in the critical

raw materials value chain. The measures included in this initiative would not be as effective if implemented by Member States acting alone, as the problems they address concern the Single Market as a whole. They are not limited to single Member States or to a subset of Member States but to the EU industrial base and the EU-wide value chain of critical raw materials. In addition, approaches at Member States' level only are unlikely to be adequate to serve the needs of closely intertwined supply chains within the internal market.

Expected generated Union added value (ex-post)

EU action is essential to generate economies of scale and of scope and to limit, if not to avoid, the fragmentation of efforts and associated inefficiencies. In line with this logic, the proposed actions focus on areas where there is a demonstrable value added in acting at Union level due to the scale, speed and scope of the efforts needed. For example:

- actions aimed at mobilising investment in critical raw material projects along the value chain could be most effective designed and coordinated at Union level, given the scale of the investments needed and because the resulting capacities should serve the full internal market.
- actions aimed at improving monitoring capacities at Union level will achieve greater effectiveness than if left uncoordinated. Together, Member States and Commission will be better able to anticipate supply disruptions than through a patchwork of national efforts. The framework proposed should allow for a more efficient division of tasks and for the sharing of relevant information to prevent the duplication of efforts.

1.5.3. *Lessons learned from similar experiences in the past*

The EU currently relies almost exclusively on imports for many of these raw materials; more importantly, within these imports, suppliers are highly concentrated and the main suppliers are in many cases exposed to significant environmental, social and governance risks.

In some cases, the supply share of one country is above 90%, for instance China for light rare earths, heavy rare earths, gallium and magnesium; Türkiye for Boron. For around a third of the minerals assessed in the criticality assessment, and half of the critical raw materials, EU supply is more concentrated than global supply (for bauxite, borate or manganese). This concentration expands along the value chain, with the processing stage being even more concentrated than the extraction stage for some materials, such as lithium, magnesium, or germanium. China controls 56% of the global capacity for refined lithium, 60% for refined cobalt, 58% for refined manganese. In addition to the concentration of supply in single countries, some actors have expanded their dominance of the global value chain by gaining control economic activities and assets in third countries, such as China controlling cobalt mines in Congo (Chinese shareholders control two firms in Congo that together account for 13.8% of the world output of cobalt)

This degree of concentration puts the EU's security of supply at geopolitical risks.

1.5.4. *Compatibility with the Multiannual Financial Framework and possible synergies with other appropriate instruments*

In order to successfully implement the actions envisaged on the CRM Act, synergies will continue to be developed with actions currently supported by the Union and

Member States through programmes and actions in research and innovation in CRMs and in developments of part of the supply chain. These include, in particular, the Horizon Europe Framework Programme, with the aim to support research and innovation developments aiming to bring innovative solutions to the CRMs value chain.

Furthermore, for the development of a sustainable CRM value chain in Europe, possible sources for support on European and Member State level could be:

- The use of the Recovery and Resilience Fund (RRF) by the Member States to contribute to the needed investments.
- Horizon Europe
- Innovation Fund to actions supporting investments in the CRMs field, notably in terms of recycling.
- Regional Development & Cohesion Funds and the Just Transition Fund
- EFSD+ guarantee facility
- The NDICI (and, in particular, EFSD+ guarantee facility and blending facility) and IPA (Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance)
- The Technical Support Instrument
- The Single Market Programme

The proposed initiative can be set in the context of a number of recently announced European policies and priorities:

- Industrial Strategy;
- Recovery Plan for Europe;
- REpowerEU;
- Green Deal;
- Research and Innovation under the proposed Horizon Europe programme, Pillar

II Cluster 4 “Digital, Industry and Space” aims to make concrete contributions to three overarching EU policies:

- ‘A Europe fit for the Digital Age’,
- ‘An economy that works for people’, and
- ‘A European Green Deal’.

1.5.5. *Assessment of the different available financing options, including scope for redeployment*

Not applicable

1.6. Duration and financial impact of the proposal/initiative

☐ limited duration

- ☐ in effect from [DD/MM]YYYY to [DD/MM]YYYY
- ☐ Financial impact from YYYY to YYYY for commitment appropriations and from YYYY to YYYY for payment appropriations.

☒ unlimited duration

- Implementation with a start-up period from YYYY to YYYY,
- followed by full-scale operation.

