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REGULATION (EU) 2024/1252 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

of 11 April 2024

establishing a framework for ensuring a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials and amending Regulations (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1724 and (EU) 2019/1020

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 114 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee⁽¹⁾,

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure⁽²⁾,

Whereas:

(1) Access to raw materials is essential for the Union economy and the functioning of the internal market. There is a set of non-energy, non-agricultural raw materials that are considered to be critical due to their high economic importance and their exposure to high supply risk, often caused by a high concentration of supply from a few third countries. Given the key role of many such critical raw materials in realising the green and digital transitions and in light of their use for defence and aerospace applications demand is likely to increase exponentially in the coming decades. At the same time, the risk of supply disruptions is increasing against the background of rising geopolitical tensions and resource competition. Furthermore, if not managed properly, increased demand for critical raw materials could lead to negative environmental and social impacts.

(2) Given the complexity and the transnational character of critical raw material value chains, uncoordinated national measures to ensure a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials risk undermining the functioning of the internal market. Critical raw materials are often extracted in specific countries or regions, depending on the geographical distribution of relevant reserves, transported for further processing elsewhere and then sold across the internal market for use in relevant products. At the processing stage, critical raw materials are often imported and exported several times within the internal market before use in a final application. Similarly, the end-of-life recycling of relevant products with a view to the recovery of critical raw materials can take place in a country or a region different from that where the waste is collected, and the resulting secondary raw materials are likely to be re-exported for further processing and use. Moreover, critical raw materials are needed at the beginning of many industrial value chains and are often indispensable inputs for a wide set of strategic sectors including renewable energy, the digital industry, and the aerospace and defence sectors. They therefore play an essential role in underpinning economic activities in the internal market, and supply disruptions could have a significant cross-border impact between Member States.

(3) Against this background, uncoordinated actions by Member States risk distorting competition and fragmenting the internal market, for example by imposing diverging regulation on market operators, providing different levels of access to supply risk monitoring, providing different levels of support for national projects, or creating obstacles to cross-border trade between Member States in critical raw materials or related goods thus creating obstacles to the

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 349, 29.9.2023, p. 142.

⁽²⁾ Position of the European Parliament of 12 December 2023 (not yet published in the Official Journal) and decision of the Council of 18 March 2024.

proper functioning of the internal market. Moreover, individual actions of Member States could be insufficient to effectively prevent supply disruptions of critical raw materials from taking place or could be less efficient in achieving that aim.

- (4) To safeguard the functioning of the internal market, a common Union framework should therefore be created to ensure access to a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials and to safeguard the Union's economic resilience and open strategic autonomy.
- (5) First, that framework should define raw materials that are considered to be strategic and critical and strengthen the resilience of supply chains for those raw materials in the Union, including by identifying and supporting certain raw materials projects and recognising them as strategic projects (Strategic Projects) and by undertaking efforts to incentivise technological progress and resource efficiency in order to moderate the expected increase in Union consumption of critical raw materials. Second, it is necessary to provide for measures to reinforce the Union's ability to monitor and mitigate existing and future supply risks. Third, the framework should contain measures to increase the circularity and sustainability of the critical raw materials consumed in the Union.
- (6) In order to ensure that the measures set out in this Regulation focus on the most relevant raw materials, a list of strategic raw materials and a list of critical raw materials should be established. Those lists should be based on clear methodologies, the application of which the Commission should communicate openly and transparently. Those lists should also serve to guide and coordinate Member States' efforts to contribute to the realisation of the aims of this Regulation. The list of strategic raw materials should contain raw materials that are of high strategic importance for the functioning of the internal market, taking into account their use in strategic technologies underpinning the green and digital transitions or for defence or aerospace applications, that are characterised by a potentially significant gap between global supply and projected demand, and for which an increase in production is relatively difficult, for instance due to long lead-times for new projects increasing supply capacity. To take account of possible technological and economic changes, the list of strategic raw materials should be periodically reviewed and, if necessary, updated. In order to ensure that efforts to increase the Union capacities along the value chain, reinforce the Union's capacity to monitor and mitigate supply risks and increase diversification of supply are focused on the raw materials for which they are most needed, certain relevant measures should apply only to the list of strategic raw materials. Member States should not be prevented from creating additional lists on the basis of their specific national needs or from taking appropriate measures at a national level.
- (7) The list of critical raw materials should include all strategic raw materials as well as any other raw materials of high importance for the overall Union economy and for which there is a high risk of supply disruption likely to distort competition and fragment the internal market. In addition to the strategic technologies, other sectors could also be exposed to high supply risks in the future. To take account of possible technological and economic changes, the Commission should, in continuation of current practice, periodically carry out an assessment on the basis of data for production, trade, applications, recycling, and substitution for a wide range of raw materials to update the lists of strategic and critical raw materials reflecting the evolution in the economic importance and supply risk associated with those raw materials in the internal market. The list of critical raw materials should include those raw materials which reach or exceed the thresholds for both economic importance and supply risk, without ranking the relevant raw materials in terms of criticality. That assessment should be based on an average of the latest available data over a five-year-period. The measures related to the single point of contact, planning, exploration, monitoring, circularity, and sustainability that are provided for in this Regulation should apply to all critical raw materials.
- (8) The strategic and critical raw materials lists should use established designations for the listed raw materials. For the strategic raw materials list, the designations should refer, where appropriate, to the grade to which a raw material has to be refined in order to be used for the manufacturing of strategic technologies. References to strategic and critical raw materials should be understood to refer to the entire value chain of those raw materials, including in their unprocessed form and at all stages of processing leading up, where applicable, to the specified grade. An exceptional clarification should be made for the aluminium value chain, mentioning bauxite, its most important ore, and alumina, its intermediate processing form, in addition to aluminium. Strategic and critical raw materials are, in many cases, extracted, processed or recycled as by-products of other main extraction, processing and recycling processes. Therefore, the by-product nature of raw materials should not affect their inclusion on the list or their coverage by the relevant provisions of this Regulation.

- (9) In order to support the implementation of tasks pertaining to the development of Strategic Projects and their financing, exploration programmes, monitoring capacities or strategic stocks and to advise the Commission appropriately, a European Critical Raw Materials Board (the 'Board') should be established. The Board should be composed of representatives of Member States and of the Commission, while being able to ensure participation of other parties as observers, in particular the European Parliament. To develop the necessary expertise for the implementation of certain tasks, the Board should establish standing subgroups on financing, public acceptance, exploration, monitoring and strategic stocks as well as one on circularity, resource efficiency and substitution, that should act as a network by gathering the relevant national authorities and, when necessary, consult industry, academia, civil society and other relevant stakeholders. The Board's advice and opinions should be non-binding and the absence of such an advice or opinion should not prevent the Commission from carrying out its tasks pursuant to this Regulation.
- (10) It is necessary to put in place appropriate measures to establish a common approach to Strategic Projects in the Union active in the extraction, processing or recycling of strategic raw materials or which contribute to the production of relevant substitute materials. Those Strategic Projects should, together with Member State efforts, contribute to increasing capacities to ensure a secure supply of strategic raw materials. Other measures, in particular on exploration or circularity, are also intended to contribute to the reinforcement of different stages of the value chain.
- (11) To decrease the Union's growing risk of supply disruptions likely to distort competition and fragment the internal market, the Commission and Member States should strengthen the capacity at the different stages of the value chain of strategic raw materials, in order to contribute to meeting benchmarks related to Union's capacities and diversification of supply. Such benchmarks should help to guide efforts to strengthen Union capacities along all stages of the strategic raw materials value chain, including extraction, processing and recycling, and to increase the diversification of external supplies of strategic raw materials. The aim should be to increase capacities for each strategic raw material at each stage of the value chain, while aiming to achieve overall capacity benchmarks at Union level for extraction, processing and recycling of strategic raw materials. First, the Union should increase the use of its own geological resources of strategic raw materials and build up capacity to allow it to extract the raw materials needed to produce at least 10 % of the Union's consumption of strategic raw materials. Taking into account the fact that extraction capacity is highly dependent on the availability of Union geological resources, meeting that benchmark is dependent on such availability. Second, in order to build a full value chain and prevent any bottlenecks at intermediate stages, the Union processing capacity should also be increased and the Union should be able to produce at least 40 % of its annual consumption of strategic raw materials. Third, it is expected that in the coming decades a growing share of the Union's consumption of strategic raw materials can be covered by secondary raw materials, which would improve both the security and the sustainability of the Union's raw materials supply. Union recycling capacity should therefore be able to produce at least 25 % of the Union's annual consumption of strategic raw materials and the Union should be able to recycle significantly increasing amounts of each strategic raw material from waste. For waste streams and strategic raw materials for which sufficient information is available to estimate the Union recycling capacity as a share of the strategic raw materials contained in those waste streams, an additional waste-based benchmark should be set. Accompanying efforts to improve resource efficiency through research and innovation, substitution, awareness-raising and other relevant measures will also facilitate meeting those benchmarks. Those benchmarks refer to the 2030 time horizon, in alignment with the Union's climate and energy targets set in Regulation (EU) 2021/1119 of the European Parliament and of the Council (⁽³⁾) and the digital targets set in Decision (EU) 2022/2481 of the European Parliament and of the Council (⁽⁴⁾), which they underpin. Furthermore, quality jobs, including skills development and job-to-job transitions, will address risks in the sectoral labour market and help ensure the Union's competitiveness. The Commission and Member States should also incentivise technological progress and resource efficiency in order to moderate the expected increase in Union consumption of critical raw materials below appropriate reference projections. In the context of preparing implementing measures pursuant to Directive 2009/125/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (⁽⁵⁾), the Commission should consider the possible contribution of ecodesign requirements to the achievement of the Union priorities set out in this Regulation.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/1119 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 June 2021 establishing the framework for achieving climate neutrality and amending Regulations (EC) No 401/2009 and (EU) 2018/1999 ('European Climate Law') (OJ L 243, 9.7.2021, p. 1).

⁽⁴⁾ Decision (EU) 2022/2481 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 establishing the Digital Decade Policy Programme 2030 (OJ L 323, 19.12.2022, p. 4).

⁽⁵⁾ Directive 2009/125/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for the setting of ecodesign requirements for energy-related products (OJ L 285, 31.10.2009, p. 10).

- (12) For some raw materials, the Union is almost fully dependent on a single country for its supply. Such dependencies create a high risk of supply disruptions that are likely to distort competition and fragment the internal market. To limit such potential risk and increase the Union's economic resilience, efforts should be undertaken to ensure that, by 2030, the Union is not dependent on a single third country for more than 65 % of its supply of any strategic raw material, unprocessed and at any stage of processing, giving however special consideration to countries with which the Union has established a strategic partnership (Strategic Partnership), a free trade agreement or other forms of cooperation covering raw materials, as they provide greater assurances regarding supply risks.
- (13) To ensure that the benchmarks are met on time, the Commission, with the help of the Board, should track and report progress towards the benchmarks and towards the demand moderation. Where the reported progress towards the benchmarks and towards the demand moderation is generally insufficient, the Commission should assess the feasibility and proportionality of additional measures. A lack of progress only on a single or small set of strategic raw material should in principle not trigger the need for additional Union efforts.
- (14) The Commission should, with the support of the Board, identify projects in the Union that are intended to start or expand the extraction, processing or recycling of strategic raw materials, or the production and scale-up of materials that can substitute strategic raw materials in strategic technologies, with the aim of recognising such projects as Strategic Projects. Effective support for Strategic Projects has the potential to improve access to strategic raw materials for downstream sectors, to create economic opportunities along the value chain, including for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and to contribute to the creation of employment. Therefore, to ensure the development of Strategic Projects across the Union, such projects should benefit from streamlined and predictable permitting procedures and support in gaining access to finance. Such measures could also inspire improvements in other permitting procedures and in access to finance for projects related to critical or other raw materials. In order to focus support and ensure their added value, projects should, before receiving such support, be assessed against a set of criteria. Raw material projects where strategic raw materials are a by-product, including from ferrous scrap, should also be eligible for such support, if they meet all relevant criteria. In order to be recognised as Strategic Projects in the Union, projects should strengthen the Union's security of supply for strategic raw materials. Projects should also show sufficient technical feasibility, including the expected volume of strategic raw materials or substitute materials by which they increase Union capacity, excluding materials produced for research purposes; be implemented in an environmentally and socially sustainable manner; and provide cross-border benefits beyond the Member State concerned, including spill-over effects further down the value chain. Where the Commission assesses those criteria to be fulfilled, it should publish the recognition as a Strategic Project by means of a decision. As a speedy recognition is key to effectively supporting the Union's security of supply, the assessment process should remain light and not overly burdensome.
- (15) When assessing whether a project in a third country or in an overseas country or territory (OCTs) contributes to the Union's security of supply, the status of OCTs under Union law should in particular be taken into account. OCTs can contribute to the Union's safe access to a sustainable supply of strategic and critical raw materials, particularly within the framework of strategic partnerships.
- (16) The Commission should, with the support of the Board, identify Strategic Projects in third countries or in OCTs that are intended to start or expand the extraction, processing or recycling of strategic raw materials, or the production of materials that can substitute strategic raw materials in strategic technologies. To ensure that such Strategic Projects are effectively implemented, they should benefit from improved access to finance, for instance through access to de-risking mechanisms for investment. In order to ensure their added value, projects should be assessed against a set of criteria. Like Strategic Projects in the Union, Strategic Projects in third countries should strengthen the Union's security of supply for strategic raw materials and should show sufficient technical feasibility. Both Strategic Projects in the Union and Strategic Projects in third countries or in OCTs should comply with the same level of social and environmental sustainability. To become a Strategic Project in an emerging market or developing economy, a project should be mutually beneficial for the Union and the third country involved and add value in that country, taking into account also its consistency with the Union's common commercial policy. Such value may be derived from a project's contribution to more than one stage of the value chain as well as from creating through the project wider economic and social benefits, including the creation of employment in line with international standards. Where the Commission assesses those criteria to be fulfilled, it should publish the recognition as a Strategic Project by means of a decision.

- (17) In order to ensure the sustainability of increased critical raw material production, new critical raw materials projects should be planned and implemented sustainably covering all aspects of sustainability highlighted in the Commission's publication of 11 September 2021, entitled 'EU principles for sustainable raw materials', including ensuring environmental protection, the prevention and minimisation of socially adverse impacts through the use of socially sustainable practices, including respect for human rights such as the rights of women, and transparent business practices. Projects should also ensure engagement in good faith as well as comprehensive and equitable consultations of relevant stakeholders such as local communities and indigenous peoples. Special attention should be paid to the respect for human rights where a project involves potential resettlement. To provide project promoters with a clear and efficient way of complying with this criterion, compliance with relevant Union or national law, international standards, guidelines and principles, as relevant, or participation in a certification scheme recognised under this Regulation should be considered to be sufficient.
- (18) In line with the precautionary principle, the Commission should not recognise deep sea mining projects as Strategic Projects before the effects of deep-sea mining on the marine environment, biodiversity and human activities are sufficiently researched, the risks are understood and technologies and operational practices are capable of demonstrating that the environment is not seriously harmed.
- (19) Any project promoter of a strategic raw materials project should be able to apply to the Commission for the recognition of their project as a Strategic Project. The application should include relevant documents and evidence related to the criteria. To better assess the social, environmental and economic viability, the feasibility of the project as well as the level of confidence in the estimates, the project promoter should also provide a classification of the project according to the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources. To allow for objective validation of that classification, the project promoter should support it with relevant evidence. A timetable for the project should also be attached to an application, in order to estimate when the project would be able to contribute towards the benchmarks for domestic capacity or for diversification. As public acceptance of mining projects is crucial for their effective implementation, the project promoter should also provide a plan containing measures to facilitate public acceptance. Special attention should be paid to social partners, civil society and oversight bodies. The project promoter should also provide a business plan providing information regarding the project's financial viability and giving an overview of funding, the ownership structure and offtake agreements already secured as well as estimates for potential job creation and for the project's needs in terms of skilled workforce, including upskilling and reskilling. In order to harmonise the application process, the Commission should provide a single template for applications.
- (20) Applications relating to projects with the potential to affect indigenous peoples should include a plan containing measures dedicated to a meaningful consultation of the indigenous peoples affected, the prevention and minimisation of adverse impacts on those indigenous peoples, and, where appropriate, fair compensation. If those concepts are addressed by the national law applicable to the project, the plan could, instead, describe those measures. For projects in third countries involving extraction which are not covered by Directive 2006/21/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council⁽⁶⁾, the project promoter should also provide a plan to improve the environmental state of the affected sites after the end of extraction. If the project is located in a protected area, the project promoter should assess technically appropriate alternative locations and describe them in a plan, including why they are not considered to be appropriate for the location of the project.
- (21) To structure the process, the Commission should organise an open call with regular cut-off dates, corresponding to meeting dates of the Board, for project promoters to apply for recognition of their projects as Strategic Projects. To provide clarity for project promoters regarding their applications for Strategic Projects, the Commission should comply with a deadline for its decision on whether to recognise a project as strategic. To accommodate particularly complex cases or a high number of applications at one cut-off date, the Commission should be able to extend that deadline once. It should share its assessment with the Board before its meeting and should take the Board's opinion into account in its decision on whether to recognise a Strategic Project.
- (22) As the cooperation of the Member State on whose territory a Strategic Project will be implemented is necessary to ensure its effective implementation, that Member State should have the right to object to and thereby prevent that a project is recognised as a Strategic Project against that Member State's will. If it does so, the relevant Member State should provide reasons for its refusal, referring to the criteria provided for in this Regulation. Similarly, the Union should not recognise a project as a Strategic Project where it is to be implemented by a third country, against the will

⁽⁶⁾ Directive 2006/21/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2006 on the management of waste from extractive industries and amending Directive 2004/35/EC (OJ L 102, 11.4.2006, p. 15).

of its government and should therefore refrain from doing so where a third-country government objects.

- (23) To prevent the misuse of the Strategic Project status, the Commission should be entitled to withdraw its recognition of a Strategic Project providing reasons for so doing after consulting the Board and the project promoter responsible if the Strategic Project no longer fulfils the conditions or if the recognition was based on an application containing incorrect information relevant to the assessment of the selection criteria. In order to attract long-term investments and ensure legal predictability, in the case of updates of the strategic raw materials list in an annex, a Strategic Project should maintain its status for a reasonable period following the withdrawal.
- (24) In light of their importance for ensuring the security of supply of strategic raw materials and safeguard the functioning of the internal market, Strategic Projects should be considered to be in the public interest. Ensuring the security of supply of strategic raw materials is of crucial importance for the success of the green and digital transitions as well as the resilience of the defence and aerospace sectors. To contribute towards the security of supply of strategic raw materials in the Union, Member States should be able to provide for support in national permit-granting processes to speed up the realisation of Strategic Projects in accordance with Union law.
- (25) The national permit-granting process ensures that critical raw materials projects are safe, secure and comply with environmental, social and safety requirements. Union environmental law sets common conditions for the content of the national permit-granting process, thereby ensuring a high level of environmental protection and allowing for the sustainable exploitation of the Union's potential along the raw materials value chain. Being recognised as a Strategic Project should therefore be without prejudice to any applicable permitting conditions for the relevant projects, including those set out in Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council (7), Council Directive 92/43/EEC (8), Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (9), Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council (10), Directive 2004/35/CE of the European Parliament and of the Council (11), Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (12), and Directive 2006/21/EC.
- (26) At the same time, the unpredictability, complexity and, at times, excessive length of national permit-granting processes undermine the investment security needed for the effective development of strategic raw material projects. The structure and length of a permit-granting process for relevant projects can also differ greatly between Member States. Therefore, in order to ensure and speed up their effective implementation, Member States should apply streamlined and predictable permit-granting processes to Strategic Projects. To that end, Strategic Projects should be given priority status at national level to ensure rapid administrative handling and urgent handling in all judicial and dispute resolution procedures relating to them. This Regulation should not prevent competent authorities from streamlining permitting for projects on the critical raw materials value chain that are not Strategic Projects.
- (27) Given their role in ensuring the Union's security of supply for strategic raw materials, and their contribution to the Union's open strategic autonomy and the green and digital transition, Strategic Projects should be considered, by the permitting authority responsible, to be in the public interest. It should be possible to authorise Strategic Projects which have an adverse impact on the environment, to the extent they fall within the scope of Directives 2000/60/EC, 92/43/EEC or 2009/147/EC or Union legislative acts regarding the restoration of terrestrial, coastal and freshwater ecosystems where the permitting authority responsible concludes, on the basis of a case-by-case assessment, that the public interest served by the project overrides those impacts, provided that all relevant conditions set out in those legal acts are met. The case-by-case assessment should duly take into account the geological specificity of extraction sites, which constrains decisions on location due to the absence of alternative locations for such sites.

(7) Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (OJ L 26, 28.1.2012, p. 1).

(8) Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7).

(9) Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (OJ L 327, 22.12.2000, p. 1).

(10) Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control) (OJ L 334, 17.12.2010, p. 17).

