



Commission selects 46 new Strategic Projects to bolster the EU's supply of critical raw materials

Brussels, 9 October 2026

To strengthen EU supply chains and diversify sources of critical raw materials, the European Commission today announced that it has selected [46 new Strategic Projects](#) across 16 Member States. The projects will contribute to the benchmarks set in the [Critical Raw Materials Act \(CRMA\)](#) that by 2030 EU capacity meets at least 10% of the EU's annual consumption for extraction, 40% for processing, and 25% for recycling of strategic raw materials to enhance competitiveness, develop greater resilience and be less dependent on any single supplier.

The new Strategic Projects are located in Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, and Sweden. They were selected from 102 applications received in the call for applications that concluded earlier this year.

The projects cover different stages of the raw materials value chain: eight are on extraction, 11 on processing, and 19 are recycling projects. In addition, there are eight integrated projects: three that combine extraction and processing, and five that combine processing and recycling, supporting the EU's integrated value chain approach. The projects cover 15 of the 17 strategic raw materials under the CRMA.

The projects will strengthen European value chains in batteries, defence and aerospace, and permanent magnets. They include seven projects on lithium, 12 on nickel, 10 on cobalt, five on manganese, and four on graphite, all of which support the EU battery value chain. The two projects on magnesium and three on tungsten will contribute to defence and aerospace, while the four projects on rare earth elements will support the permanent magnet value chain.

The 46 projects – combined with the [47 Strategic Projects](#) in the EU and the [13 Strategic Projects in third countries](#) that were selected in March and June last year respectively – are expected to make a significant contribution to achieving the EU's CRM derisking and diversification targets. They could fully meet the extraction benchmarks for lithium, nickel, rare earth elements, magnesium and tungsten, and the processing benchmarks for lithium and rare earth elements. They could also cover 89% of the processing benchmark for cobalt and 57% and 51% for tungsten and magnesium respectively, while fully meeting the recycling benchmarks for lithium, cobalt and rare earth elements.

Progress in relation to the first list of strategic projects

The Strategic Projects selected in 2025 are already progressing toward becoming operational. To date, 25 Strategic Projects have completed their environmental impact assessment and 17 have obtained a construction permit, thanks to the Single Points of Contact in Member States that help accelerate permitting procedures.

With the [RESourceEU communication](#) from December last year, the EU is accelerating and amplifying its efforts. Since the launch of RESourceEU, Team Europe has mobilised more than €2 billion in financial support that has been committed through the Innovation Fund, State aid, and the European Investment Bank. Several projects have made significant progress towards securing offtake agreements. In addition, the [Raw Materials Mechanism](#), established to aggregate demand and supply and identify potential offtakers, has generated more than 30 matches for 10 materials.

Background

The CRMA entered into force on 23 May 2024. It establishes measures to strengthen the EU's capacity along the critical raw materials value chains and diversify its sources of supply. The Commission launched two calls for applications for Strategic Projects. The first application call closed on 22 August

2024, and the second round closed on 15 January 2026.

For this second call, the Commission received 102 applications located in the EU across 18 Member States. Of these, the Commission and external experts assessed 92 applications against the criteria set by the CRMA, such as security of supply, technical feasibility, environmental, social and governance standards, and cross-border benefits for the EU. Based on this assessment, the Commission consulted with the Critical Raw Materials Board, composed of representatives of the Member States, with the European Parliament participating as an observer.

The Commission will soon announce a new call for Strategic Project applications towards the end of 2026.

For more information

[Questions and answers](#)

[Factsheet](#)

[Selected Strategic Projects](#)

[Critical Raw Materials Act](#)

[RESourceEU Action Plan](#)

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Quote(s):

"With this second wave of strategic projects, Europe is stepping up its efforts like never before to reclaim its sovereignty over critical raw materials. Since the adoption of RESourceEU, we have been using every means at our disposal to open mines, develop our processing and recycling capacities, and secure our supply chains. Our approach is simple: reduce dependency, increase production in Europe. We have the resources, the projects and the funding: now we are picking up the pace."
Stéphane Séjourné, Executive Vice-President for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy

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Press contacts:

[Siobhan MCGARRY](#) (+32 2 296 47 98)

[Rüya PERINCEK](#) (+32 2 299 49 03)

General public inquiries: [Europe Direct](#) by phone [00 800 67 89 10 11](#) or by [email](#)