1.7. Method(s) of budget implementation planned⁵¹

☒ Direct management by the Commission

- ☒ by its departments, including by its staff in the Union delegations;
- ☐ by the executive agencies

☐ Shared management with the Member States

☐ Indirect management by entrusting budget implementation tasks to:

- ☐ third countries or the bodies they have designated;
 - ☐ international organisations and their agencies (to be specified);
 - ☐ the EIB and the European Investment Fund;
 - ☐ bodies referred to in Articles 70 and 71 of the Financial Regulation;
 - ☐ public law bodies;
 - ☐ bodies governed by private law with a public service mission to the extent that they are provided with adequate financial guarantees;
 - ☐ bodies governed by the private law of a Member State that are entrusted with the implementation of a public-private partnership and that are provided with adequate financial guarantees;
 - ☐ bodies or persons entrusted with the implementation of specific actions in the CFSP pursuant to Title V of the TEU, and identified in the relevant basic act.
- *If more than one management mode is indicated, please provide details in the 'Comments' section.*

Comments

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⁵¹ Details of budget implementation methods and references to the Financial Regulation may be found on the BUDGpedia site: <https://myintracomm.ec.europa.eu/corp/budget/financial-rules/budget-implementation/Pages/implementation-methods.aspx>

2. MANAGEMENT MEASURES

2.1. Monitoring and reporting rules

Specify frequency and conditions.

The Regulation envisages the establishment of a Board with advisory functions. The Commission will be part of the Board. The monitoring, coordination of strategic stocks or selection of strategic projects will be performed with the support of the Board.

2.2. Management and control system(s)

2.2.1. *Justification of the management mode(s), the funding implementation mechanism(s), the payment modalities and the control strategy proposed*

The Regulation introduces a new policy framework with regard to attracting investment and developing a critical raw materials value chain in the Union. It introduces harmonised rules for a coordinated approach to monitoring, reporting and risk assessment for strategic raw materials.

These new rules require a consistency mechanism for the cross-border application of the obligations under this Regulation and coordination of the activities of national authorities and of the Commission through the Board.

2.2.2. *Information concerning the risks identified and the internal control system(s) set up to mitigate them*

The Board established by the Regulation has an advisory role. The risks are mitigated through the participation of the Commission in the Board and by ensuring its secretariat. The Commission will participate in the meetings of the Board, will contribute to the tasks assigned to the Board and will ensure their follow-up.

2.2.3. *Estimation and justification of the cost-effectiveness of the controls (ratio of "control costs ÷ value of the related funds managed"), and assessment of the expected levels of risk of error (at payment & at closure)*

Not applicable

2.3. Measures to prevent fraud and irregularities

Specify existing or envisaged prevention and protection measures, e.g. from the Anti-Fraud Strategy.

Not applicable

3. ESTIMATED FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THE PROPOSAL/INITIATIVE

3.1. Heading(s) of the multiannual financial framework and expenditure budget line(s) affected

- Existing budget lines

In order of multiannual financial framework headings and budget lines.

Heading of multiannual financial framework	Budget line	Type of expenditure	Contribution			
	Number	Diff./Non-diff. ⁵²	from EFTA countries ⁵³	from candidate countries and potential candidates ⁵⁴	from other third countries	other assigned revenue
	03.020101	Diff.	NO	NO	NO	NO

- New budget lines requested

In order of multiannual financial framework headings and budget lines.

Heading of multiannual financial framework	Budget line	Type of expenditure	Contribution			
	Number	Diff./Non-diff.	from EFTA countries	from candidate countries and potential candidates	from other third countries	other assigned revenue
	[XX.YY.YY.YY]		YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO

⁵² Diff. = Differentiated appropriations / Non-diff. = Non-differentiated appropriations.

⁵³ EFTA: European Free Trade Association.

⁵⁴ Candidate countries and, where applicable, potential candidates from the Western Balkans.

3.2. Estimated financial impact of the proposal on appropriations

3.2.1. Summary of estimated impact on operational appropriations

- ☐ The proposal/initiative does not require the use of operational appropriations
- ☒ The proposal/initiative requires the use of operational appropriations, as explained below:

EUR million (to three decimal places)

Heading of multiannual financial framework	1	Single market, innovation and digital
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DG: GROW			Year 2024	Year 2025	Year 2026	Year 2027	Enter as many years as necessary to show the duration of the impact (see point 1.6)			TOTAL
○ Operational appropriations										
03.020101 ⁵⁵	Commitments	(1a)	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8				3.2
	Payments	(2a)	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8				3.2
03.0202	Commitments	(1b)								
	Payments	(2b)								
Appropriations of an administrative nature financed from the envelope of specific programmes ⁵⁶										
Budget line		(3)								
TOTAL appropriations for DG GROW	Commitments	=1a+1b +3	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8				3.2
	Payments	=2a+2b +3	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8				3.2

⁵⁵ According to the official budget nomenclature.

⁵⁶ Technical and/or administrative assistance and expenditure in support of the implementation of EU programmes and/or actions (former 'BA' lines), indirect research, direct research.