(11) Directive 2004/35/CE of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 on environmental liability with regard to the prevention and remedying of environmental damage (OJ L 143, 30.4.2004, p. 56).

(12) Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (OJ L 20, 26.1.2010, p. 7).

- (28) In order to reduce complexity and increase efficiency and transparency in the permit-granting process, project promoters of critical raw materials projects should be able to interact with a single point of contact, which is responsible for facilitating and coordinating the entire permit-granting process. To that end, Member States should establish or designate one or more points of contact, while ensuring that project promoters have to interact with only a single point of contact. It should be for Member States to decide whether a single point of contact is also an authority taking permitting decisions. To ensure the effective implementation of their responsibilities, Member States should provide their single points of contact with sufficient personnel and resources. In addition, the project promoter should have the possibility to contact a relevant administrative unit within the single point of contact to ensure it has an accessible contact.
- (29) Member States should be able, in light of their internal organisation, to choose whether to establish or designate their single points of contact at local, regional or national level, or at any other relevant administrative level. In addition, Member States should be able, at the administrative level they have chosen, to establish or designate different single points of contact that focus only on critical raw materials projects related to a specific stage of the value chain, namely extraction, processing or recycling. At the same time, project promoters should be able easily to identify the single point of contact that is responsible for their project. To that end, Member States should ensure that, within the geographical area corresponding to the administrative level at which they have chosen to establish or designate their single point of contact, there is not more than one such single point of contact responsible per relevant value chain stage. As many critical raw material projects cover more than one value chain stage, Member States should, in order to prevent confusion, ensure that a single point of contact is designated for such projects in a timely manner.
- (30) In order to ensure clarity about the permitting status of Strategic Projects and to limit the effectiveness of potential abusive litigation, while not undermining effective judicial review, Member States should ensure that any dispute concerning the permit-granting process for Strategic Projects is resolved in a timely manner. To that end, Member States should ensure that applicants and project promoters have access to simple dispute settlement procedures and that Strategic Projects are subject to urgent handling in all judicial and dispute resolution procedures relating to the projects where and to the extent that national law provides for such urgency procedures.
- (31) In order to allow citizens and businesses to directly enjoy the benefits of the internal market without incurring an unnecessary additional administrative burden, Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 of the European Parliament and of the Council (⁽¹³⁾), which established the Single Digital Gateway, provides for general rules for the online provision of information, procedures and assistance services relevant for the functioning of the internal market. The information requirements and procedures covered by this Regulation should comply with the requirements of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724. In particular, it should be ensured that project promoters of Strategic Project can access and complete any procedure related to the permit-granting process fully online, in accordance with Article 6(1) of and Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2018/1724.
- (32) In order to provide project promoters and other investors with the security and clarity needed to increase development of Strategic Projects, Member States should ensure that the permit-granting process related to such projects does not exceed set time limits. For Strategic Projects involving only processing or recycling, the length of the permit-granting process should not exceed 15 months. For Strategic Projects that involve extraction, the length of the permit-granting process should, considering the complexity and extent of the potential impacts involved, not exceed 27 months. However, the preparation of the environmental impact assessment report pursuant to Directive 2011/92/EU is the responsibility of the project promoter and should not be part of timelines to which Member States are bound. To that end, the single point of contact should notify the date by which the project promoter needs to submit the environmental impact assessment report, and any period between that notified date and the actual submission of the report should not be counted towards the timeline. The same principle should apply where, after the required consultations, the single point of contact notifies the project promoter of the opportunity to submit additional information to complete the environmental impact assessment report. In exceptional cases related to the nature, complexity, location or size of the proposed project, Member States should be able to extend the time limits. Such exceptional cases could include unforeseen circumstances giving rise to the need to add to or complete environmental assessments related to the project.

⁽¹³⁾ Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 October 2018 establishing a single digital gateway to provide access to information, to procedures and to assistance and problem-solving services and amending Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 1).

- (33) Member States should ensure that the authorities responsible have sufficient resources and personnel to allow those authorities to effectively achieve the time limits imposed on them. Through the Technical Support Instrument established by Regulation (EU) 2021/240 of the European Parliament and of the Council (¹⁴), the Commission should support Member States, upon their request, in designing, developing and implementing reforms including the strengthening the administrative capacity related to the national permit-granting process, such as the single point of contact.
- (34) The environmental assessments and authorisations required under Union law, including in relation to water, soil, habitats and birds, are an integral part of the permit-granting process for a raw material project and an essential safeguard to ensure that negative environmental impacts are prevented or minimised. However, in order to ensure that the permit-granting process for Strategic Projects is predictable and timely, any potential to streamline the required assessments and authorisations while not lowering the level of environmental protection or the quality of the assessments should be realised. To that end, the necessary assessments should be bundled through a joint or coordinated procedure to prevent unnecessary overlaps. In addition, project promoters and authorities responsible should explicitly agree on the scope of the bundled assessment before it is implemented to prevent the need for unnecessary follow-up action. Last, project promoters should be able to interact with a single authority for the purposes of that joint or coordinated procedure.
- (35) Land use conflicts can create barriers to the deployment of critical raw material projects. Well-designed plans, including spatial plans and zoning, that take into account the potential for implementing critical raw material projects and whose potential environmental impacts are assessed, have the potential to help balance public goods and interests, decreasing the risk of conflict and accelerating the sustainable deployment of critical raw materials projects in the Union. National, regional and local authorities responsible should therefore consider including provisions for critical raw materials projects when developing relevant plans. This is without prejudice to existing requirements to assess the potential environmental impacts of such plans and to the required quality of such assessments.
- (36) Within the Union, critical raw materials projects often face difficulties with access to finance. Critical raw materials markets are often characterised by high volatility of prices, long lead times, high concentration and opacity. Additionally, financing for the sector requires a high level of expert knowledge that is often lacking among financial institutions. To overcome those factors and contribute towards ensuring a stable and reliable supply of strategic raw materials, Member States and the Commission should assist in access to finance and administrative support.
- (37) A strong European value chain is necessary to ensure security of supply to safeguard the functioning of the internal market and increasing capacities can be achieved only with adequate financial means, part of which could come from existing Union funds. Critical raw materials projects, including Strategic Projects, could be eligible for support from such funds if the requirements of the relevant programmes are met, for example related to geographical location, the environment or their contribution to innovation. The relevant funds comprise cohesion policy programmes, such as the European Regional Development fund established by Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 of the European Parliament and of the Council (¹⁵), whose allocation of grants to promote regional cohesion may enable SMEs to develop innovative projects, for instance linked to the reduction of energy consumption in the processing of raw materials. The Just Transition Fund established by Regulation (EU) 2021/1056 of the European Parliament and of the Council (¹⁶) could also be used to support such type of projects to the extent that they contribute to reducing the social and economic costs brought by the green transition. In addition, the Recovery and Resilience Facility established by Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council (¹⁷), particularly its RePowerEU Chapter, which focuses on energy security and diversification of energy supply, could be mobilised to support projects involved, for instance, in the recycling or recovery of raw materials. The Innovation Fund

(¹⁴) Regulation (EU) 2021/240 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 February 2021 establishing a Technical Support Instrument (OJ L 57, 18.2.2021, p. 1).

(¹⁵) Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 60).

(¹⁶) Regulation (EU) 2021/1056 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 establishing the Just Transition Fund (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 1).

(¹⁷) Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility (OJ L 57, 18.2.2021, p. 17).

established by Directive 2003/87/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council⁽¹⁸⁾, the objective of which is, in particular, to drive clean and innovative technologies towards the market, could provide grants, inter alia, to enable the development of recycling capacity of raw materials related to low carbon technologies. Furthermore, InvestEU established by Regulation (EU) 2021/523 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁽¹⁹⁾ is the Union's flagship programme for boosting investment, especially in the green and digital transition, by providing financing and technical assistance. Through the use of blending mechanisms, InvestEU contributes to the crowding-in of additional public and private capital. The Commission will work with InvestEU implementing partners to scale up support to and investment in relevant projects, in line with the common objectives set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/523 and this Regulation. Last, projects in third countries contributing to the diversification of Union's supply could be supported through relevant funds, such as the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument and the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus established by Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁽²⁰⁾.

- (38) In order to overcome the limitations of the currently often fragmented public and private investments efforts, facilitate integration and return on investment, the Commission, Member States and promotional banks should better coordinate and create synergies between the existing funding programmes at Union and national level as well as ensure better coordination and collaboration with industry and key private sector stakeholders. To that end, a dedicated subgroup of the Board bringing together experts from the Member States and the Commission as well as relevant public financial institutions should be set up. This subgroup should discuss the individual financing needs of Strategic Projects and their existing funding possibilities in order to provide project promoters with a suggestion on how to best access existing financing possibilities. When discussing and making recommendations for the financing of Strategic Projects in third countries, the Board should in particular take into account the Global Gateway strategy, set out in the Joint communication of the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of 1 December 2021, entitled 'The Global Gateway'.
- (39) Private investment by companies, financial investors and off-takers is essential. Where private investment alone is not sufficient, the effective roll-out of projects along the critical raw material value chain may require public support, for example in the form of guarantees, loans or equity and quasi-equity investments. That public support may constitute State aid. Such State aid should have an incentive effect and be necessary, appropriate and proportionate. The existing State aid guidelines, which have recently undergone an in-depth revision in line with twin transition objectives, provide ample possibilities to support investments along the critical raw materials value chain subject to certain conditions.
- (40) Public support is used to address specific identified market failures or suboptimal investment situations in a proportionate manner, and actions should not duplicate or crowd out private financing or distort competition in the internal market. Actions should have a clear added value for the Union.
- (41) The volatile prices of several strategic raw materials, exacerbated by limited means to hedge them on forward markets, create an obstacle both for project promoters to secure financing for strategic raw material projects as well as for downstream consumers looking to secure stable and predictable prices for key inputs. In an effort to reduce uncertainty over future prices for strategic raw materials and thereby limit supply risk to safeguard the functioning of the internal market, it is necessary to provide for the setting up of a system that enables both interested offtakers and promoters of Strategic Projects to indicate their buying or selling bids and to bring them in contact if their respective bids are potentially compatible.

⁽¹⁸⁾ Directive 2003/87/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 October 2003 establishing a system for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading within the Union and amending Council Directive 96/61/EC (OJ L 275, 25.10.2003, p. 32).

⁽¹⁹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/523 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 March 2021 establishing the InvestEU Programme and amending Regulation (EU) 2015/1017 (OJ L 107, 26.3.2021, p. 30).

⁽²⁰⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument — Global Europe, amending and repealing Decision No 466/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Regulation (EU) 2017/1601 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 480/2009 (OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p. 1).

- (42) The existing knowledge and mapping of the Union's raw materials occurrences were developed at a time when ensuring the supply of critical raw materials for the development of strategic technologies was not a priority. A lack of up-to-date geological information on critical raw materials in the Union could undermine the development of extraction projects, thereby weakening efforts to decrease supply risk and safeguard the functioning of the internal market. To acquire and update information on the critical raw material occurrences, Member States should, where relevant given the geological conditions, draw up national mapping programmes for the general exploration of critical raw materials and the main minerals that they are extracted together with. This should include measures such as geological mapping, geochemical campaigns, geoscientific surveys as well as the reprocessing of existing geoscientific datasets. This increases the probability of locating new deposits, which in turn should stimulate investments in exploration. The exploration programmes should also consider making use of novel exploration techniques that allow the identification of occurrences at greater depth than conventional techniques. To facilitate the development of extraction projects, Member States should make publicly available certain basic information acquired during their respective national exploration programme, where appropriate using the framework of the Infrastructure for Spatial Information established by Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (21), while providing more detailed information upon request. The Commission should be able to issue guidelines to promote a harmonised format of the exploration programmes.
- (43) Space data and services derived from earth observation can support the efforts towards sustainable critical raw materials value chains by providing a continuous flow of information, which could be useful for activities such as monitoring and management of mining areas, the environmental and socioeconomic impact assessment, or mineral resource exploration. As earth observation is also able to provide data about remote and inaccessible areas, it should be taken into account by Member States when drawing up and implementing their national exploration programmes to the extent possible.
- (44) Although the reinforcement of the Union's critical raw materials value chain is necessary to ensure increased security of supply, the supply chains of critical raw materials will remain global and exposed to external factors. Recent or ongoing events ranging from the COVID-19 crisis to the unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine underlined the vulnerability of some of the Union's supply chains to disruptions. In order to ensure that Union and Member State industries are able to anticipate supply disruption and prepared to withstand their consequences, measures should be developed to strengthen monitoring capacity, coordinate strategic stocks and reinforce the preparedness of companies.
- (45) Member States do not have the same capacity when it comes to risk-awareness and anticipation, and not all Member States have developed dedicated structures that monitor the supply chains of critical raw materials and could inform companies about potential risks of supply disruptions. Similarly, although some companies have invested in the monitoring of their supply chains, others lack the capacity to do so. Therefore, in light of the global dimension of critical raw materials supply chains as well as their complexity, the Commission should develop a dedicated monitoring dashboard assessing critical raw materials' supply risks and ensure the availability of the information gathered for public authorities and private actors, thereby increasing synergies among Member States. In order to ensure that Union value chains are sufficiently prepared against potential supply disruptions likely to distort competition and fragment the internal market, such as those caused by geopolitical conflicts, the Commission should conduct stress tests assessing the vulnerability of the strategic raw materials supply chains and their exposure to supply risks. Member States should contribute to this exercise by, when possible, conducting such stress tests through their national supply and information bodies covering critical raw materials. The Board should ensure the coordination of the implementation of the stress tests by the Commission and Member States. When no Member State has the capacity to carry out a required stress test on a given strategic raw material, the Commission itself should conduct it. The Commission should also suggest potential strategies that can be adopted by the public authorities and private actors to mitigate supply risks, such as building strategic stocks or further diversifying their supply. For the purpose of gathering the information necessary to conduct the monitoring and stress tests measures, the Commission should coordinate with the relevant standing subgroup of the Board and Member States should identify and monitor key market operators.
- (46) Strategic stocks are an important tool to mitigate supply disruptions, in particular for critical raw materials. Although the proposed single market emergency instrument as proposed by the Commission would allow for the possible development of such strategic stocks in the event of the activation of the single market vigilance mode, Member States and companies do not have obligations to build up their strategic stocks ahead of a supply disruption. In addition, there is no coordination mechanism across the Union that allows for the development of a common

(21) Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 March 2007 establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE) (OJ L 108, 25.4.2007, p. 1).

assessment and of an analysis of potential overlaps and synergies. Therefore, as a first step, and taking account of the present lack of relevant information, Member States should provide to the Commission information about potential strategic stocks, and if any, whether they are operated by public authorities or by economic operators on the behalf of the Member States. Such information should include the strategic stock levels available per strategic raw material on an aggregated level, the outlook of strategic stock levels, and the rules and procedures applicable to that strategic stock. Any request should be proportionate, have regard for the cost and effort required to make the data available as well as for its impact on national security, and should set out appropriate time limits for providing the requested information. The Member States should be able to add information on the strategic stocks of economic operators to the analysis, although not subject to a request for information. The Commission should handle the data in a secure manner, and only publish information on an aggregate level. As a second step, on the basis of the information acquired, the Commission should develop a draft benchmark for what should be considered to be a safe level of Union strategic stocks, taking into account the total annual Union consumption of the concerned strategic raw materials. On the basis of a comparison between existing strategic stocks and the overall levels of strategic stocks of strategic raw materials across the Union, the Board, acting in agreement with the Commission, should then be able to issue non-binding opinions to Member States on how to increase convergences, and to encourage them in building up their strategic stocks. In doing so, the Board should consider the need to maintain incentives for the development of strategic stocks by private or public operators using strategic raw materials.

- (47) So as to foster further coordination, the Commission should ensure necessary consultation of Member States in advance of their participation in international fora where such strategic stocks may be discussed, in particular via the dedicated standing subgroup of the Board. Similarly, in order to increase complementarity between this Regulation and other horizontal or subject-specific instruments, the Commission should ensure that the gathered and aggregated information are passed to vigilance or crisis governance mechanisms, such as the proposed single market emergency instrument's advisory group, the European Semiconductor Board established by Regulation (EU) 2023/1781 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁽²²⁾, the HERA Board established by Commission Decision 2021/C 393 I/02⁽²³⁾ or the Health Crisis Board established under Council Regulation (EU) 2022/2372⁽²⁴⁾.

- (48) In order to ensure that they are sufficiently prepared to face supply disruptions, large companies manufacturing strategic technologies in the Union using strategic raw materials should carry out a risk assessment of their supply chains. This will ensure that they take into account the supply risks of strategic raw materials and, where necessary, develop appropriate mitigation strategies to be better prepared in the event of a supply disruption. Such large companies should, as part of that risk assessment, map the origins of their strategic raw materials, analyse the factors that could affect their supply and assess their vulnerabilities to supply disruptions. In the event of vulnerabilities being detected, the identified large companies should take efforts to mitigate them. That risk assessment should be based on data acquired by companies from their suppliers and, if such data is unavailable, should be based, to the extent possible, on data that is publicly available or is published by the Commission. Member States should be able to require that a report on that risk assessment is transmitted to the companies' board of directors. To take into account the need to protect trade and business secrets and to limit the exposure of companies' vulnerabilities, that report should not be made public. Those measures should lead to additional consideration being given to the costs of potential supply disruptions, without prescribing defined mitigation strategies.

- (49) Many markets for strategic raw materials are not fully transparent and are concentrated on the supply side, which increases the negotiating power of sellers and increases prices for buyers. To help lower prices for undertakings established in the Union, the Commission should set up a system that is able to aggregate the demand of interested buyers. In order to avoid a disproportionate impact on competition in the internal market, the Commission, in consultation with the Board, should carry out an assessment on the impact of the system on the market for each strategic raw material added to the system. In developing such a system, the Commission should take into account experience gained in similar endeavours, in particular regarding the joint purchasing of gas as established under

⁽²²⁾ Regulation (EU) 2023/1781 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 September 2023 establishing a framework of measures for strengthening Europe's semiconductor ecosystem and amending Regulation (EU) 2021/694 (Chips Act) (OJ L 229, 18.9.2023, p. 1).

⁽²³⁾ Commission Decision 2021/C 393 I/02 of 16 September 2021 establishing the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (OJ C 393 I, 29.9.2021, p. 3).

⁽²⁴⁾ Council Regulation (EU) 2022/2372 of 24 October 2022 on a framework of measures for ensuring the supply of crisis-relevant medical countermeasures in the event of a public health emergency at Union level (OJ L 314, 6.12.2022, p. 64).

Council Regulation (EU) 2022/2576 (²⁵). All measures under that mechanism should be compatible with Union competition law.

- (50) The provisions on monitoring and strategic stocks included in this Regulation do not entail the harmonisation of national laws and regulations and do not replace existing mechanisms. Monitoring and risk preparedness incentives should be in line with Union law. Union legislative acts such as the proposed single market emergency instrument, which aims to anticipate, mitigate and respond to crises affecting the functioning of the internal market or Regulation (EU) 2022/2372 could apply to strategic and critical raw materials in the event of a crisis or a threat to the extent that those raw materials fall within the scope of such legislative acts. Complementarity and coherence between this Regulation and Union crisis instruments should be ensured by the Commission through the exchange of information between the relevant advisory and governance bodies established by those legislative acts.
- (51) Most critical raw materials are metals, which can be in principle endlessly recycled, albeit sometimes subject to deteriorating quality. This offers the potential to move to a truly circular economy in the context of the green transition while increasing the availability of critical raw materials and thereby contributing to ensure security of supply. After an initial phase of rapid growth of demand for critical raw materials for new technologies, where primary extraction and processing will still constitute the predominant source, recycling should increasingly reduce the need for primary extraction and its associated impacts. This should be done while maintaining a high level of Union recycling capacity via a strong market for secondary critical raw materials. Today, however, recycling rates of most critical raw materials are low, with waste streams such as batteries, electrical and electronic equipment and vehicles being shipped to third countries for recycling. Recycling systems and technologies are often not adapted to the specificities of those raw materials. Innovation plays an important role in reducing the need for critical raw materials, reducing the risks of shortage of supply and for the development of recycling technologies to properly and safely extract critical raw materials from waste. Prompt action addressing the different factors holding back the circularity potential is thus required.
- (52) Member States retain important competences in the field of circularity, for example in the area of waste collection and treatment systems. Those competences should be used to increase collection and recycling rates for waste streams with a high potential for recovery of critical raw materials, including electronic waste, making use for example of financial incentives such as discounts, monetary rewards or deposit-refund systems while preserving the integrity of the internal market. With a view to increasing the use of secondary critical raw materials, this could also include differentiated producer responsibility fees, provided such fees exist in national law, to benefit products containing a larger share of secondary critical raw materials recovered from waste recycled in accordance with environmental standards established in Union law. Such secondary critical raw materials recovered from waste should include recovery carried out in accordance with third-country standards that offer an equivalent protection to Union standards. Member State authorities should also make a difference as buyers of critical raw materials and of products containing them, and national research and innovation programmes provide significant resources to increase the state of knowledge and technology for critical raw materials circularity as well as material efficiency. Finally, Member States should promote the recovery of critical raw materials from extractive waste by improving the availability of information and by addressing legal, economic and technical barriers. A possible solution that Member States should look into are risk-sharing mechanisms between operators and the Member State to promote recovery from closed waste facilities. The Board should also facilitate the exchange of best practices between Member States, on the design and implementation of their national programmes.
- (53) The Union has, in many of its regions, a legacy of raw materials extraction and thus substantial amounts of extractive waste on closed facilities which, due to their only recent rise in economic importance, have generally not been analysed for critical raw materials potential. The recovery of critical raw materials from extractive waste facilities has the potential to increase Union capacity while creating economic value and employment in historical mining regions, which are often affected by deindustrialisation and decline. The lack of attention to, and information on critical raw materials content, especially on closed waste facilities, constitutes a key barrier to greater use of the critical raw materials potential of extractive waste.

