



2021/2011(INI)

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DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on International Trade

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on a European strategy for critical raw materials
(2021/2011(INI))

Rapporteur for opinion (*): Roman Haider

(*)Associated committee – Rule 57 of the Rules of Procedure

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on International Trade calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the new EU Action Plan on Critical Raw Materials and stresses that EU trade policy can play a key role as a vehicle for improving EU access to these materials; notes that the COVID-19 outbreak has exposed the lack of resilience of global value chains for certain key products, showing the need for more robust and resilient supply chains for critical raw materials;
2. Notes that demand for raw materials is projected to double by 2050 and that the EU is highly reliant on non-EU countries for critical raw materials, making diversified sourcing essential to increase the EU's security of supply; calls, therefore, on the Commission to diversify the supply sources of critical raw materials as much as possible, and reduce current reliance on a few countries; calls on the Commission to focus also on securing supplies by establishing strategic stocks and appropriate stockpiling of critical raw materials in Europe, particularly in light of the uncertainties linked to the evolution of the geopolitical situation worldwide and the potential trade tensions with rich non-EU producer countries;
3. Underlines that future EU free trade agreements (FTAs) should include a specific focus on raw materials; calls on the Commission to further enhance the enforcement of FTAs to ensure that commitments and obligations on sourcing of critical raw materials are met by trading partners; calls on the Commission to strengthen cooperation on sustainable sourcing of raw materials with third countries under existing EU policies and instruments, including enlargement, neighbourhood, development and cooperation policies;
4. Underlines that a fully functioning rules-based multilateral trading system is also key to ensuring open trade flows of critical raw materials; renews its call on the Commission, in this regard, to pursue its efforts for the modernisation, strengthening and substantial reactivation of the World Trade Organization to fight distortions of international trade and guarantee effective competition worldwide;
5. Welcomes the Commission's proposal to shift EU import payments for critical raw materials from other international currencies to the euro, so as to achieve lower levels of price volatility and help to break the dependence of EU importers and third-country exporters on US dollar funding markets.