



Declaration of the European Raw Materials Alliance (ERMA)

Context

Access to resources is a strategic security question for Europe's ambition to deliver the European Green Deal. The new Industrial Strategy for Europe identifies raw materials as key enablers for a globally competitive, green, and digital Europe, while the EU Recovery Plan recognizes raw materials as one of the areas that must contribute to strengthening crucial markets in a sustainable way.

The European Commission's Action Plan of 3 September 2020, 'Critical Raw Materials Resilience: charting a Path towards greater Security and Sustainability' identifies 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. By 2030, these industrial ecosystems will have a combined added value of EUR 2,000 billion and provide employment for more than 30 million Europeans.

Action 1 is to create a dedicated alliance on raw materials, initially to build long-term resilience and strategic autonomy for the rare earths and magnets value chain, before extending to other raw material areas.

Objectives

The European Raw Materials Alliance (ERMA) aims to make Europe economically more resilient by diversifying its supply chains, creating jobs, attracting investments to the raw materials value chain, fostering innovation, training young talents and contributing to the best enabling framework for raw materials and the Circular Economy worldwide.

The Alliance addresses 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. More specifically, 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 a sustainable supply of raw and advanced materials for the EU's industrial ecosystems that support transition to a green and digital economy. These include the implementation of circularity solutions aimed at reducing consumption and waste.

Working Methods

ERMA is an open and inclusive alliance that 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 long-lasting 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 later.

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, training, research and innovation across the wider society.

Deliverables

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

- Establish an agile and inclusive stakeholder consultation process
- Support EU industrial policy to mitigate regulatory and financing bottlenecks
- Set up a Raw Materials Investment Platform (RMIP) to help leverage investment in a pipeline of key projects
- Foster a deeper strategic awareness, including public acceptance of and forward-looking perspective on the role of raw and advanced materials in the transition to the Green and Digital Economy



The deliverables will be achieved through two workstreams:

1. Value chain-specific consultation processes:

- Identify and respond to raw material challenges along industrial ecosystems and within the wider society
- Provide tailored solutions to industry needs
- Unlock regulatory bottlenecks
- Promote stakeholders' strong engagement and commitment through an open process

2. Investment channel for raw materials projects:

- Select and prioritize cases to secure primary and secondary raw materials supply for 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 investment opportunities inside and outside Europe

Actors

The European Commission launched ERMA on 29 September 2020.

EIT RawMaterials, initiated and funded by the EIT (European Institute of Innovation and Technology), a body of the EU, will manage ERMA and its activities.

The European Commission will ensure the governance framework for ERMA. It will use the European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials¹ as the main forum to review progress and address issues that may require action at the EU level in order to remove barriers.

Who can join?

ERMA welcomes all industrial and non-industrial stakeholders, including NGOs, trade unions, national governments, regions, European as well as non-European, that commit to developing sustainable raw material value chains for Europe, and to building resilience, competitiveness and skills.

ERMA should be an effective public-private collaboration platform, involving those industries, investors, researchers and innovators, Member States and regions, unions and civil society organizations that decide to become its partners.

To join the alliance, please visit erma.eu and submit the online application.

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¹ https://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/raw-materials/eip_en