⁽²⁵⁾ Council Regulation (EU) 2022/2576 of 19 December 2022 enhancing solidarity through better coordination of gas purchases, reliable price benchmarks and exchanges of gas across borders (OJ L 335, 29.12.2022, p. 1).

- (54) The recovery of critical raw materials from extractive waste facilities should be part of the valorisation of relevant waste facilities. Directive 2006/21/EC sets out high requirements of environmental and human health protection for the waste management of the extractive industry. While those high requirements should be maintained, it is appropriate to establish additional measures to maximise the recovery of critical raw materials from extractive waste.
- (55) Operators of extractive waste facilities, both existing and new, should carry out a preliminary economic assessment study regarding the recovery of critical raw materials from extractive waste present on the site and from such waste being generated. In accordance with the waste hierarchy established in Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (26), priority should be given to preventing the generation of waste containing critical raw materials, by extracting critical raw materials from the extracted volume prior to it becoming waste. In elaborating this study, operators should gather the necessary information, including concentrations and quantities of critical raw materials in the extractive waste, and carry out an assessment of multiple options regarding processes, operations or business arrangements that could enable an economically viable recovery of critical raw materials. This obligation comes in addition to obligations laid down in Directive 2006/21/EC and the national measures transposing that Directive and is directly applicable. In its implementation, operators and competent authorities should seek to minimise administrative burden and integrate procedures to the extent possible.
- (56) To address the current lack of information on the critical raw materials potential of closed extractive waste facilities, Member States should draw up a database containing all information relevant to promote the recovery, in particular the quantities and concentrations of critical raw materials in the extractive waste facility, in accordance with Union competition rules. The information should be made publicly available and in a user-friendly and digital form, enabling access to more detailed, technical information. To facilitate user-friendly access to the information, Member States should, for instance, provide a point of contact to enable more in-depth exchanges with potential developers of critical raw materials recovery projects. The database should be designed to allow potential project promoters to easily identify facilities with a high potential for economically viable recovery. To focus limited resources, Member States should follow a staged approach in the gathering of information and carry out the more demanding information gathering steps only for the most promising facilities. The information gathering activities should aim to provide accurate and representative information on the extractive waste facilities and gaining the best possible indication of the critical raw materials recovery potential.
- (57) Permanent magnets are incorporated in a wide variety of products, with wind turbines and electric vehicles being the most important and fastest-growing applications but also other products, including magnetic resonance imaging devices, industrial robots, light means of transport, cooling generators, heat pumps, electric motors, industrial electric pumps, automatic washing machines, tumble driers, microwaves, vacuum cleaners and dishwashers containing significant amounts worth recovering. Electric motors should also be covered when included in other products. Most permanent magnets, in particular the most performant types, contain critical raw materials, such as neodymium, praseodymium, dysprosium and terbium, boron, samarium, nickel or cobalt. Their recycling is possible but today only performed in the Union at a small scale or in the context of research projects. Permanent magnets should therefore be a priority product for increasing circularity, thereby fostering a secondary market for permanent magnets and ensuring security of supply of critical raw materials.
- (58) A precondition for the effective recycling of permanent magnets is for recyclers to have access to the necessary information on the amount, type and chemical composition of permanent magnets in a product, their location and the coating, glues and additives used, as well as information on how to safely remove the permanent magnets from the product. In addition, to ensure a business case for permanent magnet recycling, permanent magnets incorporated in products placed on the Union market should, over time, contain an increasing amount of recycled raw materials. While providing transparency on the recycled content in a first stage, a minimum recycled content should be set after a dedicated assessment of the appropriate level and likely impacts.
- (59) Critical raw materials sold on the Union market are often certified regarding the sustainability of their production and supply chain. Certification can be obtained in the context of a broad range of public and private certification schemes available with varying scopes and stringency, creating the potential for confusion regarding the nature and veracity of claims made about the relative sustainability of critical raw materials placed on the Union market on the

⁽²⁶⁾ Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives (OJ L 312, 22.11.2008, p. 3).

basis of such certification. The Commission should be empowered to adopt implementing acts recognising certification schemes that should be considered to be trustworthy, providing a common basis for relevant authorities and market participants for assessing the sustainability of critical raw materials. Recognition should be given only to certification schemes which contain provisions for independent third-party verification and monitoring of compliance. As regards environmental protection, certifications schemes should cover risks related to, for example, air, water, soil, biodiversity and waste management. The requirements on all sustainability dimensions should ensure a high level of social and environmental protection and should be consistent with Union law or the international instruments listed in an annex. To ensure efficient procedures, project promoters of projects applying to be recognised as Strategic Projects should be allowed to rely on participation in a recognised certification scheme as relevant evidence to show that their project is implemented sustainably, thereby contributing to a safe and sustainable supply of critical raw materials. When making use of that option, recognised certification schemes should cover all sustainability dimensions. In recognising such certification schemes, the Commission should take into account experience gained in assessing certification schemes in the context of other Union legislative acts, in particular regarding the assessment of similar schemes in the context of Regulations (EU) 2017/821⁽²⁷⁾ and (EU) 2023/1542⁽²⁸⁾ of the European Parliament and of the Council.

- (60) The production of critical raw materials at different stages of the value chain causes environmental impacts, whether on climate, water, soil, fauna or flora. In order to limit such damage and incentivise the production of more sustainable critical raw materials, the Commission should be empowered to develop a system for the calculation of the environmental footprint of critical raw materials, including a verification process, to ensure that critical raw materials placed on the Union market publicly display information on such footprint and facilitating circularity of critical raw materials. The system should be based on taking into account scientifically sound assessment methods and relevant international standards in the area of life-cycle assessment. The requirement to declare the environmental footprint of a critical raw material should only apply where it has been concluded, on the basis of a dedicated assessment, that it would contribute to the Union's climate and environmental objectives by facilitating the procurement of critical raw materials with lower environmental footprint and would not disproportionately affect trade flows and economic costs. When the relevant calculation rules have been adopted, the Commission should develop performance classes for critical raw materials, thereby allowing potential buyers to easily compare the relative environmental footprint of available critical raw materials and driving the market towards more sustainable raw materials. Sellers of critical raw materials should ensure that the environmental footprint declaration is available to their customers. Transparency on the relative footprint of critical raw materials placed on the Union market could also enable other policies at Union and national level, such as incentives or green public procurement criteria, fostering the production of critical raw materials with lower environmental impacts.
- (61) The environmental footprint methods set out in Commission Recommendation (EU) 2021/2279⁽²⁹⁾ constitute a relevant basis for the development of the relevant calculation rules. They rely on scientifically sound assessment methods which take into account developments on international level and cover environmental impacts, including climate change and impacts related to water, air, soil, resources, land use and toxicity.
- (62) The conformity of products or critical raw materials with requirements to improve the circularity of permanent magnets and on the declaration of the environmental footprint of critical raw materials should be assessed by the manufacturer responsible before they are placed on the market and those requirements should be effectively enforced by competent national authorities. The conformity and market surveillance provisions established pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁽³⁰⁾ and Directive 2009/125/EC are designed to address that challenge and should therefore apply also to those requirements. The Commission should therefore be empowered to adopt delegated acts to supplement this Regulation to ensure that those provisions apply

⁽²⁷⁾ Regulation (EU) 2017/821 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 laying down supply chain due diligence obligations for Union importers of tin, tantalum and tungsten, their ores, and gold originating from conflict-affected and high-risk areas (OJ L 130, 19.5.2017, p. 1).

⁽²⁸⁾ Regulation (EU) 2023/1542 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 July 2023 concerning batteries and waste batteries, amending Directive 2008/98/EC and Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 and repealing Directive 2006/66/EC (OJ L 191, 28.7.2023, p. 1).

⁽²⁹⁾ Commission Recommendation (EU) 2021/2279 of 15 December 2021 on the use of the Environmental Footprint methods to measure and communicate the life cycle environmental performance of products and organisations (OJ L 471, 30.12.2021, p. 1).

⁽³⁰⁾ Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on market surveillance and compliance of products and amending Directive 2004/42/EC and Regulations (EC) No 765/2008 and (EU) No 305/2011 (OJ L 169, 25.6.2019, p. 1).

where relevant in the context of this Regulation. To further ensure that optimal use is made of existing regulatory frameworks, the compliance of products that are subject to type approval pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2018/858 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁽³¹⁾ or Regulation (EU) No 168/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁽³²⁾ should be enforced through the existing type-approval system.

- (63) The Commission should, in accordance with Article 10(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁽³³⁾, request one or more European standardisation organisations to draft European standards in support of the objectives of this Regulation.
- (64) The Union has concluded Strategic Partnerships covering raw materials with third countries in order to implement the 2020 Action Plan on Critical Raw Materials. In order to diversify supply, those efforts should continue. To develop and ensure a coherent framework for the conclusion of future Strategic Partnerships, the Member States and the Commission should, as part of their interaction on the Board, discuss, *inter alia*, whether existing partnerships achieve the intended aims, the prioritisation of third countries for new partnerships, the content of such partnerships and their consistency and potential synergies with Member States' bilateral cooperation with relevant third countries. This should be done without prejudice to the prerogatives of the Council in accordance with the Treaties. The Union should seek mutually beneficial partnerships with emerging markets and developing economies, in coherence with its Global Gateway strategy, which contribute to the diversification of its raw materials supply chain as well as add value in the production in those countries.
- (65) Strategic Projects in third countries, particularly where no Strategic Partnership exists, can be particularly risky for investors and often highly dependent on political support in the third country. This issue can be alleviated by increased risk-sharing between interested undertakings, acting in the strategic interest of the Union. Therefore, support should also be provided to enable businesses, including where they act as consortia, without prejudice to the application of Article 101 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), to access markets in third countries that are not covered by a Strategic Partnership or a free trade agreement. Such support could include providing a support network to help them with establishing contact in the relevant third country and gathering information on local and regional circumstances.
- (66) The absence of progress towards the objectives and the capacity and diversification benchmarks set out in this Regulation could indicate the need for adopting additional measures. The Commission should therefore monitor the progress towards those objectives and benchmarks.
- (67) To keep the administrative burden on Member States to a minimum, the different reporting obligations should be streamlined, and the Commission should develop a template allowing Member States to fulfil their reporting obligations on projects, exploration, monitoring or strategic stocks within a regularly published single document, that may be confidential or restricted.
- (68) In order to ensure trustful and constructive cooperation of competent authorities at Union and national levels, all parties involved in the application of this Regulation should respect the confidentiality of information and data obtained in carrying out their tasks. The Commission and the national competent authorities, their officials, employees and other persons working under the supervision of those authorities as well as officials and employees of other authorities of the Member States should not disclose information acquired or exchanged by them pursuant to this Regulation where such information is covered by the obligation of professional secrecy. This should also apply to the Board. The data collated pursuant to this Regulation should be handled and stored in a secure environment.

⁽³¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2018/858 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on the approval and market surveillance of motor vehicles and their trailers, and of systems, components and separate technical units intended for such vehicles, amending Regulations (EC) No 715/2007 and (EC) No 595/2009 and repealing Directive 2007/46/EC (OJ L 151, 14.6.2018, p. 1).

⁽³²⁾ Regulation (EU) No 168/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 January 2013 on the approval and market surveillance of two- or three-wheel vehicles and quadricycles (OJ L 60, 2.3.2013, p. 52).

⁽³³⁾ Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on European standardisation, amending Council Directives 89/686/EEC and 93/15/EEC and Directives 94/9/EC, 94/25/EC, 95/16/EC, 97/23/EC, 98/34/EC, 2004/22/EC, 2007/23/EC, 2009/23/EC and 2009/105/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Council Decision 87/95/EEC and Decision No 1673/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 316, 14.11.2012, p. 12).

- (69) The power to adopt acts in accordance with Article 290 TFEU should be delegated to the Commission in order to update the lists of strategic and critical raw materials, provide for Union recycling capacity benchmarks based on strategic raw materials available in waste, adapt the elements and evidence to be taken into account when assessing the fulfilment of the recognition criteria for Strategic Projects, lay down minimum shares for neodymium, dysprosium, praseodymium, terbium, boron, samarium, nickel and cobalt recovered from post-consumer waste that must be present in the permanent magnet incorporated in certain products, establish rules for the calculation and verification of the environmental footprint of different critical raw materials and establish environmental footprint performance classes for different critical raw materials. It is of particular importance that the Commission carry out appropriate consultations during its preparatory work, including at expert level, and that those consultations be conducted in accordance with the principles laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement of 13 April 2016 on Better Law-Making⁽³⁴⁾. In particular, to ensure equal participation in the preparation of delegated acts, the European Parliament and the Council receive all documents at the same time as Member States' experts, and their experts systematically have access to meetings of Commission expert groups dealing with the preparation of delegated acts.
- (70) In order to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of this Regulation, implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission as regards: (a) specifying the templates to be used for applications for recognition of Strategic Projects, progress reports related to Strategic Projects, the national exploration programmes, and the reporting of Member States pertaining to exploration, monitoring, strategic stocks and circularity; (b) specifying which products, components and waste streams are to be considered to have a relevant critical raw materials recovery potential; and (c) determining the criteria and their application for the recognition of schemes related to the sustainability of critical raw materials. Those powers should be exercised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁽³⁵⁾.
- (71) To ensure that the obligations laid down in this Regulation are complied with, Member States should provide for penalties to be imposed on undertakings that do not comply with their obligations, including on risk preparedness, project reporting and recyclability information. It is therefore necessary that Member States lay down effective, proportionate and dissuasive penalties in national law for failure to comply with this Regulation. It is also necessary for Member States to ensure that project promoters have access, where relevant, to administrative or judicial review in accordance with national law.
- (72) The Commission should carry out an evaluation of this Regulation. Pursuant to paragraph 22 of the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making, that evaluation should be based on the five criteria of efficiency, effectiveness, relevance, coherence and Union value added and should provide the basis for impact assessments of possible further measures. The Commission should submit to the European Parliament, to the Council and the European Economic and Social Committee, a report on the implementation of this Regulation and progress towards achieving its objectives, including the capacity and diversification benchmarks. The report should also, on the basis of the implementation of the measures related to the transparency of the environmental footprint of critical raw materials, assess the appropriateness of establishing maximum thresholds related to the environmental footprint. The Commission should also evaluate the need for benchmarks targeting 2040 and 2050 and for individual strategic raw materials, the consistency between this Regulation and Union environmental law, in particular in relation to the priority status of the strategic projects, the impact of the joint purchasing system set up pursuant to this Regulation on competition in the internal market and the appropriateness of establishing further measures to increase the collection, sorting and processing of waste, in particular with a view to metal scraps.
- (73) To the extent that any of the measures envisaged by this Regulation constitute State aid, the provisions concerning such measures are without prejudice to the application of Articles 107 and 108 TFEU.
- (74) Since the objectives of this Regulation, namely to improve the functioning of the internal market by establishing a framework to ensure the Union's access to a secure, resilient and sustainable supply of critical raw materials, including by fostering efficiency and circularity throughout the value chain, cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States, but can rather, by reason of their scale and effects, be better achieved at Union level, the Union may adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union. In accordance with the principle of proportionality as set out in that Article, this Regulation does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve those objectives,

⁽³⁴⁾ OJ L 123, 12.5.2016, p. 1.

⁽³⁵⁾ Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 13).

HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

CHAPTER 1
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

Subject matter and objectives

1. The general objective of this Regulation is to improve the functioning of the internal market by establishing a framework to ensure the Union's access to a secure, resilient and sustainable supply of critical raw materials, including by fostering efficiency and circularity throughout the value chain.
2. To achieve the general objective referred to in paragraph 1, this Regulation lays down measures aiming to:

- (a) lower the risk of supply disruptions related to critical raw materials likely to distort competition and fragment the internal market, in particular by identifying and supporting strategic projects that contribute to lowering dependencies and diversifying imports and by undertaking efforts to incentivise technological progress and resource efficiency in order to moderate the expected increase in the Union consumption of critical raw materials;
- (b) improve the Union's ability to monitor and mitigate the supply risk related to critical raw materials;
- (c) ensure the free movement of critical raw materials and products containing critical raw materials placed on the Union market while ensuring a high level of environmental protection and sustainability, including by improving their circularity.

Article 2

Definitions

For the purposes of this Regulation, the following definitions apply:

- (1) 'raw material' means a substance in processed or unprocessed state used as an input for the manufacturing of intermediate or final products, excluding substances predominantly used as food, feed or combustion fuel;
- (2) 'raw materials value chain' means all activities and processes involved in the exploration, extraction, processing and recycling of raw materials;
- (3) 'exploration' means all activities aimed at identifying and establishing the properties of mineral occurrences;
- (4) 'extraction' means the extraction of ores, minerals and plant products from their original source as a main product or as a by-product, including from mineral occurrence underground, mineral occurrence under and in water, and from brine and trees;
- (5) 'Union extraction capacity' means an aggregate of the maximum annual production volumes of extractive operations for ores, minerals, plant products and concentrates containing strategic raw materials, including processing operations that are typically located at or near the extraction site, located in the Union;
- (6) 'mineral occurrences' means any single mineral or combination of minerals occurring in a mass or deposit of potential economic interest;
- (7) 'reserves' means all mineral occurrences that are economically viable to extract in a particular market context;
- (8) 'processing' means all physical, chemical and biological processes involved in the transformation of a raw material from ores, minerals, plant products or waste into pure metals, alloys or other economically usable forms, including beneficiation, separation, smelting and refining, and excluding metal working and further transformation into intermediate and final goods;
- (9) 'Union processing capacity' means an aggregate of the maximum annual production volumes of processing operations for strategic raw materials, excluding such operations that are typically located at or near the extraction site, located in the Union;

- (10) 'recycling' means recycling as defined in Article 3, point (17), of Directive 2008/98/EC;
- (11) 'Union recycling capacity' means an aggregate of the maximum annual production volume of recycling operations for strategic raw materials after re-processing, including the sorting and pre-treatment of waste, and its processing into secondary raw materials, located in the Union;
- (12) 'annual consumption of strategic raw materials' means an aggregate of the amount of strategic raw materials consumed by undertakings established in the Union in processed form, excluding strategic raw materials incorporated in intermediate or final products placed on the Union market;
- (13) 'supply risk' means supply risk as calculated in line with Annex II, Section 2;
- (14) 'critical raw material project' means any planned facility or planned significant extension or repurposing of an existing facility that is active in the extraction, processing or recycling of critical raw materials;
- (15) 'offtaker' means an undertaking that has entered into an offtake agreement with a project promoter;
- (16) 'offtake agreement' means any contractual agreement between an undertaking and a project promoter containing either a commitment on part of the undertaking to procure a share of the raw materials produced by a specific raw material project over a certain period of time or a commitment on part of the project promoter to provide the undertaking with the option to do so;
- (17) 'project promoter' means any undertaking or consortium of undertakings developing a raw material project;
- (18) 'permit-granting process' means a process covering all relevant permits to build and operate a critical raw material project, including building, chemical and grid connection permits and environmental assessments and authorisations where those are required, and encompassing all applications and procedures from the acknowledgment that the application is complete to the notification of the comprehensive decision on the outcome of the procedure by the single point of contact concerned;
- (19) 'comprehensive decision' means the decision or set of decisions taken by Member State authorities that determines whether a project promoter is authorised to implement a critical raw material project, without prejudice to any decision taken in the context of an appeal procedure;
- (20) 'national programme' means a national programme or a compiled set of programmes, covering the entire territory, prepared and adopted by relevant national or regional authorities;
- (21) 'general exploration' means exploration at national or regional level, not including targeted exploration;
- (22) 'targeted exploration' means the detailed investigation of an individual mineral occurrence;
- (23) 'predictive map' means a map indicating areas that are likely to contain mineral occurrences of a given raw material;
- (24) 'supply disruption' means the unexpected significant decrease in the availability of a raw material or significant increase in the price of a raw material beyond normal market price volatility;
- (25) 'raw materials supply chain' means all activities and processes of the raw materials value chain up to the point where a raw material is used as an input for the manufacturing of intermediate or final products;
- (26) 'mitigation strategies' means the policies developed by an economic operator to limit the likelihood of a supply disruption to its raw materials supply chain or to mitigate the damages caused by such a supply disruption to its economic activity;
- (27) 'key market operators' means undertakings in the Union's critical raw materials supply chain and downstream undertakings consuming critical raw materials, the reliable functioning of which is essential for the supply of critical raw materials;
- (28) 'strategic stock' means a quantity of a particular raw material in whichever form that is stored by a public or private operator with a view to releasing it in the event of a supply disruption;
- (29) 'large company' means a company with more than 500 employees on average and a net worldwide turnover of more than EUR 150 million in the most recent financial year for which annual financial statements have been prepared;