○ TOTAL operational appropriations	Commitments	(4)								
	Payments	(5)								
○ TOTAL appropriations of an administrative nature financed from the envelope for specific programmes		(6)								
TOTAL appropriations under HEADING 1 of the multiannual financial framework	Commitments	=4+ 6	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8				3.2
	Payments	=5+ 6	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8				3.2

If more than one operational heading is affected by the proposal / initiative, repeat the section above:

○ TOTAL operational appropriations (all operational headings)	Commitments	(4)								
	Payments	(5)								
TOTAL appropriations of an administrative nature financed from the envelope for specific programmes (all operational headings)		(6)								
TOTAL appropriations under HEADINGS 1 to 6 of the multiannual financial framework (Reference amount)	Commitments	=4+ 6								
	Payments	=5+ 6								

Heading of multiannual financial framework	7	‘Administrative expenditure’
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This section should be filled in using the 'budget data of an administrative nature' to be firstly introduced in the [Annex to the Legislative Financial Statement](#) (Annex 5 to the Commission decision on the internal rules for the implementation of the Commission section of the general budget of the European Union), which is uploaded to DECIDE for interservice consultation purposes.

EUR million (to three decimal places)

		Year 2024	Year 2025	Year 2026	Year 2027	Enter as many years as necessary to show the duration of the impact (see point 1.6)			TOTAL
DG: GROW									
○ Human resources		1.392	2.167	3.912	3.912				11.383
○ Other administrative expenditure		0.212	0.212	0.213	0.213				0.850
TOTAL DG GROW		1.604	2.379	4.125	4.125				12.233
DG ENV									
○ Human resources		0.171	0.342	0.513	0.513				1.539
○ Other administrative expenditure									
TOTAL DG ENV		0.171	0.342	0.513	0.513				1.539
DG INTPA									
○ Human resources		0.171	0.342	0.342	0.342				1.197
○ Other administrative expenditure									
TOTAL DG INTPA		0.171	0.342	0.342	0.342				1.197

TOTAL appropriations under HEADING 7 of the multiannual financial framework	(Total commitments = Total payments)	1.946	3.063	4.980	4.980				14.969
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EUR million (to three decimal places)

		Year 2024	Year 2025	Year 2026	Year 2027	Enter as many years as necessary to show the duration of the impact (see point 1.6)			TOTAL
TOTAL appropriations under HEADINGS 1 to 7 of the multiannual financial framework	Commitments	2.746	3.863	5.780	5.780				18.169
	Payments	2.746	3.863	5.780	5.780				18.169

3.2.2. Estimated output funded with operational appropriations

Commitment appropriations in EUR million (to three decimal places)

Indicate objectives and outputs ↓			Year 2024		Year 2025		Year 2026		Year 2027		Enter as many years as necessary to show the duration of the impact (see point 1.6)								TOTAL	
	OUTPUTS																			
	Type 57	Average cost	No	Cost	No	Cost	No	Cost	No	Cost	No	Cost	No	Cost	No	Cost	Total No	Total cost		
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE No 1 ⁵⁸ ...																				
- Output																				
- Output																				

⁵⁷ Outputs are products and services to be supplied (e.g.: number of student exchanges financed, number of km of roads built, etc.).

⁵⁸ As described in point 1.4.2. ‘Specific objective(s)...’

- Output																		
Subtotal for specific objective No 1																		
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE No 2 ...																		
- Output																		
Subtotal for specific objective No 2																		
TOTALS																		

3.2.3. Summary of estimated impact on administrative appropriations

- ☐ The proposal/initiative does not require the use of appropriations of an administrative nature
- ☒ The proposal/initiative requires the use of appropriations of an administrative nature, as explained below:

EUR million (to three decimal places)

	Year 2024	Year 2025	Year 2026	Year 2027	Enter as many years as necessary to show the duration of the impact (see point 1.6)			TOTAL
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HEADING 7 of the multiannual financial framework								
Human resources	1.734	2.851	4.767	4.767				14.119
Other administrative expenditure	0.212	0.212	0.213	0.213				0.850
Subtotal HEADING 7 of the multiannual financial framework	1.946	3.063	4.980	4.980				14.969

Outside HEADING 7 ⁵⁹ of the multiannual financial framework								
Human resources								
Other expenditure of an administrative nature								
Subtotal outside HEADING 7 of the multiannual financial framework								

TOTAL	1.946	3.063	4.980	4.980				14.969
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The appropriations required for human resources and other expenditure of an administrative nature will be met by appropriations from the DG that are already assigned to management of the action and/or have been redeployed within the DG, together if necessary with any additional allocation which may be granted to the managing DG under the annual allocation procedure and in the light of budgetary constraints.

⁵⁹ Technical and/or administrative assistance and expenditure in support of the implementation of EU programmes and/or actions (former 'BA' lines), indirect research, direct research.

