



Conclusions

Raw Materials Security of Europe Conference

Participants of the conference "Raw Materials Security of Europe", held within CZ PRES on 12 September 2022 agreed on the importance to highlight:

Minerals are vital to many industries even more so for the energy transition.

Europe is a significant consumer of mineral raw materials, but often, not a significant producer.

Member states encourage the extraction of minerals in their countries.

The EU must cooperate with close neighbours – such as the UK, Norway, the Western Balkan countries, North Africa, Island, Turkey and Ukraine – and diversify, both through stronger partnerships with like-minded partners and via its Global Gateway programme in developing regions.

We strengthen our raw material security quickly by creating an EU strategic stockpile system that will protect the continent from the risk of blackmail by some of Europe's strategic raw material suppliers.

We reduce import dependency in the medium term, through a new programme of modern geological exploration in Europe funded from European resources.

In the next 15 years, we must secure new primary supplies for clean energy value chains.

Suitable EU financial support is allocated urgently to enable Projects of Common Interest.

Strategic metals and minerals need streamlined permitting procedures and access to finance.

Competitiveness and predictability are key to long-term sustainable raw material supply.

The guidance for permitting renewable energy projects introduces the concept of overriding public interest, which can be easily adapted to the concept of key strategic mining projects.

Heavy import dependency risks overexposure to single suppliers and inferior regulatory regimes.

European states promote awareness that mineral resources are essential to everyone, especially among the younger generation and develop concomitant skills and education programmes.

The EU takes ambitious action to develop recycling capacity and overall Circular Economy ready for Europe's first generation of clean energy technologies reaching end-of-life from 2035.

In order to maintain the competitiveness of the mining industry within the EU and the industrial sector as such, it is necessary to urgently address the problem of high energy prices and limited energy availability.