- (30) 'strategic technologies' means the key technologies instrumental for the green and digital transitions as well as for defence and aerospace applications;
- (31) 'board of directors' means the administrative or supervisory body responsible for supervising the executive management of the company, or, if no such body exists, the person or persons performing equivalent functions;
- (32) 'waste' means waste as defined in Article 3, point (1), of Directive 2008/98/EC;
- (33) 'collection' means collection as defined in Article 3, point (10), of Directive 2008/98/EC;
- (34) 'treatment' means treatment as defined in Article 3, point (14), of Directive 2008/98/EC;
- (35) 'recovery' means recovery as defined in Article 3, point (15), of Directive 2008/98/EC;
- (36) 're-use' means re-use as defined in Article 3, point (13), of Directive 2008/98/EC;
- (37) 'extractive waste' means extractive waste within the meaning of Article 2(1) of Directive 2006/21/EC;
- (38) 'extractive waste facility' means waste facility as defined in Article 3, point (15), of Directive 2006/21/EC;
- (39) 'preliminary economic assessment' means an early-stage, conceptual assessment of the potential economic viability of a project for the recovery of critical raw materials from extractive waste;
- (40) 'magnetic resonance imaging device' means a non-invasive medical device that uses magnetic fields to make anatomical images or any other device that uses magnetic fields to make images of the inside of object;
- (41) 'wind energy generator' means the part of an onshore or offshore wind turbine that converts the mechanical energy of the rotor into electrical energy;
- (42) 'industrial robot' means an automatically controlled, reprogrammable, multipurpose manipulator, programmable in three or more axes, which can either be fixed or mobile for use in industrial automation applications;
- (43) 'motor vehicle' means any type-approved vehicle of the M or N categories as set out in Article 4(1), points (a) and (b), of Regulation (EU) 2018/858;
- (44) 'light means of transport' means any light wheeled vehicle that can be powered by the electric motor alone or by a combination of motor and human power, including electric scooters, electric bicycles and type-approved vehicles of category L as set out in Article 4 of Regulation (EU) No 168/2013;
- (45) 'cooling generator' means the part of a cooling system that generates a temperature difference allowing heat extraction from the space or process to be cooled, using an electric vapour compression cycle;
- (46) 'heat pump' means the part of a heating system that generates a temperature difference allowing heat supply to the space or process to be heated, using an electric vapour compression cycle;
- (47) 'electric motor' means a device that converts electrical input power into mechanical output power in the form of a rotation with a rotational speed and torque that depends on factors including the frequency of the supply voltage and number of poles of the motor, and with a rated output equal to or above 0,12 kW;
- (48) 'automatic washing machine' means a washing machine where the load is fully treated by the washing machine without the need for user intervention at any point during the programme;
- (49) 'tumble drier' means an appliance in which textiles are dried by tumbling in a rotating drum through which heated air is passed;
- (50) 'microwave' means any appliance intended to be used for the heating of food using electromagnetic energy;
- (51) 'vacuum cleaner' means an appliance that removes soil from a surface to be cleaned by means of an airflow created by underpressure developed within the unit;
- (52) 'dishwasher' means a machine which cleans and rinses tableware;

- (53) 'permanent magnet' means a magnet that retains its magnetism after being removed from an external magnetic field;
- (54) 'data carrier' means a linear bar code symbol, a two-dimensional symbol or other automatic identification data capture medium that can be read by a device;
- (55) 'unique product identifier' means a unique string of characters for the identification of products;
- (56) 'magnet coating' means a layer of material generally used to protect magnets from corrosion;
- (57) 'removal' means manual, mechanical, chemical, thermal or metallurgic handling with the result that the targeted components or materials are identifiable as a separate output stream or part of an output stream;
- (58) 'recycler' means any natural or legal person who carries out recycling in a permitted facility;
- (59) 'making available on the market' means any supply of a product for distribution, consumption or use on the Union market in the course of a commercial activity, whether in return for payment or free of charge;
- (60) 'critical raw material type' means a critical raw material placed on the market that is differentiated by its stage of processing, its chemical composition, its geographical origin or the production methods used;
- (61) 'placing on the market' means the first making available of a product on the Union market;
- (62) 'conformity assessment' means the process demonstrating whether the requirements set out in Article 28, 29 or 31 have been fulfilled;
- (63) 'Strategic Partnership' means a commitment between the Union and a third country or an overseas country or territory to increase cooperation related to the raw materials value chain that is established through a non-binding instrument setting out actions of mutual interest, which facilitate beneficial outcomes for both the Union and the relevant third country or overseas countries or territories;
- (64) 'multi-stakeholder governance' means a formal, meaningful, and substantive role of multiple types of stakeholders, including at least civil society, in the decision-making of a certification scheme, documented by way of a mandate, terms of reference or other evidence, which confirms or supports the involvement of the multi-stakeholder representatives of that certification scheme.

CHAPTER 2
STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS

Article 3

List of strategic raw materials

1. The raw materials, including in unprocessed form, at any stage of processing and when occurring as a by-product of other extraction, processing or recycling processes, listed in Annex I, Section 1, shall be considered to be strategic raw materials.

2. The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 38 to amend Annex I, Section 1, in order to update the list of strategic raw materials.

An updated list of strategic raw materials shall include, from among the raw materials assessed, the raw materials that score among the highest in terms of strategic importance, forecasted demand growth and difficulty of increasing production. The strategic importance, projected demand growth and difficulty of increasing production shall be determined in accordance with Annex I, Section 2.

3. The Commission shall review and, if necessary, update the list of strategic raw materials by 24 May 2027, and every three years thereafter.

Upon the request of the European Critical Raw Materials Board established in Article 35 (the 'Board') on the basis of monitoring and stress testing in accordance with this Regulation, the Commission shall review and, where appropriate, update the list of strategic raw materials at any time in addition to the regular reviews.

As part of the first update of the list of strategic raw materials pursuant to the first subparagraph, the Commission shall, in particular, assess whether, on the basis of its assessment pursuant to paragraph 2 of this Article and Annex I, Section 2, synthetic graphite should remain in the list of strategic raw materials.

Article 4

List of critical raw materials

1. The raw materials, including in unprocessed form, at any stage of processing and when occurring as a by-product of other extraction, processing or recycling processes, listed in Annex II, Section 1, shall be considered to be critical raw materials.

2. The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 38 to amend Annex II, Section 1, in order to update the list of critical raw materials.

An updated list of critical raw materials shall include the strategic raw materials listed in Annex I, Section 1, as well as any other raw material that reaches or exceeds the threshold of 1 for supply risk and 2,8 for economic importance. Economic importance and supply risk shall be calculated in accordance with Annex II, Section 2.

3. By 24 May 2027 and at least every three years thereafter the Commission shall review and, if necessary, update the list of critical raw materials in accordance with paragraph 2.

CHAPTER 3

STRENGTHENING THE UNION RAW MATERIALS VALUE CHAIN

SECTION 1

Benchmarks

Article 5

Benchmarks

1. The Commission and Member States shall strengthen the different stages of the strategic raw materials value chain through the measures provided for in this Chapter in order to:

(a) ensure that, by 2030, Union capacities for each strategic raw material have significantly increased so that, overall, Union capacity approaches or reaches the following benchmarks:

- (i) Union extraction capacity is capable of extracting the ores, minerals or concentrates needed to produce at least 10 % of the Union's annual consumption of strategic raw materials, to the extent possible in light of the Union's reserves;
- (ii) Union processing capacity, including for all intermediate processing steps, is capable of producing at least 40 % of the Union's annual consumption of strategic raw materials;
- (iii) Union recycling capacity, including for all intermediate recycling steps, is capable of producing at least 25 % of the Union's annual consumption of strategic raw materials and is capable of recycling significantly increasing amounts of each strategic raw material from waste;

(b) diversify the Union's imports of strategic raw materials with a view to ensuring that, by 2030, the Union's annual consumption of each strategic raw material at any relevant stage of processing can rely on imports from several third countries or from overseas countries or territories (OCTs) and that no third country accounts for more than 65 % of the Union's annual consumption of such a strategic raw material.

2. The Commission and Member States shall undertake efforts to incentivise technological progress and resource efficiency in order to moderate the expected increase in Union consumption of critical raw materials below the reference projection referred to in Article 44(1) by means of the relevant measures set out in this Section and in Chapter 5, Section 1.

3. By 1 January 2027, the Commission shall adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 38 to supplement this Regulation by providing for Union recycling capacity benchmarks expressed as a share of the strategic raw materials available in relevant waste streams.

The delegated acts adopted pursuant to the first subparagraph shall specify the waste streams and the strategic raw materials within them for which sufficient information on the relevant waste volumes and their strategic raw material content is available on the basis of the reporting requirements of Regulation (EU) 2023/1542, Directive 2000/53/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council⁽³⁶⁾, Directive 2008/98/EC and Directive 2012/19/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council⁽³⁷⁾, to allow for estimating the Union recycling capacity as a share of the strategic raw materials contained in the relevant waste streams.

The delegated acts adopted pursuant to the first subparagraph shall also set a Union recycling capacity benchmark based on the recycling capacity for each strategic raw material in the relevant waste streams identified pursuant to the second subparagraph.

The Commission shall set the recycling capacity benchmark referred to in the third subparagraph on the basis of the following elements:

- (a) current Union recycling capacity expressed as a share of the strategic raw materials available in relevant waste streams;
- (b) the extent to which strategic raw materials can be recovered from those waste streams, taking into account technological and economic feasibility;
- (c) targets set in other Union legal acts relevant to the recovery of strategic raw materials from waste.

The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated act in accordance with Article 38 to amend this Regulation by updating the delegated acts adopted pursuant to the first subparagraph of this paragraph if, as a result of the assessment referred to in Article 48(2), information becomes available on the relevant waste volumes and strategic raw material content of further waste streams.

SECTION 2

Strategic Projects

Article 6

Criteria for the recognition of Strategic Projects

1. Following an application of the project promoter and in accordance with the procedure established in Article 7, the Commission shall recognise as Strategic Projects raw material projects that meet the following criteria:

- (a) the project would make a meaningful contribution to the security of the Union's supply of strategic raw materials;
- (b) the project is or will become technically feasible within a reasonable timeframe and the expected production volume of the project can be estimated with a sufficient level of confidence;
- (c) the project would be implemented sustainably, in particular as regards the monitoring, prevention and minimisation of environmental impacts, the prevention and minimisation of socially adverse impacts through the use of socially responsible practices including respect for human rights, indigenous peoples and labour rights, in particular in the case of involuntary resettlement, potential for quality job creation and meaningful engagement with local communities and relevant social partners, and the use of transparent business practices with adequate compliance policies to prevent and minimise risks of adverse impacts on the proper functioning of public administration, including corruption and bribery;
- (d) for projects in the Union, the establishment, operation or production of the project would have cross-border benefits beyond the Member State concerned, including for downstream sectors;
- (e) for projects in third countries that are emerging markets or developing economies, the project would be mutually beneficial for the Union and the third country concerned by adding value in that third country.

2. The fulfilment of the criteria for the recognition set out in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be assessed by the Commission in accordance with the elements and evidence set out in Annex III.

⁽³⁶⁾ Directive 2000/53/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 September 2000 on end-of life vehicles (OJ L 269, 21.10.2000, p. 34).

⁽³⁷⁾ Directive 2012/19/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2012 on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) (OJ L 197, 24.7.2012, p. 38).

The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 38 to amend Annex III in order to adapt the elements and evidence to be taken into account when assessing the fulfilment of the criteria for the recognition set out in paragraph 1 of this Article to technical and scientific progress or to take into account changes to the international instruments listed in Annex III, point 5, or the adoption of new international instruments relevant for the fulfilment of the criterion referred to in paragraph 1, point (c), of this Article.

3. The recognition of a project as a Strategic Project pursuant to this Article shall not affect the requirements applicable to the relevant project or project promoter under Union, national or international law.

Article 7

Application and recognition

1. Applications for recognition of a critical raw material project as a Strategic Project shall be submitted by the project promoter to the Commission. The application shall include:

- (a) relevant evidence related to fulfilment of the criteria laid down in Article 6(1);
- (b) a classification of the project according to the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources, supported by appropriate evidence;
- (c) a timetable for the implementation of the project, including an overview of the permits required for the project and the status of the corresponding permit-granting process;
- (d) a plan containing measures to facilitate public acceptance including, where appropriate, measures to facilitate the meaningful involvement and active participation of affected communities, the establishment of recurrent communication channels with local communities, organisations, including social partners, and relevant authorities, and the implementation of awareness-raising and information campaigns and potential mitigation and compensation mechanisms;
- (e) information about the control of the undertakings involved in the project, as defined in Article 3(2) and (3) of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004⁽³⁸⁾, and, where multiple undertakings are involved, information outlining the relative involvement of each undertaking in the project;
- (f) a business plan evaluating the financial viability of the project;
- (g) an estimate of the project's potential for quality job creation and the project's needs in terms of skilled workforce and a work plan to support upskilling and reskilling and promote inclusive representation of the workforce;
- (h) for projects in third countries or in OCTs involving extraction, a plan to improve the environmental state of the affected sites after the end of exploitation, with a view to restoring the prior environmental state while taking into account technical and economic feasibility;
- (i) for projects related exclusively to processing or recycling located in areas protected pursuant to Directive 92/43/EEC or Directive 2009/147/EC, a description of the technically appropriate alternative locations assessed by the project promoter and why those alternative locations are not considered to be appropriate locations for the project;
- (j) for projects with the potential to affect indigenous peoples, a plan containing measures dedicated to a meaningful consultation of the affected indigenous peoples about the prevention and minimisation of the adverse impacts on indigenous rights and, where appropriate, fair compensation for those peoples, as well as measures to address the outcomes of the consultation.

Where the national law of the country whose territory is concerned by a project contains provisions for consultation as referred to in point (j) of the first subparagraph and provided that such consultation covers all the aims set out in that point, the plan may be adjusted accordingly.

2. By 24 November 2024, the Commission shall adopt an implementing act establishing a single template to be used by project promoters for the applications referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article. The single template may indicate how the information referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article is to be expressed. That implementing act shall be adopted in accordance with the advisory procedure referred to in Article 39(2).

The extent of documentation required to complete the single template referred to in the first subparagraph shall be reasonable.

⁽³⁸⁾ Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 of 20 January 2004 on the control of concentrations between undertakings (the EC Merger Regulation) (OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1).

3. The Commission shall assess the applications referred to in paragraph 1 through an open call with regular cut-off dates.

The first such cut-off date shall be no later than 24 August 2024. The Commission shall set cut-off dates at least four times per year.

4. The Commission shall inform applicants within 30 days of the applicable cut-off date if it considers the information provided in the application to be complete. If the application is incomplete, the Commission may request the applicant to submit the additional information required to complete the application without undue delay, specifying which additional information is required.

5. The Commission shall inform the Board of all applications that are considered to be complete in accordance with paragraph 4.

6. The Board shall meet at regular intervals in accordance with Article 36(5) to discuss and issue an opinion on, on the basis of a fair and transparent process, whether the proposed projects fulfil the criteria laid down in Article 6(1).

The Commission shall provide the Board with its assessment of whether the proposed projects fulfil the criteria laid down in Article 6(1) in advance of the meetings referred to in the first subparagraph of this paragraph.

7. The Commission shall transmit the full application to the Member State, third country or OCTs whose territory is concerned by a proposed project.

8. On the basis of an objection by the Member State whose territory is concerned by a proposed project, the project shall not be considered for recognition as a Strategic Project. The Member State concerned shall substantiate its objection during the discussions referred to in paragraph 6.

For Strategic Projects in third countries or in OCTs, the Commission shall share the application received with the third country or OCTs whose territory is concerned by the proposed project. The Commission shall not approve the application before receiving the explicit approval of a relevant third country.

9. The Commission shall, taking account of the opinion of the Board referred to in paragraph 6, adopt its decision on the recognition of the project as a Strategic Project within 90 days of acknowledging the completeness of the application in accordance with paragraph 4 and shall notify the applicant thereof.

The Commission's decision shall be reasoned. The Commission shall provide its decision to the Board and to the Member State or third country whose territory is concerned by the project.

10. In exceptional cases, where the nature, complexity or size of an application so require or where the number of applications received before a particular cut-off date is too high to allow for the processing of applications within the time limit referred to in paragraph 9, the Commission may, on a case-by-case basis and no later than 20 days before the expiry of the time limit referred to in paragraph 9, extend that time limit by a maximum of 90 days. In that event, the Commission shall inform the project promoter in writing of the reasons justifying the extension and of the time limit for the decision.

11. Where the Commission finds that a Strategic Project no longer fulfils the criteria laid down in Article 6(1) or, where its recognition was based on an application containing information that is incorrect to the extent that it affects its compliance with the criteria laid down in Article 6(1), it may, taking into account the opinion of the Board, withdraw the recognition of a project as a Strategic Project.

Before adopting a decision to withdraw recognition, the Commission shall provide the project promoter with reasons for its decision, the project promoter shall be given the opportunity to reply and the Commission shall take into account the project promoter's reply.

12. Projects which are no longer recognised as Strategic Projects shall lose all rights connected to that status under this Regulation.

13. Strategic Projects that no longer fulfil the criteria laid down in Article 6(1) solely due to an update of Annex I shall be allowed to maintain their status as Strategic Projects for three years from the date of that update.

Article 8

Reporting and information obligations for Strategic Projects

1. The project promoter shall, every two years after the date of recognition as a Strategic Project, submit a report to the Commission containing information on at least:

(a) progress in the implementation of the Strategic Project, in particular with regard to the permit-granting process;

- (b) where relevant, reasons for delays compared to the timetable referred to in Article 7(1), point (c) and a plan to overcome such delays;
- (c) progress in financing the Strategic Project, including information on public financial support.

The Commission shall submit a copy of the report referred to in the first subparagraph of this paragraph to the Board in order to facilitate the discussions referred to in Article 36(7), point (c).

2. The Commission may, where necessary, request additional information from project promoters relevant to the implementation of the Strategic Project to ascertain the continuing fulfilment of the criteria laid down in Article 6(1).

3. The project promoter shall notify the Commission of:

- (a) changes to the Strategic Project affecting its fulfilment of the criteria laid down in Article 6(1);
- (b) changes in control of the undertakings involved in the Strategic Project on a lasting basis, compared to the information referred to in Article 7(1), point (e).

4. The Commission may adopt implementing acts establishing a single template to be used by project promoters to provide all the information required for the reports referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article. The single template may indicate how the information referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article is to be expressed. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the advisory procedure referred to in Article 39(2).

The extent of documentation required to complete the single template referred to in the first subparagraph shall be reasonable.

5. The project promoter shall establish and regularly update the undertaking's website or a dedicated project website with information relevant to the local population and to foster public acceptance about the Strategic Project, including at least information on the environmental, social and economic impacts and benefits associated with the Strategic Project. The relevant part of the undertaking's website or dedicated project website shall be accessible by the public free of charge and shall not require the provision of personal information (free-access website). It shall be available in a language or languages that can be easily understood by the local population.

SECTION 3

Permit-granting process

Article 9

Single point of contact

1. By 24 February 2025, Member States shall establish or designate one or more authorities as single points of contact. Where a Member State establishes or designates more than one such point of contact, it shall ensure that there is only one such point of contact per relevant administrative level and stage of the critical raw materials value chain.

2. Where a Member State establishes or designates more than one point of contact pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Article, it shall provide a simple, accessible website on which all points of contact, including their address and electronic means of communication, are clearly listed and categorised according to the relevant administrative level and the stage of the critical raw materials value chain. The website may also contain content provided pursuant to Article 18.

3. The single points of contact established or designated pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Article (single points of contact) shall be responsible for facilitating and coordinating the permit-granting process for critical raw material projects and providing information on the elements referred to in Article 18, including information on when an application is considered to be complete in accordance with Article 11(6). They shall coordinate and facilitate the submission of any relevant documents and information.

4. The single point of contact concerned shall be the sole point of contact for the project promoter and shall assist the project promoter in understanding any administrative matter relevant to the permit-granting process.

5. Project promoters of critical raw materials projects shall have the possibility to contact the relevant administrative unit, within the single point of contact, responsible for the tasks provided for in this Article. If the relevant administrative unit changes, it shall continue to fulfil its responsibilities set out in this paragraph until the project promoter has been notified of such a change.

6. Project promoters shall be allowed to submit all documents relevant to the permit-granting process in electronic form.