3.2.3.1. Estimated requirements of human resources

- ☐ The proposal/initiative does not require the use of human resources.
- ☒ The proposal/initiative requires the use of human resources, as explained below:

Estimate to be expressed in full time equivalent units

	Year 2024	Year 2025	Year 2026	Year 2027	Enter as many years as necessary to show the duration of the impact (see point 1.6)		
○ Establishment plan posts (officials and temporary staff)							
20 01 02 01 (Headquarters and Commission’s Representation Offices)	8	14	22	22			
20 01 02 03 (Delegations)							
01 01 01 01 (Indirect research)							
01 01 01 11 (Direct research)							
Other budget lines (specify)							
○ External staff (in Full Time Equivalent unit: FTE) ⁶⁰							
20 02 01 (AC, END, INT from the ‘global envelope’)	4	5	11	11			
20 02 03 (AC, AL, END, INT and JPD in the delegations)							
XX 01 xx yy zz ⁶¹							
01 01 01 02 (AC, END, INT - Indirect research)							
01 01 01 12 (AC, END, INT - Direct research)							
Other budget lines (specify)							
TOTAL	12	19	33	33			

XX is the policy area or budget title concerned.

The human resources required will be met by staff from the DG who are already assigned to management of the action and/or have been redeployed within the DG, together if necessary with any additional allocation which may be granted to the managing DG under the annual allocation procedure and in the light of budgetary constraints.

Description of tasks to be carried out:

Officials and temporary staff	Implementation of the Critical Raw Materials Act at full scale • 5 FTEs to ensure tasks of management and coordination: ○ 2 FTEs working on policy coordination and drafting delegated and implementing acts ○ 2 FTEs for ensuring the secretariat of the governance structure ○ 1 FTE for the administration of studies and contracts • 10 FTEs for implementing monitoring, data gathering and risks assessment tasks, which can be split as: ○ 7 FTEs for market monitoring and reporting on strategic and critical raw materials
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⁶⁰ AC= Contract Staff; AL = Local Staff; END= Seconded National Expert; INT = agency staff; JPD= Junior Professionals in Delegations.

⁶¹ Sub-ceiling for external staff covered by operational appropriations (former 'BA' lines).

	○ 2 FTEs for the coordination of information from Member States ○ 1 FTE for the building and updating of database on all collected data and information in monitoring, projects, Member States etc. • 11 FTEs policy measures, which can be split as: ○ 2 FTEs to ensure the enforcement of Member States obligations on circularity measures, including the Extractive Waste Directive measures ○ 2 FTEs for assessing the suitability of environmental footprint, developing calculation methods and monitoring the application of the measures ○ 2 FTEs to enforce actions on standardisation and prepare standardisation requests (notably on rare earths matters) ○ 2 FTEs to coordinate the national exploration activities ○ 3 FTEs for the coordination of national stockpiles information and the development of guidance when possible • 5 FTEs for supporting Strategic Projects, which can be split as: ○ 2 FTE to support the board in the selection of Strategic Projects ○ 1 FTE follow up of strategic projects, notably on permitting processes ○ 2 FTEs to support the Strategic Projects in terms of access to investment • 2 FTEs for supporting Strategic Partnerships
External staff	

3.2.4. Compatibility with the current multiannual financial framework

The proposal/initiative:

- ☒ can be fully financed through redeployment within the relevant heading of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).

Operational appropriations will be redeployed under the existing budgetary envelope of the Single Market Programme.

- ☐ requires use of the unallocated margin under the relevant heading of the MFF and/or use of the special instruments as defined in the MFF Regulation.

☐ requires a revision of the MFF. 3.2.5. Third-party contributions

The proposal/initiative:

- ☒ does not provide for co-financing by third parties
- ☐ provides for the co-financing by third parties estimated below:

Appropriations in EUR million (to three decimal places)

	Year 2024	Year 2025	Year 2026	Year 2027	Enter as many years as necessary to show the duration of the impact (see point 1.6)			Total
Specify the co-financing body								
TOTAL appropriations co-financed								

3.3. Estimated impact on revenue

– ☒ The proposal/initiative has no financial impact on revenue.

– ☐ The proposal/initiative has the following financial impact:

☐ on own resources

☐ on other revenue

please indicate, if the revenue is assigned to expenditure lines ☐

EUR million (to three decimal places)

Budget revenue line:	Appropriations available for the current financial year	Impact of the proposal/initiative						
		Year N	Year N+1	Year N+2	Year N+3	Enter as many years as necessary to show the duration of the impact (see point 1.6)		
Article								

For assigned revenue, specify the budget expenditure line(s) affected.

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Other remarks (e.g. method/formula used for calculating the impact on revenue or any other information).