



Declaration of the European Raw Materials Alliance

Objectives

The European Commission has designated raw materials as critical to Europe's future. Industrial ecosystems such as construction, automotive, low-carbon energy-intensive industries and aerospace are highly dependent on secure access to raw materials. These industrial ecosystems have a combined added value of more than EUR 2,000 billion and provide employment for more than 30 million Europeans. Access to resources is, therefore, recognized as a strategic pre-requisite for delivering on the ambitions of the European Green Deal. Consequently, the new Industrial Strategy for Europe identifies raw materials as key enablers for a globally competitive, green, and digital Europe. Based on a new Alliance on Raw Materials, it envisages European competitiveness along strategically important value chains. The EU Recovery Plan identifies critical raw materials as an area for strategic investment under the new resilience window of InvestEU.

The European Raw Materials Alliance (ERMA) answers the challenge of securing access to sustainable raw materials, advanced materials, and industrial processing know-how. By 2030, ERMA's activities will increase the production of raw and advanced materials and address Circular Economy by boosting the recovery and recycling of Critical Raw Materials. The Alliance will:

- Bolster the creation of environmentally sustainable and socially equitable innovations and infrastructure.
- Implement a Circular Economy of complex products like electric vehicles, clean tech, and hydrogen equipment.
- Support Europe's raw materials industry capability, to extract, design, manufacture and recycle materials.
- Promote innovation, strategic investment, and industrial production across specific value chains

Scope

ERMA covers the full range of elements and minerals required by Europe's green and digital transitions, from critical raw materials to base metals and industrial minerals.

In addition to investing in infrastructure and capacity building within the EU, the Alliance will support activities aimed at securing sustainable supply of raw and advanced materials for EU's industrial ecosystems supporting the transition to the green economy. These include the implementation of circularity solutions aimed at reducing consumption and waste.



Working Methods

ERMA is an open and inclusive industry-led alliance, which addresses all stakeholders that have an interest in securing raw materials supply for Europe. It provides an open and independent forum for discussion and analysis, as well as a mechanism for translating potential projects into actual activities and infrastructures that will contribute to creating added value and jobs for Europe.

ERMA will identify barriers, opportunities and investment cases to build capacity at all stages of the raw materials value chain, from mining to waste recovery. It complies with EU competition rules and EU international trade commitments.

ERMA's activities will be carried out across 'clusters' defined around specific value chains. The first cluster deals with the most critical value chain for many EU industrial ecosystems – rare earth element (REE) magnets and motors. The second cluster will consider raw and advanced materials for energy storage and conversion in stationary and non-stationary applications. Additional clusters will be defined by the ERMA Steering Committee.

The underlying conditions for all the clusters are sustainability (social, economic and environmental, in line with UN Sustainability Development Goals), digitalization (in line with EU's Digital Strategy) and circularity (following the EU Circular Economy Action Plan). The clusters' work will contribute to capacity building and to the goals of the EU Just Transition fund through education, research and development across the wider society.

Deliverables

As an EU industrial alliance, ERMA will accomplish the following four deliverables:

- Establish an EU industry led- stakeholder consultation processes
- Support EU industrial policy to mitigate regulatory and financing bottlenecks
- Create a Raw Materials Investment Platform (RMIP)
- Create a deeper strategic awareness and forward oriented view of the role of raw and advanced materials in the transition to the Green Economy



The deliverables will be achieved through two workstreams:

1. Value chain-specific consultation processes:
 - Identify raw material challenges along industrial ecosystems and within the wider society
 - Provide tailored solutions to industry needs
 - Unlock regulatory bottlenecks

 - Stakeholder alignment through an open process
2. Investment channel for raw materials projects:
 - Select and prioritize cases to secure raw materials supply to European industrial ecosystems
 - Install Raw Materials Investment Platform (RMIP) to bring investors and investees together
 - Define case-specific financing strategies and mechanisms
 - Assess EU funding opportunities and financing sources for invest opportunities

Who can join?

ERMA welcomes European as well as non-European stakeholders in the raw and advanced materials sector, that are committed to securing raw materials supply in Europe, whilst strengthening resilience, competitiveness and skill base. It will involve industrial actors, Member States and regions, trade unions, civil society, research and technology organisations, investors and NGOs.

To join the alliance, an online declaration of commitment to the alliance's shared vision is required.

Contact

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