7. The Member States shall ensure that any valid studies carried out, or permits or authorisations issued, for a given critical raw material project are taken into account and that no duplicate studies, permits or authorisations are required, unless otherwise required under Union or national law.

8. Member States shall ensure that applicants have easy access to information on and procedures for the settlement of disputes concerning the permit-granting process for critical raw materials projects, including, where applicable, alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

9. Member States shall ensure that the single points of contact have a sufficient number of qualified staff and sufficient financial, technical and technological resources necessary for the effective performance of their tasks under this Regulation.

Article 10

Priority status of Strategic Projects

1. Strategic Projects shall be considered to contribute to the security of supply of strategic raw materials in the Union.

2. With regard to the environmental impacts or obligations addressed in Article 6(4) and Article 16(1), point (c), of Directive 92/43/EEC, Article 4(7) of Directive 2000/60/EC and Article 9(1), point (a), of Directive 2009/147/EC or in Union legislative provisions regarding the restoration of terrestrial, coastal and freshwater ecosystems, Strategic Projects in the Union shall be considered to be of public interest or serving public health and safety, and may be considered to have an overriding public interest provided that all the conditions set out in those Union legislative acts are fulfilled.

3. For the purpose of ensuring the efficient administration of the permit-granting process related to Strategic Projects in the Union, project promoters and all authorities concerned shall ensure that that process is carried out in the most rapid way possible in accordance with Union and national law.

4. Without prejudice to obligations provided for in Union law, Strategic Projects in the Union shall be granted the status of the highest national significance possible, where such a status exists in national law, and be treated accordingly in the permit-granting processes.

5. All dispute resolution procedures, litigation, appeals and judicial remedies related to the permit-granting process and the issuance of permits for Strategic Projects in the Union before any national courts, tribunals or panels, including with regard to mediation or arbitration, where they exist in national law, shall be treated as urgent if and to the extent to which national law provides for such urgency procedures and provided that the usually applicable rights of defence of individuals or of local communities are respected. Project promoters of Strategic Projects shall participate in such urgency procedures, where applicable.

Article 11

Duration of the permit-granting process

1. For Strategic Projects in the Union, the permit-granting process shall not exceed:

(a) 27 months for Strategic Projects involving extraction;

(b) 15 months for Strategic Projects involving only processing or recycling.

2. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, for Strategic Projects in the Union that were subject to the permit-granting process before being recognised as Strategic Projects and for extensions of existing Strategic Projects that have already been granted a permit, the duration of the permit-granting process after the project is recognised as a Strategic Project shall not exceed:

(a) 24 months for Strategic Projects involving extraction;

(b) 12 months for Strategic Projects involving only processing or recycling.

3. Where an environmental impact assessment is required pursuant to Directive 2011/92/EU, the step of the assessment referred to in Article 1(2), point (g)(i), of that Directive shall not be included in the duration for permit-granting process referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article.

4. In exceptional cases, where the nature, complexity, location or size of the Strategic Project so require, Member States may extend, before their expiry and on a case-by-case basis, the time limits referred to in:

- (a) paragraph 1, point (a), and paragraph 2, point (a), by a maximum of six months;
- (b) paragraph 1, point (b), and paragraph 2, point (b), by a maximum of three months.

In the event of such an extension, the single point of contact concerned shall inform the project promoter in writing of the reasons justifying the extension and of the deadline for the comprehensive decision.

5. By way of derogation from Article 4(6) of Directive 2011/92/EU, the determination of whether the Strategic Project is to be made subject to an assessment in accordance with Articles 5 to 10 of that Directive shall be made within 30 days from the date on which the developer has submitted all the information required pursuant to Article 4(4) of that Directive.

6. No later than 45 days following the receipt of a permit-granting application related to a Strategic Project, the single point of contact concerned shall acknowledge that the application is complete or, if the project promoter has not sent all the information required to process an application, request the project promoter to submit a complete application without undue delay, specifying which information is missing. Where the application submitted is deemed to be incomplete a second time, the single point of contact concerned shall not request information in areas not covered in the first request for additional information and shall be entitled only to request further evidence to complete the identified missing information.

The date of the acknowledgement referred to in the first subparagraph shall serve as the start of the permit-granting process.

7. No later than one month from the date of acknowledgement referred to in paragraph 6 of this Article, the single point of contact concerned shall draw up, in close cooperation with the project promoter and other competent authorities concerned, a detailed schedule for the permit-granting process. The schedule shall be published by the project promoter on the website referred to in Article 8(5). The single point of contact concerned shall update the schedule in the event that there are significant changes that potentially affect the timing of the comprehensive decision.

8. The single point of contact concerned shall notify the project promoter when the environmental impact assessment report referred in Article 5(1) of Directive 2011/92/EU is due, taking into account the organisation of the permit-granting process in the Member State concerned and the need to allow sufficient time to assess the report. The period between the deadline for the submission of the environmental impact assessment report and the actual submission of that report shall not be counted towards the duration of the permit-granting process referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article.

9. Where the consultation pursuant to Article 1(2), point (g)(ii), of Directive 2011/92/EU results in the need to supplement the environmental impact assessment report with additional information, the single point of contact concerned may give the project promoter the opportunity to provide additional information. In such a case, that single point of contact shall notify the project promoter when the additional information is due, which shall be in no less than 30 days after the notification. The period between the deadline for providing the additional information and the submission of that information shall not be counted towards the duration of the permit-granting process referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article.

10. The time limits set in this Article shall be without prejudice to obligations arising from Union and international law, and without prejudice to administrative appeal procedures and judicial remedies before a court or tribunal.

The time limits set in this Article for any of the permit-granting procedures shall be without prejudice to any shorter time limits set by Member States.

Article 12

Environmental assessments and authorisations

1. Where an environmental impact assessment is required for a Strategic Project in accordance with Articles 5 to 9 of Directive 2011/92/EU, the relevant project promoter shall request, no later than 30 days after the notification of the recognition as a Strategic Project and before submitting the application, an opinion from the single point of contact concerned on the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the environmental impact assessment report under Article 5(1) of that Directive.

The single point of contact concerned shall ensure that the opinion referred to in the first subparagraph is issued as soon as possible and within a period of time not exceeding 45 days from the date on which the project promoter submitted its request for an opinion.

2. In the case of Strategic Projects for which the obligation to carry out assessments of the effects on the environment arises simultaneously from Directives 92/43/EEC, 2000/60/EC, 2008/98/EC, 2009/147/EC, 2010/75/EU, 2011/92/EU or Directive 2012/18/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council (³⁹), Member States shall ensure that a coordinated or a joint procedure fulfilling all the requirements of those Union legislative acts is applied.

Under the coordinated procedure referred to in the first subparagraph, the competent authority shall coordinate the various individual assessments of the environmental impact of a particular project required by the relevant Union legislative acts.

Under the joint procedure referred to in the first subparagraph, the competent authority shall provide for a single assessment of the environmental impact of a particular project required by the relevant Union legislative acts.

3. Member States shall ensure that the competent authorities issue the reasoned conclusion referred to in Article 1(2), point (g)(iv), of Directive 2011/92/EU on the environmental impact assessment of a Strategic Project within 90 days of receiving all necessary information pursuant to Articles 5, 6 and 7 of that Directive and after completing the consultations referred to in Articles 6 and 7 of that Directive.

4. In exceptional cases, where the nature, complexity, location or size of the proposed project so require, Member States may extend the time limit referred to in paragraph 3 by a maximum of 20 days, before its expiry and on a case-by-case basis. In that event, the single point of contact concerned shall inform the project promoter in writing of the reasons justifying the extension and of the deadline for its reasoned conclusion.

5. In the case of Strategic Projects, the timeframe for consulting the public concerned as referred to in Article 1(2), point (e), of Directive 2011/92/EU and authorities referred to in Article 6(1) of that Directive on the environmental impact assessment report referred to in Article 5(1) of that Directive shall not be longer than 85 days and, in accordance with Article 6(7) of that Directive, not shorter than 30 days. In exceptional cases, where the nature, complexity, location or size of the proposed project so require, the Member State concerned may extend the timeframe by up to 40 days. The single point of contact concerned shall inform the project promoter of the reasons justifying such an extension.

6. Paragraph 1 shall not apply to the permit-granting process for Strategic Projects that had entered in the permit-granting process before being recognised as a Strategic Project.

Paragraphs 2 to 5 shall apply to the permit-granting process for Strategic Projects that had entered in the permit-granting process before being recognised as a Strategic Project only to the extent that the steps addressed in those paragraphs have not yet been completed.

Article 13

Planning

1. National, regional and local authorities responsible for preparing plans, including zoning, spatial plans and land use plans, shall consider including in such plans, where appropriate, provisions for the development of critical raw materials projects. Where considering to include such provisions, priority shall be given to artificial and built surfaces, industrial sites, brownfield sites, and active or abandoned mines, including, where appropriate, identified mineral occurrences.

2. Where plans including provisions for the development of critical raw material projects are subject to an assessment pursuant to Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (⁴⁰) and pursuant to Article 6 of Directive 92/43/EEC, those assessments shall be combined. Where applicable, the combined assessment shall also address the impact on potentially affected water bodies referred to in Directive 2000/60/EC. Where relevant Member States are required to assess the impacts of existing and future activities on the marine environment, including land-sea interactions, as referred to in Article 4 of Directive 2014/89/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council (⁴¹), those impacts shall also be covered in the combined assessment.

(³⁹) Directive 2012/18/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2012 on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances, amending and subsequently repealing Council Directive 96/82/EC (OJ L 197, 24.7.2012, p. 1).

(⁴⁰) Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (OJ L 197, 21.7.2001, p. 30).

(⁴¹) Directive 2014/89/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning (OJ L 257, 28.8.2014, p. 135).

*Article 14***Applicability of UNECE conventions**

1. This Regulation is without prejudice to the obligations under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, signed at Aarhus on 25 June 1998, and under the UNECE Convention on environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context, signed at Espoo on 25 February 1991 and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment, signed in Kyiv on 21 May 2003.
2. All decisions adopted pursuant to this Section shall be made publicly available in an easily understandable manner and all decisions concerning one project shall be available on the same website.

SECTION 4

Enabling conditions*Article 15***Accelerating implementation of Strategic Projects**

1. The Commission shall carry out activities, where appropriate in cooperation with Member States, to accelerate and crowd-in private investments in Strategic Projects. Such activities may, without prejudice to Articles 107 and 108 TFEU, include providing and coordinating support to Strategic Projects that face difficulties in accessing finance.
2. The Member State whose territory is concerned by a Strategic Project shall take measures to facilitate its timely and effective implementation. Those measures may include assistance to:
 - (a) ensure compliance with applicable administrative and reporting obligations;
 - (b) further increase the ability of project promoters to ensure the meaningful involvement and active participation of the communities affected by the Strategic Project.

*Article 16***Coordination of financing**

1. The standing subgroup established pursuant to Article 36(8), point (a) shall, at the request of a project promoter of a Strategic Project, discuss and provide advice on how the financing of its project can be completed, taking into account the funding already secured and considering at least the following elements:
 - (a) additional private sources of financing;
 - (b) support through resources from the European Investment Bank Group or other international financial institutions including the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development;
 - (c) existing Member State instruments and programmes, including from export credit agencies, national promotional banks and institutions;
 - (d) relevant Union funding and financing programmes, with a particular focus on the Global Gateway Initiative for Strategic Projects in third countries or in OCTs.
2. By 24 May 2026, the Commission shall, on the basis of the advice of the standing subgroup referred to in Article 36 (8), point (a), submit a report to the Board describing obstacles to accessing finance for Strategic Projects and recommendations to facilitate such access.

*Article 17***Facilitating offtake agreements**

1. The Commission shall set up a system to facilitate the conclusion of offtake agreements related to Strategic Projects, in accordance with competition rules.
2. The system referred to in paragraph 1 shall allow potential offtakers to make bids indicating:

- (a) the volume and quality of strategic raw materials they intend to purchase;
- (b) the intended price or price range;
- (c) the intended duration of the offtake agreement.

3. The system referred to in paragraph 1 shall allow project promoters of Strategic Projects to make offers indicating:

- (a) the volume and quality of strategic raw materials for which they are seeking to conclude off-take agreements;
- (b) the intended price or price range at which they are willing to sell;
- (c) the intended duration of the offtake agreement.

4. On the basis of the bids and offers received pursuant to paragraphs 2 and 3, the Commission shall bring project promoters of Strategic Projects in contact with potential offtakers relevant for their project.

Article 18

Online accessibility of administrative information

1. Member States shall provide the following information on administrative processes relevant to critical raw material projects online, and in a centralised and easily accessible manner:

- (a) the information referred to in Article 9(2);
- (b) the permit-granting process and related administrative processes required for obtaining the relevant permits;
- (c) financing and investment services;
- (d) funding possibilities at Union or Member State level;
- (e) business support services, including but not limited to corporate tax declaration, local tax laws or labour law.

2. The Commission shall, in a centralised and easily accessible manner, provide online information on administrative processes relevant to the recognition of Strategic Projects and on the benefits of such recognition.

SECTION 5

Exploration

Article 19

National exploration programmes

1. By 24 May 2025, each Member State shall draw up a national programme for general exploration targeted at critical raw materials and carrier minerals of critical raw materials. Those national programmes shall be reviewed at least every five years and updated if necessary.

2. The national programmes referred to in paragraph 1 shall include measures to increase available information on the Union's critical raw material occurrences. They shall include, as appropriate, the following measures:

- (a) mineral mapping at a suitable scale;
- (b) geochemical campaigns, including to establish the chemical compositions of soils, sediments or rocks;
- (c) geoscientific surveys, such as geophysical surveys;
- (d) processing of the data gathered through general exploration, including through the development of predictive maps;
- (e) reprocessing of existing geoscientific survey data to check for unidentified mineral occurrences containing critical raw materials and carrier minerals of critical raw materials.

3. Where a Member State's geological conditions are so that, with a high degree of certainty, no deposits of critical raw materials or their carrier minerals will be identified through the measures listed in paragraph 2, the national programme referred to in paragraph 1 may consist of scientific evidence to that effect. Such evidence shall be updated, in the context of the regular review of the national programme, to reflect any changes in the list of critical raw materials.

4. Member States shall communicate to the Commission their national programmes referred to in paragraph 1.

5. Member States shall, in their reports submitted pursuant to Article 45, provide information on progress in the implementation of the measures included in their national programmes referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

6. Member States shall make maps that show basic information on mineral occurrences containing critical raw materials gathered through the measures set out in the national programmes referred to in paragraph 1 publicly available on a free-access website. That information shall, where applicable, include the classification of the identified occurrences using the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources. More detailed information, including processed geophysical and geochemical data at appropriate resolution and large scale geological mapping, shall be made available upon request.

The Commission may adopt implementing acts establishing a template for making available the information referred to in the first subparagraph of this paragraph. The template may indicate how the information referred to in the first subparagraph of this paragraph shall be expressed. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the advisory procedure referred to in Article 39(2).

7. Taking into consideration existing cooperation on general exploration, the standing subgroup referred to in Article 36 (8), point (c) shall discuss the national programmes referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article and their implementation, including at least:

- (a) the potential for cooperation, including on exploration of cross-border mineral occurrences and common geological formations;
- (b) best practices related to the measures listed in paragraph 2;
- (c) the possibility to create an integrated database for storing the results of the national programmes referred to in paragraph 1.

CHAPTER 4

RISK MONITORING AND MITIGATION

Article 20

Monitoring and stress testing

1. The Commission shall monitor supply risks related to critical raw materials, in particular those that risk distorting competition or fragmenting the internal market.

That monitoring shall cover at least the evolution of the following parameters:

- (a) trade flows between the Union and third countries and within the internal market;
- (b) demand and supply;
- (c) concentration of supply;
- (d) Union and global production and production capacities at different stages of the raw materials value chain;
- (e) price volatility;
- (f) bottlenecks at any stages of Union production and permitting bottlenecks for Strategic Projects within the Union;
- (g) potential obstacles to trade in critical raw materials or in goods that use critical raw materials as input within the internal market.

2. The national authorities participating in the standing subgroup referred to in Article 36(8), point (e) shall support the Commission in the monitoring referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article by:

- (a) sharing relevant information they have at their disposal on the evolution of the parameters listed in paragraph 1 of this Article, except for point (e) thereof, including the information referred to in Article 21;

- (b) gathering, in coordination with the Commission and the other participating authorities, information on the evolution of the parameters listed in paragraph 1 of this Article, including the information referred to in Article 21;
- (c) providing an analysis of the supply risks for critical raw materials in light of the evolution of the parameters listed in paragraph 1;
- (d) informing the Commission without delay if the Member State becomes aware of a risk of a serious supply disruption related to critical raw materials.

3. The Commission, in collaboration with the national authorities participating in the standing subgroup referred to in Article 36(8), point (e) shall ensure that a stress test is carried out for each strategic raw materials supply chain at least every three years or if significant increase in supply risks is detected as a result of the monitoring referred in paragraph 1 of this Article. To that end, the standing subgroup referred to in Article 36(8), point (e) shall coordinate and divide the implementation of stress tests for the different strategic raw materials by the different participating authorities.

The stress tests referred to in the first subparagraph shall consist of an assessment of the vulnerability of the Union's raw materials supply chain of the relevant strategic raw material to supply disruptions by estimating the impact of different scenarios that may cause such supply disruptions and their potential effects, taking into account at least the following elements:

- (a) where the strategic raw material concerned is extracted, processed or recycled;
- (b) the capacities of economic operators along the raw materials value chain as well as the market structure;
- (c) factors that might affect supply, including but not limited to the geopolitical situation, logistics, energy supply, workforce or natural disasters;
- (d) the availability and ability to swiftly diversify supply sources, substitute materials or mitigate demand;
- (e) the users of the relevant strategic raw material along the raw materials value chain and their share of demand, with special attention to the manufacturing of technologies relevant for the green and digital transitions as well as defence and aerospace applications;
- (f) potential obstacles to cross-border trade in relevant strategic raw materials or in goods that use strategic raw materials as an input within the internal market.

4. The Commission shall make publicly available on a free-access website and regularly update a monitoring dashboard containing:

- (a) aggregated information on the evolution of the parameters referred to in paragraph 1;
- (b) an aggregated description of calculation of the supply risk for critical raw materials in light of the information referred to in point (a) of this paragraph;
- (c) where appropriate, general suggestions for suitable mitigation strategies to decrease supply risk, unless making those general suggestions publicly available jeopardise the protection of trade or business secrets or other sensitive, confidential or classified information.

5. The Commission shall analyse the information gathered pursuant to paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of this Article. Where the Commission considers, on the basis of the analysis, that there is a clear indication of the risk of a supply disruption that is likely to distort competition or fragment the internal market, the Commission shall alert Member States, the Board and the Union governance bodies of crisis vigilance or crisis management mechanisms whose scope covers relevant strategic or critical raw materials. Where relevant, the Commission shall also assess whether this risk requires an update of the list of strategic raw materials pursuant to Article 3(3).

Article 21

Information obligations for monitoring

1. Member States shall, in their reports submitted pursuant to Article 45, provide information to the Commission on new or existing critical raw material project on their territory that is relevant regarding Article 20(1), point (d), including a classification of new projects according to the United Nations Framework Classification of Resources.

2. Member States shall identify key market operators along the critical raw materials value chain established in their territory and shall:

- (a) monitor their activities by exploring publicly available data and if necessary through regular and proportionate surveys with a view to gathering information required for the Commission's monitoring and stress testing pursuant to Article 20;
- (b) in their reports submitted pursuant to Article 45, provide information about the results of the information gathering pursuant to point (a) of this subparagraph;
- (c) without delay notify the Commission of major events that may hinder the regular operations of the activities of key market operators.

Key market operators may refuse to submit data requested pursuant to point (a) of the first subparagraph if the sharing of such data would lead to the disclosure of trade or business secrets. They shall submit such data only to the extent that it is already available to them. Where a key market operator refuses to submit data requested or claims that it is not available, it shall provide the requesting Member State with reasons therefor.

3. Member States shall transmit the data collated pursuant to paragraph 2, points (a) and (b), of this Article to national statistical authorities and to Eurostat for the purposes of compiling statistics in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁽⁴²⁾. Member States shall designate the national authority responsible for transmitting the data to national statistical authorities and Eurostat.

Article 22

Reporting of strategic stocks

1. Member States shall, in their reports submitted pursuant to Article 45, submit to the Commission information on the state of their strategic stocks of strategic raw materials. Member States shall not be required to provide information regarding certain strategic stocks where such information could compromise their defence or national security. Where a Member State refuses to provide such information, it shall provide a justified notice.

2. The information referred to in paragraph 1 shall cover strategic stocks held by all public authorities, publicly owned companies or economic operators charged by a Member State to build up strategic stocks on its behalf and shall at least include a description of:

- (a) the level of strategic stocks available for each strategic raw material, on an aggregated level, measured both in tonnes and as a percentage of annual national consumption of the relevant strategic raw materials, as well as the chemical form and purity of the raw materials stocked;
- (b) the evolution of the level of strategic stocks available for each strategic raw material, on an aggregated level, over the preceding five years;
- (c) any rules or procedures applicable to the release, allocation and distribution of strategic stocks, unless sharing such information jeopardises the protection of trade or business secrets or other sensitive, confidential or classified information.

3. The reports referred to in paragraph 1 may include information of strategic stocks of critical and other raw materials.

Article 23

Coordination of strategic stocks

1. By 24 May 2026 and every two years thereafter, the Commission shall, on the basis of the information received pursuant to Article 22(1), share with the Board:

- (a) a draft benchmark indicating a safe level of Union strategic stocks for each strategic raw material, as referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article;
- (b) a comparison of the overall level of Union strategic stocks for each strategic raw material and the draft benchmark referred to in point (a) of this paragraph;

⁽⁴²⁾ Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics and repealing Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1101/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the transmission of data subject to statistical confidentiality to the Statistical Office of the European Communities, Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 on Community Statistics, and Council Decision 89/382/EEC, Euratom establishing a Committee on the Statistical Programmes of the European Communities (OJ L 87, 31.3.2009, p. 164).

(c) information on the potential cross-border accessibility of strategic stocks, in light of the rules or procedures for their release, allocation and distribution.

2. The Commission, taking account of the views of the Board, shall adopt a benchmark indicating a safe level of Union strategic stocks of strategic raw materials. That benchmark shall:

(a) be expressed as the amount of strategic raw materials needed to cover an amount of days of average daily net imports in the case of a supply disruption, calculated on the basis of the amount of imports during the previous calendar year;

(b) take into account publicly available information on strategic stocks held by private operators;

(c) be proportionate to the supply risk and economic importance associated with the relevant strategic raw material.

3. The Commission may, taking account of the views of the Board, issue opinions addressed to Member States:

(a) to increase the level of strategic stocks, and where applicable, production capabilities, taking into account the comparison referred to in paragraph 1, point (b), the relative distribution of existing strategic stocks among Member States and the consumption of strategic raw materials by economic operators in the Member States' respective territories;

(b) to amend or coordinate the rules or procedures for the release, allocation and distribution of strategic stocks in order to improve the potential cross-border accessibility, in particular where necessary for the production of strategic technologies.

4. In preparing the opinions referred to in paragraph 3, the Commission and the Board shall give particular weight to the need to maintain and promote incentives for private operators, which rely on strategic raw materials as inputs, to constitute their own strategic stocks or to take other measures to manage their exposure to supply risks.

5. Member States shall, in their reports submitted pursuant to Article 45, provide information on whether and how they have implemented or intend to implement the opinions referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article.

6. Before the participation of at least two Member States in international or multilateral fora in the areas of strategic stocks of strategic raw materials, the Commission shall ensure prior coordination either between the Member States concerned and the Commission or by means of a dedicated meeting of the Board.

7. The data collated on the available Union strategic stocks shall be provided by the Commission to the Union governance bodies responsible for crisis vigilance or crisis management mechanisms covering relevant strategic raw materials.

8. Neither this Article nor Article 22 shall impose an obligation on Member States to hold or release strategic stocks.

Article 24

Company risk preparedness

1. By 24 May 2025 and within 12 months of each update of the list of strategic raw materials pursuant to Article 3(3), Member States shall identify the large companies operating on their territory that use strategic raw materials to manufacture batteries for energy storage and e-mobility, equipment related to hydrogen production and utilisation, equipment related to renewable energy generation, aircrafts, traction motors, heat pumps, equipment related to data transmission and storage, mobile electronic devices, equipment related to additive manufacturing, equipment related to robotics, drones, rocket launchers, satellites or advanced chips.

2. Large companies as referred to in paragraph 1 shall, at least every three years and to the extent the required information is available to them, carry out a risk assessment of their raw materials supply chain of strategic raw materials, including:

(a) a mapping of where the strategic raw materials they use are extracted, processed or recycled;

(b) an analysis of the factors that might affect their supply of strategic raw materials;

(c) an assessment of their vulnerabilities to supply disruptions.

3. Where the information referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article is not made available to large companies as referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article by their suppliers upon request, they may carry out their risk assessment on the basis of the information published by the Commission pursuant to Article 20(4), or otherwise publicly available information, to the extent possible.

4. If significant vulnerabilities to supply disruptions are detected as a result of the risk assessment referred to in paragraph 2, large companies as referred to under paragraph 1 shall take efforts to mitigate those vulnerabilities, including by assessing the possibility to diversify its raw materials supply chains or to substitute the strategic raw materials.

5. Large companies as referred to in paragraph 1 may present a report to their board of directors containing the results of the risk assessment referred to in paragraph 2, including the source of the information on which the assessment is based, any significant risks detected as well as mitigation measures envisioned or implemented.

6. Member States may require large companies as referred to in paragraph 1 to present to their board of directors the report referred to in paragraph 5 and the requests for information referred to in paragraph 3.

Article 25

Joint purchasing

1. The Commission shall set up and operate a system to aggregate the demand of interested undertakings consuming strategic raw materials established in the Union and to seek offers from suppliers to match that aggregated demand. This shall cover both unprocessed and processed strategic raw materials.

2. Prior to setting up the system referred to in paragraph 1, the Commission shall, after consulting the Board, carry out an assessment of the expected impact of the system on the market for each strategic raw material with a view to avoid any disproportionate impact on competition in the internal market.

3. On the basis of the assessment referred to in paragraph 2, when setting up and operating the system referred to in paragraph 1, the Commission shall:

- (a) choose for which strategic raw materials and at which processing stage the system can be used, taking into account the relative supply risk of different strategic raw materials;
- (b) set minimum amounts of demanded strategic raw material to participate in the system, taking into account the expected number of interested participants and the need to ensure a manageable number of participants, while taking into account the needs of SMEs.

4. Participation in the system referred to in paragraph 3, point (b) shall be open and transparent to all interested undertakings established in the Union.

5. Union undertakings participating in the system referred to in paragraph 1 may, on a transparent basis, jointly negotiate the purchase, including the prices or other terms and conditions of the purchasing agreement or use joint purchasing in order to achieve better conditions with their suppliers or to prevent shortages. Participating Union undertakings shall comply with Union law, including Union competition law.

6. Entities shall be excluded from participating in demand aggregation and joint purchasing as well as from participating as suppliers or service providers if they are:

- (a) targeted by Union restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU;
- (b) directly or indirectly owned or controlled by, or acting on behalf of or at the direction of natural or legal persons, entities or bodies targeted by such Union restrictive measures.

7. By way of derogation from Article 176 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁽⁴³⁾, the Commission shall contract the necessary services of an entity established in the Union through a procurement procedure pursuant to that Regulation, acting as a service provider to set up and operate the system referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article. The service provider selected shall not have any conflict of interest.

⁽⁴³⁾ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1).

8. The Commission shall define in the service contract the tasks to be provided by the service provider, including the allocation of demand, the allocation of access rights for supply, registration and verification of all participants, publication and reporting of the activities and any other task necessary to set up and operate the system referred to in paragraph 1. The service contract shall also deal with the practical arrangements relating to the operation of the service provider including the use of the IT tool, the security measures, the currency or currencies, the payment regime and liabilities.

9. The service contract with the service provider shall reserve to the Commission the right to monitor and audit it. To that end, the Commission shall have full access to the information held by the service provider in relation to the contract. All servers and information shall be physically located and stored in the territory of the Union.

10. The service contract with the service provider shall determine the ownership of the information obtained by the service provider, and shall provide for the possible transfer of that information to the Commission at the termination or expiry of the service contract.

CHAPTER 5 SUSTAINABILITY

SECTION 1

Circularity

Article 26

National measures on circularity

1. Each Member State shall, by two years from the date of entry into force of the implementing act referred to in paragraph 7, adopt and implement, or include in, national programmes containing measures designed to:

- (a) incentivise technological progress and resource efficiency in order to moderate the expected increase in Union consumption of critical raw materials;
- (b) promote waste prevention and increase re-use and repair of products and components with relevant critical raw materials recovery potential;
- (c) increase the collection, sorting and processing of waste with relevant critical raw materials recovery potential, including metal scraps, and ensure their introduction into the appropriate recycling system, with a view to maximising the availability and quality of recyclable material as an input to critical raw material recycling facilities;
- (d) increase the use of secondary critical raw materials, including through measures such as taking recycled content into account in award criteria related to public procurement or financial incentives for the use of secondary critical raw materials;
- (e) increase the technological maturity of recycling technologies for critical raw materials and promote circular design, materials efficiency and substitution of critical raw materials in products and applications, at least by including support actions to that effect under national research and innovation programmes;
- (f) ensure that measures are in place to equip their workforce with the skills needed to support circularity of the critical raw materials value chain, including measures on upskilling and reskilling;
- (g) where financial contributions are to be paid by the producer in accordance with its extended producer responsibility obligations under national law in accordance with Article 8(1) of Directive 2008/98/EC, promote the modulation of such financial contributions to incentivise a larger share of secondary critical raw materials recovered from waste, recycled in line with relevant Union environmental standards, to be contained in products;
- (h) take necessary measures to ensure that critical raw materials that are exported after ceasing to be waste fulfil the relevant conditions in accordance with Directive 2008/98/EC and other relevant Union law;
- (i) where relevant, support the use of Union quality standards for recycling processes of waste streams containing critical raw materials.

2. The programmes referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article may be integrated into new or existing waste management plans and waste prevention programmes adopted pursuant to Articles 28 and 29 of Directive 2008/98/EC.

The national programmes referred to in the first subparagraph shall be reviewed within five years of their adoption and updated if necessary.

3. The programmes referred to in paragraph 1 shall cover in particular products and waste which are not subject to any specific requirement on collection, treatment, recycling or re-use under Union law. For other products and waste, the measures shall be implemented in accordance with Union law.

With respect to paragraph 1, points (b), (c) and (d), the programmes referred to in those points may include, without prejudice to Articles 107 and 108 TFEU, the introduction of financial incentives, such as discounts, monetary rewards or deposit-refund systems, to encourage the preparation for re-use and re-use of products with relevant critical raw materials recovery potential, and the collection and treatment of waste from such products.

4. The national measures referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be designed with a view to avoiding barriers to trade and distortions of competition in conformity with the TFEU.

5. Member States shall identify separately, and report, the quantities of components containing relevant amounts of critical raw materials removed from waste electrical and electronic equipment and the quantities of critical raw materials recovered from such equipment.

The Commission shall adopt implementing acts specifying the format and details of such reporting. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 39(3).

The first reporting period shall cover the first full calendar year after the adoption of those implementing acts. Member States shall submit that data when reporting to the Commission the data concerning the quantities of waste electrical and electronic equipment recycled pursuant to Article 16(6) of Directive 2012/19/EU.

6. Member States shall, in their reports submitted pursuant to Article 45, provide information on the adoption of the national programmes referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article and on progress in the effective implementation of the measures taken pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article.

7. By 24 May 2025, the Commission shall adopt implementing acts specifying a list of products, components and waste streams that shall at least be considered as having a relevant critical raw materials recovery potential within the meaning of paragraph 1, points (b) and (c).

In drawing up that list, the Commission shall take account of:

- (a) the total amount of critical raw materials recoverable from those products, components and waste streams;
- (b) the extent to which those products, components and waste streams are covered by Union law;
- (c) regulatory gaps;
- (d) particular challenges affecting the collection and waste treatment of products, components and waste streams;
- (e) existing systems of collection and waste treatment applying to products, components and waste streams.

The implementing acts referred to in the first subparagraph of this paragraph shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 39(3).

Article 27

Recovery of critical raw materials from extractive waste

1. Operators obliged to draw up waste management plans in accordance with Article 5 of Directive 2006/21/EC shall provide to the competent authority as defined in Article 3, point (27), of that Directive a preliminary economic assessment study regarding the potential recovery of critical raw materials, from:

- (a) the extractive waste stored in the facility; and
- (b) the extractive waste being generated or, where considered more effective, from the extracted volume prior to it becoming waste.

Operators shall be exempt from the obligation laid down in the first subparagraph of this paragraph where they can demonstrate to the competent authority as defined in Article 3, point (27), of Directive 2006/21/EC, with a high degree of certainty, that the extractive waste does not contain critical raw materials that are technically recoverable.

2. The study referred to in paragraph 1 shall at least include an estimation of the quantities and concentrations of critical raw materials contained in the extractive waste and in the extracted volume and an assessment of their technical and economic recoverability. Operators shall specify the methods used to estimate those quantities and concentrations.

3. By 24 November 2026, operators of extractive waste facilities shall submit the study referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article to the competent authority as defined in Article 3, point (27), of Directive 2006/21/EC. Operators of new extractive waste facilities shall submit that study to the competent authority as defined in Article 3, point (27), of Directive 2006/21/EC when submitting their waste management plans in accordance with Article 7 of that Directive.

4. Member States shall establish a database of the closed extractive waste facilities located on their territory, including abandoned extractive waste facilities, except for closed extractive waste facilities where the particular characteristics of the waste sites or geological conditions make the presence of potentially technically recoverable quantities of critical raw materials unlikely. That database shall contain information on:

- (a) the location, areal extent and waste volume, or where appropriate, the estimated volume, of the extractive waste facility;
- (b) the operator or former operator of the extractive waste facility and, where applicable, their legal successor;
- (c) the approximate quantities and concentrations of all raw materials contained in the extractive waste and, where available, in the original mineral deposit, in accordance with paragraph 7;
- (d) any additional information considered relevant by the Member State to enable the recovery of critical raw materials from the extractive waste facility.

5. By 24 November 2027, Member States shall adopt and implement measures to promote the recovery of critical raw materials from extractive waste, in particular from closed extractive waste facilities identified in the database referred to in paragraph 4 as containing potentially economically recoverable critical raw materials.

6. The database referred to in paragraph 4 shall be put in place by 24 November 2026 and all the information shall be introduced in that database by 24 May 2027. It shall be made available in a publicly accessible and digital form and updated at least every three years to incorporate additional available information and newly closed or newly identified facilities.

7. In order to provide the information referred to in paragraph 4, point (c), Member States shall carry out at least the following activities:

- (a) for closed extractive waste facilities, Member States shall, by 24 November 2026, comprehensively review the available permitting files, or other available documentation when permitting files do not exist;
- (b) for such extractive waste facilities where available information could indicate the presence of potentially economically recoverable quantities of critical raw materials, Member States shall, by 24 May 2026, also conduct representative geochemical sampling;
- (c) for such extractive waste facilities where the activities described under points (a) and (b) of this paragraph have indicated potentially economically recoverable quantities of critical raw materials, Member States shall, by 24 March 2027, also carry out a more detailed sampling with subsequent chemical and mineralogical characterisation involving core logging or equivalent techniques, where this is environmentally sound in accordance with applicable environmental requirements at Union level and with the requirements of Directive 2006/21/EC where relevant.

8. The activities referred to in paragraph 7 shall be carried out within the limits of national legal systems pertaining to mineral resources, waste, property rights, land ownership, environmental and health impacts and any other relevant provisions. Where such factors inhibit the activities, the Member State authorities shall seek the cooperation of the operator or owner of the extractive waste facility. The results of the activities referred to in paragraph 7 shall be made accessible as part of the database referred to in paragraph 4. Where possible, the Member States shall include in the database a classification of the closed extractive waste facilities according to the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources.

Article 28**Recyclability of permanent magnets**

1. From two years after the date of entry into force of the implementing act referred to in paragraph 2, any natural or legal person that places on the market magnetic resonance imaging devices, wind energy generators, industrial robots, motor vehicles, light means of transport, cooling generators, heat pumps, electric motors, including where electric motors are integrated in other products, automatic washing machines, tumble driers, microwaves, vacuum cleaners or dishwashers shall ensure that those products bear a conspicuous, clearly legible and indelible label indicating:

- (a) whether those products incorporate one or more permanent magnets;
- (b) if the product incorporates one or more permanent magnets, whether those permanent magnets belong to any of the following types:
 - (i) neodymium-iron-boron;
 - (ii) samarium-cobalt;
 - (iii) aluminium-nickel-cobalt;
 - (iv) ferrite.

2. By 24 November 2026, the Commission shall adopt an implementing act establishing the format for the labelling referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article. That implementing act shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 39(3).

3. From two years after the date of entry into force of the implementing act referred to in paragraph 2, any natural or legal person that places on the market products referred to in paragraph 1 incorporating one or more permanent magnets of the types referred in paragraph 1, point (b) shall ensure that a data carrier is present on or in the product.

4. The data carrier referred to in paragraph 3 shall be linked to a unique product identifier that provides access to the following:

- (a) the name, registered trade name or registered trademark and the postal address of the natural or legal person responsible and, where available, electronic means of communication where they can be contacted;
- (b) information on the weight, location and chemical composition of all individual permanent magnets included in the product, and on the presence and type of magnet coatings, glues and any additives used;
- (c) information enabling access and safe removal of all permanent magnets incorporated in the product, at least including the sequence of all removal steps, tools or technologies required for the access and removal of the permanent magnet, without prejudice to the provision of information to treatment facilities pursuant to Article 15(1) of Directive 2012/19/EU.

5. For products where the incorporated permanent magnets are exclusively contained in one or more electric motors incorporated in the product, the information referred to in paragraph 4, point (b), may be replaced by information on the location of those electric motors, and the information referred to in paragraph 4, point (c), may be replaced by information on the access and removal of the electric motors, at least including the sequence of all removal steps, tools or technologies required for the access and removal of the electric motors.

6. For products referred to in paragraph 3 for which a product passport is required pursuant to another Union legal act, the information referred to in paragraph 4 shall be included in that product passport.

7. The natural or legal person placing a product referred to in paragraph 3 on the market shall ensure that information referred to in paragraph 4 is complete, up-to-date, and accurate and remains available for a period at least equal to the product's typical lifetime plus 10 years, including after an insolvency, a liquidation or a cessation of activity in the Union of the natural or legal person responsible. That person may authorise another natural or legal person to act on their behalf.

The information referred to in paragraph 4 shall refer to the product model or, where the information differs between units of the same model, to a particular batch or unit. The information referred to in paragraph 4 shall be accessible to repairers, recyclers, market surveillance authorities and customs authorities.

8. Where information requirements relating to the recycling of permanent magnets are established in Union harmonisation legislation for any of the products listed in paragraph 1, those requirements shall apply to the products concerned in place of this Article.

9. Products primarily designed for defence or space applications shall be exempt from the requirements laid down in this Article.

10. From 24 May 2029, this Article shall apply to magnetic resonance imaging devices, motor vehicles and light means of transport that are type-approved vehicles of category L.

11. This Article shall not apply to:

- (a) special purpose vehicles as defined in Article 3, point (31), of Regulation (EU) 2018/858;
- (b) parts of a vehicle, other than the base vehicle, that have been type-approved in multi-stage type approval of category N₁, N₂, N₃, M₂ or M₃;
- (c) vehicles produced in small series, as defined in Article 3, point (30), of Regulation (EU) 2018/858.

12. The Commission is empowered to adopt a delegated act in accordance with Article 38 to supplement this Regulation by providing a list of Combined Nomenclature codes in accordance with Annex I to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87⁽⁴⁴⁾ and product descriptions corresponding to the products referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article with the aim of facilitating the work of customs authorities in relation to those products and the requirements set out in this Article and in Article 29.

Article 29

Recycled content of permanent magnets

1. By 24 May 2027 or two years from the entry into force of the delegated act referred to in paragraph 2, whichever is later, any natural or legal person that places on the market products referred to in Article 28(1) which incorporate one or more permanent magnets referred to in Article 28(1), point (b), (i), (ii) and (iii), and for which the total weight of all such permanent magnets exceeds 0,2 kg shall make publicly available on a free-access website the share of neodymium, dysprosium, praseodymium, terbium, boron, samarium, nickel and cobalt recovered from post-consumer waste present in the permanent magnets incorporated in the product.

2. By 24 May 2026, the Commission shall adopt a delegated act in accordance with Article 38 to supplement this Regulation by establishing rules for the calculation and verification of the share of neodymium, dysprosium, praseodymium, terbium, boron, samarium, nickel and cobalt recovered from post-consumer waste present in the permanent magnets incorporated in the products referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

The calculation and verification rules shall specify the applicable conformity assessment procedure from among the modules set out in Annex II to Decision No 768/2008/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council⁽⁴⁵⁾, with the adaptations necessary in view of the products concerned. When specifying the applicable conformity assessment procedure, the Commission shall consider the following criteria:

- (a) whether the module concerned is appropriate to the type of product and proportionate to the public interest pursued;
- (b) the nature of the risks entailed by the product and the extent to which conformity assessment corresponds to the type and degree of risk;
- (c) where third party involvement is mandatory, the need for the manufacturer to have a choice between quality assurance and product certification modules set out in Annex II to Decision No 768/2008/EC.

3. After the entry into force of the delegated act adopted pursuant to paragraph 2, and in any event by 31 December 2031, the Commission shall adopt delegated acts supplementing this Regulation by laying down minimum shares for neodymium, dysprosium, praseodymium, terbium, boron, samarium, nickel and cobalt recovered from post-consumer waste that must be present in the permanent magnet incorporated in the products referred to in paragraph 1.

The delegated acts referred to in the first subparagraph may apply different minimum shares to different products and may exclude certain products. They shall provide for transitional periods adjusted to the difficulty of adapting the products covered by the measure to ensure compliance.

The minimum share referred to in the first subparagraph shall be based on a prior assessment of impacts, taking into account:

⁽⁴⁴⁾ Council Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 of 23 July 1987 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff (OJ L 256, 7.9.1987, p. 1).

⁽⁴⁵⁾ Decision No 768/2008/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008 on a common framework for the marketing of products, and repealing Council Decision 93/465/EEC (OJ L 218, 13.8.2008, p. 82).

- (a) the existing and forecasted availability of neodymium, dysprosium, praseodymium, terbium, boron, samarium, nickel and cobalt recovered from post-consumer waste;
- (b) the information collated pursuant to paragraph 1 and the relative distribution of the share of recycled content in permanent magnets incorporated in products referred to in paragraph 1 placed on the market;
- (c) technical and scientific progress, including considerable changes in permanent magnet technologies impacting the type of materials recovered;
- (d) the effective and potential contribution of a minimum share to the Union's climate and environmental objectives;
- (e) possible impacts on the functioning of products incorporating permanent magnets;
- (f) the need to prevent disproportionate negative impacts on the affordability of permanent magnets and products incorporating permanent magnets.

4. Where requirements relating to the recycled content of permanent magnets are established in Union harmonisation legislation for any of the products listed in paragraph 1, those requirements shall apply to the products concerned in place of this Article.

5. From the date of application of the requirement set out in paragraph 1, when offering the products referred to in paragraph 1 for sale, including in the case of distance selling, or displaying them in the course of a commercial activity, natural and legal persons placing on the market products referred to in paragraph 1 shall ensure that their customers have access to the information referred to in paragraph 1 before being bound by a sales contract.

Natural and legal persons placing on the market products referred to in paragraph 1 shall not provide or display labels, marks, symbols or inscriptions that are likely to mislead or confuse customers with respect to the information referred to in paragraph 1. Products primarily designed for defence or space applications shall be exempt from the requirements laid down in this Article.

6. For magnetic resonance imaging devices, motor vehicles and light means of transport that are type-approved vehicles of category L, the requirements set out in paragraphs 1 and 5 shall apply from five years after the date of entry into force of the delegated act referred to in paragraph 2.

7. This Article shall not apply to:

- (a) special purpose vehicles as defined in Article 3, point (31), of Regulation (EU) 2018/858;
- (b) parts of a vehicle, other than the base vehicle, that have been type-approved in multi-stage type approval of category N₁, N₂, N₃, M₂ or M₃;
- (c) vehicles produced in small series, as defined in Article 3, point (30), of Regulation (EU) 2018/858.

SECTION 2

Certification and environmental footprint

Article 30

Recognised schemes

1. Governments, industry associations and groupings of interested organisations that have developed and oversee certification schemes related to the sustainability of critical raw materials (scheme owners) may apply to have their schemes recognised by the Commission.

Applications referred in the first subparagraph of this paragraph shall contain any relevant evidence related to the fulfilment of the criteria laid down in Annex IV.

By 24 May 2027, the Commission shall adopt implementing acts specifying a single template to be used by scheme owners to provide the minimum information that applications referred to in the first subparagraph of this paragraph are to contain. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 39(3).

The extent of documentation required to complete the single template referred to in the third subparagraph shall be reasonable.

2. Where, on the basis of the evidence provided pursuant to the paragraph 1 of this Article, the Commission determines that a certification scheme meets the criteria laid down in Annex IV, or a subset thereof, it shall adopt implementing acts recognising that scheme and specifying the recognised coverage of the scheme. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 39(3).

3. The recognised coverage for each scheme shall be specified along the following dimensions:

- (a) the stages of the raw materials value chain covered by the scheme;
- (b) the stages of the life-cycle of a project, including before, during and after closure, that are covered by the scheme; and
- (c) the sustainability dimensions and environmental risk categories listed in Annex IV, point (2) that are addressed by the scheme.

The requirements laid down in Annex IV, point 1(a) to (d) shall be a prerequisite for any recognition of the scheme.

4. The Commission shall verify, at least every three years from the date of application of any implementing act adopted pursuant to paragraph 2, that it continues to fulfil the criteria laid down in Annex IV, or a recognised subset of those criteria.

5. Owners of recognised schemes shall inform the Commission without delay of any changes or updates related to the fulfilment of the criteria laid down in Annex IV, or of a recognised subset of those criteria, made to those schemes. The Commission shall assess whether such changes or updates affect the basis for the recognition and take appropriate action.

6. If there is evidence of repeated or significant cases where economic operators implementing a recognised scheme have failed to fulfil the requirements of that scheme, the Commission shall examine, in consultation with the owner of the recognised scheme, whether those cases indicate deficiencies in the scheme affecting the basis for the recognition and take appropriate action.

7. Where the Commission identifies deficiencies in a recognised scheme affecting the basis for the recognition, it may grant the scheme owner an appropriate period, of not longer than 12 months, within which to take remedial action.

8. Where the scheme owner fails or refuses to take the necessary remedial action and where the Commission has determined that the deficiencies referred to in paragraph 6 of this Article mean that the scheme no longer fulfils the criteria laid down in Annex IV, or of the recognised subset of those criteria, the Commission shall withdraw the recognition of the scheme by means of implementing acts. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 39(3).

9. The Commission shall establish and keep up-to-date a register of recognised schemes. That register shall be made publicly available on a free-access website. That website shall also allow for the collation of feedback from all relevant stakeholders concerning the implementation of recognised schemes. Such feedback shall be submitted to the relevant scheme owners for consideration.

Article 31

Environmental footprint declaration

1. Taking into account the result of the report referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article and of the assessment of necessity and proportionality for the purposes of paragraph 3 of this Article, the Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 38 to supplement this Regulation to establish rules for the calculation and verification of the environmental footprint of different critical raw materials, in accordance with Annex V and taking into account scientifically sound assessment methods and relevant international standards. The calculation and verification rules shall identify at least the three most relevant environmental impact categories accounting for the majority of the overall environmental footprint. One of the environmental impact categories shall be greenhouse gas emissions. The footprint declaration shall be limited to those environmental impact categories.

2. The Commission shall by 24 November 2026 submit a report to the European Parliament and to the Council setting out which critical raw materials are to be prioritised for assessing whether the obligation to declare the environmental footprint of a critical raw material is necessary and proportionate.

For the critical raw materials that the Commission has identified as a priority, the Commission shall present the conclusions of the assessment of necessity and proportionality for the purposes of paragraph 3 by 12 months from submission of the report referred to in the first subparagraph of this paragraph.

3. The Commission shall adopt calculation and verification rules for a specific critical raw material if it has concluded, having considered the various relevant environmental impact categories, that the critical raw material concerned has a significant environmental footprint and that therefore an obligation to declare the environmental footprint of that critical raw material regarding the environmental impact categories referred to in paragraph 1, when placing it on the market, is necessary and proportionate to contribute to the Union's climate and environmental objectives by facilitating the supply of critical raw materials with lower environmental footprint.

4. When considering whether the obligation provided for in paragraph 6 of this Article is necessary, the Commission shall take into account:

- (a) whether and how as well as how effectively the Union's climate and environmental objectives are already being achieved through other Union legal acts applicable to the critical raw material concerned;
- (b) the existence and uptake of relevant international standards and guidelines, or the prospects of agreeing on such standards at international level, as well as sustainable practices on the market, including the voluntary schemes recognised pursuant to Article 30(2);
- (c) the effectiveness of Strategic Partnerships, Strategic Projects, trade agreements and other international instruments and outreach conducted by the Union in achieving the Union's climate and environmental objectives;
- (d) the associated economic costs and administrative burden for economic operators.

5. The Commission shall conduct a prior assessment of impacts in order to decide whether to adopt a delegated act pursuant to paragraph 1. That assessment shall:

- (a) be based, *inter alia*, on a consultation of:
 - (i) all relevant stakeholders, such as industry including downstream industry, SMEs, and, where relevant, the craft industry, social partners, traders, retailers, importers, organisations promoting human health and environmental protection, consumer organisations and academia;
 - (ii) third countries, or OCTs, whose trade with the Union may be significantly affected by this obligation;
 - (iii) the Board;
 - (iv) Union agencies with competence in the field of environmental protection, as appropriate;
- (b) ensure that any such measure is not prepared, adopted or applied with a view to or with the effect of creating unnecessary obstacles to international trade and is no more trade-restrictive than necessary to achieve the Union's climate and environmental objectives, having regard to the ability of third-country suppliers to comply with such a declaration such that aggregate trade flows and critical raw materials costs are not disproportionately affected;
- (c) assess whether similar obligations under Union law have produced the intended effects and significantly contributed to the achievement of the Union's environmental targets;
- (d) assess whether the measure would contribute to achieving the Union's climate and environmental objectives without disproportionately impacting the ability of Union industry to source the critical raw material concerned.

6. Any natural or legal person that places on the market critical raw materials, including processed and recycled, for which the Commission has adopted calculation and verification rules pursuant to paragraph 1 shall make available an environmental footprint declaration.

The requirement set out in the first subparagraph shall apply to each individual critical raw material type placed on the market and shall not apply to critical raw materials included in intermediate or final products.

7. The environmental footprint declaration referred to in paragraph 6 shall contain the following information:

- (a) the name, registered trade name or registered trademark and the postal address of the natural or legal person responsible and electronic means of communication where they can be contacted;
- (b) information about the critical raw material type for which the declaration applies;
- (c) information about the country and region where the critical raw material was extracted, processed, refined and recycled, as applicable;

- (d) the environmental footprint of the critical raw material, calculated in accordance with the applicable verification and calculation rules adopted pursuant to paragraph 1;
- (e) the environmental footprint performance class that the critical raw material corresponds to, established in accordance with the applicable delegated act adopted pursuant to paragraph 8;
- (f) a web link providing access to a public version of the study supporting the environmental footprint declaration results.

8. The Commission shall adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 38 to supplement this Regulation by establishing environmental footprint performance classes within a reasonable timeframe for critical raw materials for which calculation and verification rules have been adopted pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Article, in accordance with Annex V.

9. The Commission shall, when setting calculation rules for the environmental footprint of intermediate and final products containing critical raw materials, require, where possible, the use of the environmental footprint calculation rules referred to in this Article.

10. The environmental footprint declaration shall be made available on a free-access website and shall be easily understandable.

The Commission may adopt implementing acts establishing the format for the environmental footprint declaration referred to in paragraph 6 of this Article. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 39(3).

11. When offering critical raw materials for sale, including in the case of distance selling, or displaying them in the course of a commercial activity, natural and legal persons placing on the market critical raw materials shall ensure that their customers have access to the environmental footprint declaration before being bound by a sales contract.

Natural and legal persons placing on the market critical raw materials shall not provide or display labels, marks, symbols or inscriptions that are likely to mislead or confuse customers with respect to the information included in the environmental footprint declaration.

SECTION 3

Free movement, conformity and market surveillance

Article 32

Free movement

1. Member States shall not, for reasons relating to information for recycling or recycled content of permanent magnets or for reasons relating to information on the environmental footprint of critical raw material covered by this Regulation, prohibit, restrict or impede the making available on the market or the putting into service of products incorporating permanent magnets or of critical raw materials that comply with this Regulation.

2. At trade fairs, exhibitions, demonstrations or similar events, Member States shall not prevent the showing of products incorporating permanent magnets or of critical raw materials which do not comply with this Regulation, provided that a visible sign clearly indicates that such products or critical raw materials do not comply with this Regulation and that they cannot be made available on the market until they have been brought into conformity with it.

Article 33

Conformity and market surveillance

1. Before placing a product covered by Article 28 or 29 on the market, the natural or legal persons responsible shall ensure that the applicable conformity assessment procedure has been carried out and that the required technical documentation has been drawn up. Where compliance of a product with the applicable requirements has been demonstrated by the conformity assessment procedure, the natural or legal persons responsible shall ensure that an EU declaration of conformity has been drawn up and the CE marking has been affixed.

2. The conformity assessment procedure for products covered by the requirements set out in Article 28 of this Regulation shall be the procedure set out in Annex IV to Directive 2009/125/EC, unless those products are also covered by the requirements set out in Article 29 of this Regulation, in which case the conformity assessment procedure shall be the procedure set out in the calculation and verification rules adopted pursuant to Article 29(2) of this Regulation.

3. This Article shall not apply to products covered by type approval pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2018/858 or (EU) No 168/2013.

Article 34

Implementation and alignment with Union harmonisation legislation

The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 38 to supplement Articles 28, 29, 31 and 33 in order to:

- (a) establish requirements for the technical design and operation of the data carrier and unique product identifier referred to in Article 28(3) and (4);
- (b) refer to technical standards to be used in relation to the data carrier and unique product identifier referred to in Article 28(3) and (4);
- (c) establish rules for the inclusion of the unique product identifier referred to in Article 28(4) in registries relevant for market surveillance and customs controls;
- (d) establish requirements related to customs controls related to the data carrier and unique product identifier referred to in Article 28(3) and (4);
- (e) establish procedures for dealing with products presenting a risk at national level or formal non-compliance, as well as related safeguard procedures where objections are raised against the market surveillance measures taken;
- (f) establish requirements related to the EU declaration of conformity and general principles and rules and conditions for affixing CE marking.

Those delegated acts shall refer to or ensure alignment with other Union harmonisation legislation, in particular Directive 2009/125/EC, and shall take into account the need to limit the administrative burden while ensuring the effective implementation of Articles 28, 29 and 31 of this Regulation.

CHAPTER 6

GOVERNANCE

Article 35

European Critical Raw Materials Board

1. The European Critical Raw Materials Board (the 'Board') is hereby established.
2. The Board shall provide advice to the Commission and shall carry out the tasks set out in this Regulation.

Article 36

Composition and functioning of the Board

1. The Board shall be composed of representatives from all Member States and the Commission. It shall be chaired by a representative of the Commission (the 'Chair').
2. Each Member State shall appoint a high-level representative to the Board. Where relevant as regards the function and expertise, a Member State may appoint different representatives in relation to different tasks of the Board. Each representative appointed to the Board shall have an alternate. Only Member States shall have voting rights. Each Member State shall have only one vote regardless of the number of its representatives.

The Chair shall invite representatives of the European Parliament to attend, as observers, the meetings of the Board including the meetings of the standing or temporary subgroups referred to in paragraph 8.

3. Where appropriate, the Chair may invite representatives of industry, especially SMEs, civil society, academia, trade unions, local or regional authorities, third countries, OCTs, as well as of the European Defence Agency, the European Chemical Agency, the European Environmental Agency and the European External Action Service to attend meetings of the Board or its standing or temporary subgroups referred to in paragraph 8 as observers or to provide written contributions. Observers shall not participate in the formulation of advice of the Board and its subgroups.

4. At its first meeting, the Board shall, on a proposal by the Commission, adopt its rules of procedure by a simple majority of its members.

5. The Board shall meet at regular intervals in order to allow the effective performance of its tasks provided for in this Regulation. Where necessary, the Board shall meet on the basis of a reasoned request by the Commission or by a Member State justifying a particular interest with regard to a Strategic Project on its territory warranting an additional meeting.

The Board shall meet at least as follows:

- (a) every three months for the assessment of applications for Strategic Projects pursuant to Chapter 3, Section 2;
- (b) every six months for the development of monitoring pursuant to Chapter 4;
- (c) once a year in order to discuss the progress of the implementation of Member State obligations related to exploration set out in Chapter 3, Section 5, including in light of updates to the lists of strategic or critical raw materials.

6. The Commission shall coordinate the work of the Board by means of an executive secretariat that provides technical and logistical support.

7. The Board shall carry out the following:

- (a) periodically discuss the implementation of Article 9 and share best practices for the purpose of accelerating the permitting procedure for critical raw material projects, as well as to improve the public participation and consultation in those projects;
- (b) where relevant, propose to the Commission guidelines for the implementation of Article 9(1) to be taken into account by the single points of contact;
- (c) periodically discuss the implementation of Strategic Projects and, where necessary, measures that could be taken by the project promoter or the Member State whose territory is concerned by a Strategic Project to further facilitate the implementation of those Strategic Projects pursuant to Article 15;
- (d) provide advice to the Commission on the assessment of the set up of the joint purchasing system pursuant to Article 25;
- (e) facilitate the exchange of best practices among Member States with the purpose of improving their national programmes pursuant to Article 26.

8. The Board may establish standing or temporary subgroups to deal with specific questions and tasks.

The Board shall establish at least the following standing subgroups:

- (a) a subgroup to discuss and coordinate financing for Strategic Projects in accordance with Article 16, to which representatives of national promotional banks and institutions, export credit agencies, the European development financial institutions, the European Investment Bank Group, other international financial institutions including the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and, as appropriate, private financial institutions are to be invited as observers;
- (b) a subgroup to discuss and exchange views on measures to increase public knowledge on the critical raw materials supply chain and share best practices concerning public participation and stakeholders involvement in critical raw materials projects, to which representatives of civil society organisations are to be regularly invited as observers;
- (c) a subgroup bringing together national or, where relevant, regional geological institutes or surveys or, in the absence of such institute or survey, the relevant national authority in charge of general exploration, with the purpose of contributing to the coordination of national exploration programmes drawn up pursuant to Article 19;
- (d) a subgroup to discuss and exchange views on measures to promote circularity, resource efficiency and substitution of critical raw materials;
- (e) a subgroup bringing together national supply and information agencies covering critical raw materials or, in the absence of such agency, the relevant national authority in charge of that matter, with the purpose of contributing to the Commission's monitoring and stress testing pursuant to Article 20;

- (f) a subgroup bringing together national emergency agency and national authorities responsible for strategic stocks or, in the absence of such agency and authority, the relevant national authority in charge of that matter, with the purpose of contributing to the coordination of strategic stocks as set out in Article 23.

In carrying out its tasks, the Board shall, where appropriate, ensure coordination, cooperation and information exchange with the relevant crisis response and crisis preparedness structures established under Union law.

9. The Board shall take the necessary measures to ensure the safe handling and processing of confidential and commercially sensitive information in accordance with Article 46.

10. The Board shall use its best endeavours to take decisions by means of consensus.

Article 37

International cooperation and Strategic Partnerships

1. The Board shall periodically discuss:

- (a) the extent to which Strategic Partnerships concluded by the Union contribute towards:
 - (i) improving the Union's security of supply including the benchmarks set in Article 5(1), point (b);
 - (ii) improving cooperation along the critical raw materials value chain between the Union and partner countries, including capacity building and technology transfer programs to promote circularity and responsible recycling of critical raw materials in producing countries;
 - (iii) the economic and social development of partner countries, including by promoting sustainable and circular economy practices, decent working conditions and respect for human rights along their raw material value chains;
- (b) the consistency of and potential synergies between Member States' bilateral cooperation with relevant third countries and the actions carried out by the Union in the context of Strategic Partnerships;
- (c) which third countries could be prioritised for the conclusion of Strategic Partnerships, taking into account the following criteria:
 - (i) the potential contribution to security of supply as well as resilience thereof, taking into account a third country's potential reserves, extraction, processing and recycling capacities related to critical raw materials;
 - (ii) whether a cooperation between the Union and a third country could improve a third country's ability to ensure the monitoring, prevention and minimisation of adverse environmental impacts through its regulatory framework and the implementation thereof, the use of socially responsible practices including respect for human and labour rights, in particular on forced and child labour, meaningful engagement with local communities, including indigenous peoples, the use of transparent and responsible business practices, the prevention of adverse impacts on the proper functioning of public administration and the rule of law;
 - (iii) whether there are existing cooperation agreements between the Union and a third country and, for emerging markets and developing economies, the potential for the deployment of Global Gateway investment projects, including with a view to facilitating investment in Strategic Projects;
 - (iv) for emerging markets and developing economies, whether and how a partnership could contribute to local value addition, including downstream activities, and would be mutually beneficial to the Union and the partner country;
- (d) advise the Commission on how to ensure that the Strategic Partnerships referred to in this paragraph are consistent with the Union's policies on emerging markets and developing economies.

2. The Board's discussions pursuant to paragraph 1 shall be without prejudice to the prerogatives of the Council in accordance with the Treaties.

3. Member States:

- (a) shall inform the Commission about their bilateral cooperation with relevant third countries, when its scope includes critical raw materials value chain;
- (b) may support the Commission in the implementation of the cooperation measures set out in Strategic Partnerships along the raw materials value chain.

4. Once a year, the Commission shall inform the European Parliament and the Council about the content and outcome of the Board's discussions pursuant to paragraph 1.

CHAPTER 7

DELEGATED POWERS AND COMMITTEE PROCEDURE

Article 38

Exercise of the delegation

1. The power to adopt delegated acts is conferred on the Commission subject to the conditions laid down in this Article.

2. The power to adopt delegated acts referred to in Article 3(2), Article 4(2), Article 5(3), Article 6(2), Article 28(12), Article 29(2) and (3), Article 31(1) and (8) and Article 34(1) shall be conferred on the Commission for a period of eight years from 24 June 2024. The Commission shall draw up a report in respect of the delegation of power not later than nine months before the end of the eight year period. The delegation of power shall be tacitly extended for periods of an identical duration unless the European Parliament or the Council opposes such extension not later than three months before the end of each period.

3. The delegation of power referred to in Article 3(2), Article 4(2), Article 5(3), Article 6(2), Article 28(12), Article 29(2) and (3), Article 31(1) and (8) and Article 34(1) may be revoked at any time by the European Parliament or by the Council. A decision to revoke shall put an end to the delegation of the power specified in that decision. It shall take effect on the day following the publication of the decision in the *Official Journal of the European Union* or at a later date specified therein. It shall not affect the validity of any delegated acts already in force.

4. Before adopting a delegated act, the Commission shall consult experts designated by each Member State in accordance with the principles laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement of 13 April 2016 on Better Law-Making.

5. As soon as it adopts a delegated act, the Commission shall notify it simultaneously to the European Parliament and to the Council.

6. A delegated act adopted pursuant to Article 3(2), Article 4(2), Article 5(3), Article 6(2), Article 28(12), Article 29(2) or (3), Article 31(1) or (8) or Article 34(1) shall enter into force only if no objection has been expressed either by the European Parliament or the Council within a period of two months of notification of that act to the European Parliament and the Council or if, before the expiry of that period, the European Parliament and the Council have both informed the Commission that they will not object. That period may be extended by two months at the initiative of the European Parliament or of the Council.

Article 39

Committee procedure

1. The Commission shall be assisted by a Committee. That committee shall be a committee within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.

2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 4 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.

3. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.

CHAPTER 8
AMENDMENTS

Article 40
Amendment to Regulation (EU) No 168/2013

In Section C1 of the table in Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 168/2013, the following entry is added:

'15a	18	permanent magnet circularity requirements	Regulation (EU) 2024/1252 of the European Parliament and of the Council (*)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
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- (*) Regulation (EU) 2024/1252 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 establishing a framework for ensuring a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials and amending Regulations (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1724 and (EU) 2019/1020 (OJ L, 2024/1252, 3.5.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1252/oj>).'

Article 41
Amendment to Regulation (EU) 2018/858

In Section G, 'Environmental Performance and Emissions', of the table in Part I of Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2018/858, the following entry is added:

'G 15	Permanent magnet circularity requirements	Regulation (EU) 2024/1252 of the European Parliament and of the Council (*)	X	X	X	X	X	X								X	X
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- (*) Regulation (EU) 2024/1252 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 establishing a framework for ensuring a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials and amending Regulations (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1724 and (EU) 2019/1020 (OJ L, 2024/1252, 3.5.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1252/oj>).'

Article 42
Amendments to Regulation (EU) 2018/1724

Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 is amended as follows:

- (1) in Annex I, the following row is added:

'AJ. Critical raw materials projects	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the single points of contact established or designated pursuant to Article 9(1) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1252 of the European Parliament and of the Council (*) 2. information on the permit-granting process
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- | | |
|--|--|
| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. information on financing and investment services 4. information on funding possibilities at Union or Member State level 5. information on business support services, including but not limited to corporate tax declaration, local tax laws or labour law |
|--|--|

(*) Regulation (EU) 2024/1252 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 establishing a framework for ensuring a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials and amending Regulations (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1724 and (EU) 2019/1020 (OJ L, 2024/1252, 3.5.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1252/oj>).;

(2) in Annex II, the following row is added:

‘Critical raw materials projects	Procedure related to all relevant permits to build and operate critical raw materials projects, including building, chemical and grid connection permits and environmental assessments and authorisations where these are required, and encompassing all applications and procedures from the acknowledgment that the application is complete to the notification of the comprehensive decision on the outcome of the procedure by the single point of contact concerned pursuant to Article 9 of Regulation (EU) 2024/1252.	All outputs pertaining to the procedures ranging from the acknowledgment of the completeness of the application to the notification of the comprehensive decision on the outcome of the procedure by the single point of contact concerned pursuant to Article 9 of Regulation (EU) 2024/1252.;
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(3) in Annex III, the following point is added:

‘(9) The single point of contact concerned pursuant to Article 9 of Regulation (EU) 2024/1252.’

Article 43

Amendments to Regulation (EU) 2019/1020

Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 is amended as follows:

(1) in Article 4, paragraph 5 is replaced by the following:

'5. This Article applies only in relation to products that are subject to Regulations (EU) No 305/2011 (¹)*, (EU) 2016/425 (²)*, (EU) 2016/426 (³)* and (EU) 2024/1252 (⁴)* and Directives 2000/14/EC (⁵)*, 2006/42/EC (⁶)*, 2009/48/EC (⁷)*, 2009/125/EC (⁸)*, 2011/65/EU (⁹)*, 2013/29/EU (¹⁰)*, 2013/53/EU (¹¹)*, 2014/29/EU (¹²)*, 2014/30/EU (¹³)*, 2014/31/EU (¹⁴)*, 2014/32/EU (¹⁵)*, 2014/34/EU (¹⁶)*, 2014/35/EU (¹⁷)*, 2014/53/EU (¹⁸)* and 2014/68/EU (¹⁹)* of the European Parliament and of the Council.

- (¹)* Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2011 laying down harmonised conditions for the marketing of construction products and repealing Council Directive 89/106/EEC (OJ L 88, 4.4.2011, p. 5).
- (²)* Regulation (EU) 2016/425 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on personal protective equipment and repealing Council Directive 89/686/EEC (OJ L 81, 31.3.2016, p. 51).
- (³)* Regulation (EU) 2016/426 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on appliances burning gaseous fuels and repealing Directive 2009/142/EC (OJ L 81, 31.3.2016, p. 99).
- (⁴)* Regulation (EU) 2024/1252 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 establishing a framework for ensuring a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials and amending Regulations (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1724 and (EU) 2019/1020 (OJ L, 2024/1252, 3.5.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1252/oj>).
- (⁵)* Directive 2000/14/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 May 2000 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the noise emission in the environment by equipment for use outdoors (OJ L 162, 3.7.2000, p. 1).
- (⁶)* Directive 2006/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006 on machinery, and amending Directive 95/16/EC (OJ L 157, 9.6.2006, p. 24).
- (⁷)* Directive 2009/48/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2009 on the safety of toys (OJ L 170, 30.6.2009, p. 1).
- (⁸)* Directive 2009/125/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for the setting of ecodesign requirements for energy-related products (OJ L 285, 31.10.2009, p. 10).
- (⁹)* Directive 2011/65/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2011 on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment (OJ L 174, 1.7.2011, p. 88).
- (¹⁰)* Directive 2013/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 2013 on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market of pyrotechnic articles (OJ L 178, 28.6.2013, p. 27).
- (¹¹)* Directive 2013/53/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 November 2013 on recreational craft and personal watercraft and repealing Directive 94/25/EC (OJ L 354, 28.12.2013, p. 90).
- (¹²)* Directive 2014/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market of simple pressure vessels (OJ L 96, 29.3.2014, p. 45).
- (¹³)* Directive 2014/30/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to electromagnetic compatibility (OJ L 96, 29.3.2014, p. 79).
- (¹⁴)* Directive 2014/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market of non-automatic weighing instruments (OJ L 96, 29.3.2014, p. 107).
- (¹⁵)* Directive 2014/32/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market of measuring instruments (OJ L 96, 29.3.2014, p. 149).
- (¹⁶)* Directive 2014/34/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to equipment and protective systems intended for use in potentially explosive atmospheres (OJ L 96, 29.3.2014, p. 309).
- (¹⁷)* Directive 2014/35/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market of electrical equipment designed for use within certain voltage limits (OJ L 96, 29.3.2014, p. 357).
- (¹⁸)* Directive 2014/53/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market of radio equipment and repealing Directive 1999/5/EC (OJ L 153, 22.5.2014, p. 62).
- (¹⁹)* Directive 2014/68/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market of pressure equipment (OJ L 189, 27.6.2014, p. 164).;

(2) in Annex I, the following point is added:

'71. Regulation (EU) 2024/1252 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 establishing a framework for ensuring a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials and amending Regulations (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1724 and (EU) 2019/1020 (OJ L, 2024/1252, 3.5.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1252/oj>), in so far as it concerns the requirements set out in Article 28, 29 or 31 of that Regulation.'

CHAPTER 9

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 44

Monitoring progress

1. By 24 November 2026, the Commission shall submit a report, including indicative projections of the annual consumption of each critical raw material in 2030, 2040 and 2050, including a low, a high and a reference projection, as well as indicative benchmarks for extraction and processing per strategic raw material, with a view to meeting the benchmarks set in Article 5(1), point (a), for 2030.

2. By 24 May 2027 and at least every three years thereafter, the Commission shall, taking into account the advice of the Board, monitor progress towards the benchmarks set in Article 5(1), as well as the moderation of the expected increase in Union consumption of critical raw materials referred to in Article 5(2) and publish a report detailing the Union's progress towards meeting those benchmarks and that moderation.

3. The report referred to in paragraph 2 shall include:

- (a) quantitative information on the extent of the Union's progress towards the benchmarks and the moderation referred to in Article 5;
- (b) a list of Strategic Partnerships concluded between the Union and third countries covering raw materials; and
- (c) an assessment of the contribution of the Strategic Partnerships to reaching the benchmark set in Article 5(1), point (b).

For the purposes of this Article, economic operators shall not be required to submit information in addition to the information provided pursuant to Article 21.

4. To ensure the coherent implementation of this Regulation, the Commission shall monitor the consistency of its actions undertaken to implement it with other Union law. In addition, the Commission shall publish, by 24 May 2025, a report on the consistency of this Regulation with other Union law.

5. Where, on the basis of the report referred to in paragraph 1, the Commission concludes that the Union is likely not to achieve the aims of Article 5, it shall assess the feasibility and proportionality of proposing measures in order to ensure the achievement of those aims.

6. The Commission shall request the European Standardisation organisations to develop European standards or European standardisation deliverables to support the objectives of this Regulation.

Article 45

Reporting of Member States

1. By 24 May 2026 and annually thereafter, Member States shall submit a report to the Commission containing the information referred to in Article 19(5), Article 21(1) and (2), Article 22(1), Article 23(5) and Article 26(6).

Economic operators shall not be required to submit information in addition to the information provided in the context of the provisions listed in the first subparagraph.

2. The Commission may adopt implementing acts setting out a template for the reports referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article. The template may indicate how the information referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article is to be expressed. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the advisory procedure referred to in Article 39(2).

3. The information contained in the reports referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be subject to Article 46.

Article 46

Handling of confidential information

1. Information acquired in the course of implementing this Regulation shall be used only for the purposes of this Regulation and shall be protected by the relevant Union and national law.

2. Member States and the Commission shall ensure the protection of trade and business secrets and other sensitive, confidential and classified information obtained and processed in application of this Regulation, including recommendations and measures to be taken, in accordance with Union and relevant national law.

3. The Commission and Member States shall ensure that classified information provided or exchanged pursuant to this Regulation is not downgraded or declassified without the prior written consent of the originator in accordance with relevant Union or national law.

4. Where a Member State considers that the disclosure of aggregated information pursuant to Article 22 is likely to compromise its national security interest, it may, by means of a reasoned notice, object to the Commission's disclosure of that information.

5. The Commission and the national authorities, their officials, employees and other persons working under the supervision of those authorities shall ensure the confidentiality of information obtained in carrying out their tasks and activities in accordance with relevant Union or national law. This obligation also applies to all representatives of Member States, observers, experts and other participants attending meetings of the Board pursuant to Article 36.

6. The Commission shall provide for standardised and secure means for the collation, processing and storage of the information obtained pursuant to this Regulation.

7. Any obligations on sharing information pursuant to this Regulation shall not apply to data that concerns the essential interests of the Member States' security or defence.

Article 47

Penalties

By 24 November 2026, Member States shall lay down rules on penalties applicable to infringements of this Regulation and shall take all measures necessary to ensure that they are implemented. The penalties provided for shall be effective, proportionate and dissuasive. Member States shall, without delay, notify the Commission of those rules and of those measures and shall notify it, without delay, of any subsequent amendment affecting them.

Article 48

Evaluation

1. By 24 May 2028, the Commission shall carry out an evaluation of this Regulation in light of the objectives that it pursues and shall present a report thereon to the European Parliament, to the Council and to the European Economic and Social Committee.

2. The report referred to in paragraph 1 shall at least assess:

- (a) the appropriateness of establishing maximum environmental footprint thresholds for critical raw materials for which calculation and verification rules have been adopted as well as the need to further strengthen the critical raw materials supply chains after 2030;

- (b) the appropriateness of establishing benchmarks targeting 2040 and 2050 on aggregated level and per strategic raw material;
- (c) the consistency between the Union environmental law and this Regulation, in particular in relation to the priority status of the Strategic Projects;
- (d) the availability of information on waste volumes and strategic raw material content for relevant waste streams;
- (e) the impact of the joint purchasing system set up pursuant to Article 25 on competition in the internal market;
- (f) the appropriateness of establishing further measures to increase the collection, sorting and processing of waste, in particular with a view to metal scraps, including ferrous scraps.

3. The Commission shall, on the basis of the report referred to in paragraph 1, submit, where appropriate, relevant legislative proposals.

Article 49

Entry into force

1. This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

2. By way of derogation from paragraph 1 of this Article, Articles 40 and 41 shall apply from 24 May 2028.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 11 April 2024.

For the European Parliament

The President

R. METSOLA

For the Council

The President

H. LAHBIB

ANNEX I

Strategic raw materials**Section 1****List of strategic raw materials**

The following raw materials shall be considered strategic:

- (a) bauxite/alumina/aluminium
- (b) bismuth
- (c) boron — metallurgy grade
- (d) cobalt
- (e) copper
- (f) gallium
- (g) germanium
- (h) lithium — battery grade
- (i) magnesium metal
- (j) manganese — battery grade
- (k) graphite — battery grade
- (l) nickel — battery grade
- (m) platinum group metals
- (n) rare earth elements for permanent magnets (Nd, Pr, Tb, Dy, Gd, Sm, and Ce)
- (o) silicon metal
- (p) titanium metal
- (q) tungsten.

Section 2**Methodology to select strategic raw materials**

1. The strategic importance shall be determined on the basis of the relevance of a raw material for the green and digital transition as well as defence and aerospace applications, in accordance with the following criteria:
 - (a) the amount of strategic technologies using a raw material as an input;
 - (b) the amount of a raw material needed for manufacturing relevant strategic technologies;
 - (c) the expected global demand for relevant strategic technologies.
2. The forecasted demand growth ($D_{F/C,\tau}$) shall be calculated as follows:

$$D_{F/C,\tau} = \frac{DF_\tau}{GS_{\tau_0}}$$

where:

DF_τ is the global annual demand forecast for a raw material in year τ ;

GS_{τ_0} is the global annual production of a raw material for a reference period τ_0 .

3. The difficulty of increasing production shall be determined taking into account at least:
 - (a) the current global annual production scale of a raw material;
 - (b) the reserves-production ratio of a raw material, based on known reserves of economically extractable geological resources and current global annual production;
 - (c) lead-times for new projects increasing supply capacity, when reliable information is available.
-

ANNEX II

Critical raw materials**Section 1****List of critical raw materials**

The following raw materials shall be considered critical:

(a) antimony

(b) arsenic

(c) bauxite/alumina/aluminium

(d) baryte

(e) beryllium

(f) bismuth

(g) boron

(h) cobalt

(i) coking coal

(j) copper

(k) feldspar

(l) fluorspar

(m) gallium

(n) germanium

(o) hafnium

(p) helium

(q) heavy rare earth elements

(r) light rare earth elements

(s) lithium

(t) magnesium

(u) manganese

(v) graphite

(w) nickel — battery grade

(x) niobium

- (y) phosphate rock
- (z) phosphorus
- (aa) platinum group metals
- (ab) scandium
- (ac) silicon metal
- (ad) strontium
- (ae) tantalum
- (af) titanium metal
- (ag) tungsten
- (ah) vanadium.

Section 2

Calculation of economic importance and supply risk

1. The economic importance (EI) of the assessed raw material is calculated as follows:

$$EI = \sum_s (A_s * Q_s) * SI_{EI}$$

where:

s denotes the NACE (2-digit level) sectors of the economy;

A_s is the share of end use of the assessed raw material in a NACE (2-digit level) sector (using Union values when available, global shares otherwise);

Q_s is the value added of the relevant sector at the NACE (2-digit level), as a share of the total economy;

SI_{EI} is the substitution index related to economic importance.

2. The substitution index of the assessed raw material related to economic importance (SI_{EI}) is calculated, based on its most relevant industrial applications, as follows:

$$SI_{EI} = \sum_i \sum_a SPP_{i,a;EI} * Sub_share_{i,a} * Share_a$$

where:

i denotes an individual substitute material;

a denotes an individual application of the raw material;

$SPP_{i,a;EI}$ is the Economic Importance performance parameter of each substitute material, i , compared to the assessed raw material, based on technical performance, including functionality, and cost performance, for each application, a ;

$Share_a$ is the share of the raw materials in an end-use application;

$Sub_share_{i,a}$ is the sub-share of each substitute material within each application.

3. The supply risk (SR) of the assessed raw material is calculated as follows:

$$SR = \left[(HHI_{WGI,t_c})_{GS} * \frac{IR}{2} + (HHI_{WGI,t_c})_{EU_sourcing} * \left(1 - \frac{IR}{2}\right) \right] * (1 - EoL_{RIR}) * SI_{SR}$$

where:

GS denotes the global annual production of the assessed raw material;

$EU_sourcing$ denotes the actual sourcing of the supply to the Union, i.e. Union domestic production plus Union imports from third countries or from OCTs;

HHI is the Herfindahl-Hirschman Index (used as a proxy for concentration of supply across countries);

WGI is an index based on the scaled World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators (used as a proxy for country governance);

t_c is the trade parameter adjusting WGI , which shall be determined taking into account potential export taxes (possibly mitigated by a trade agreement in force), physical export quotas or export prohibitions imposed by a country, c .

EoL_{RIR} is the end-of-life recycling input rate, meaning the ratio of secondary material inputs (recycled from old scrap) to all inputs of a raw material (primary and secondary);

SI_{SR} is the substitution index related to supply risk;

IR is import reliance.

4. The import reliance, IR , of raw materials is calculated as follows:

$$IR = \max \left\{ 0; \frac{\text{Import} - \text{Export}}{\text{DomesticProduction} + \text{Import} - \text{Export}} \right\}$$

5. The Herfindahl-Hirschman Index (HHI_{WGI}) of the assessed raw material is calculated as follows:

$$HHI_{WGI,t_c} = \sum_c (S_c)^2 * WGI_c * t_c$$

where:

c denotes the countries supplying the assessed raw material;

S_c is the share of country c in the supply (GS or $EU_sourcing$) of the assessed raw material;

WGI_c is an index based on the scaled World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators of country c ;

t_c is the trade parameter of a country adjusting the WGI , which shall be determined taking into account potential export taxes (possibly mitigated by a trade agreement in force), physical export quotas or export prohibitions imposed by a country c .

-
6. The substitution index of the assessed raw material related to supply risk (SI_{SR}) is calculated as follows:

$$SI_{SR} = \sum_i \sum_a SPP_{i;SR} * Sub_share_{i,a} * Share_a$$

where:

i denotes an individual substitute material;

a denotes an individual application of the candidate material;

$SPP_{i;SR}$ is the Supply Risk performance parameter of each substitute material, i , based on its global production, criticality and economic significance (primary product, co-product, by-product);

$Share_a$ is the share of the candidate materials in an end-use application;

$Sub_share_{i,a}$ is the sub-share of each substitute material within each application.

7. Where structural or statistical changes affect the measurement of economic importance and supply risk horizontally for all assessed materials, the corresponding values shall be corrected to offset such changes.

The calculations of the formulas in this Section shall be based on an average of the most recent five years for which data is available. The priority, quality and availability of data shall be taken into account.

ANNEX III

Assessment of the recognition criteria for Strategic Projects

1. The assessment of whether a project in the Union fulfils the criterion laid down in Article 6(1), point (a) shall take into account:

- (a) whether the project contributes towards the benchmarks set out in Article 5(2), point (a);
- (b) whether the project contributes to maintaining or strengthening Union capacities as a share of the Union's annual consumption of strategic raw material, taking into account the expected increase in Union consumption;
- (c) whether the project contributes to strengthening Union capacity to produce innovative raw materials able to substitute strategic raw material in one or more strategic technologies, while taking measures to achieve an equal or lower environmental footprint compared to the strategic raw material that is substituted.

A project's contribution to the relevant capacity benchmark shall be assessed taking into account the project's business plan and supporting technical information included in the application and the project's estimated time to market.

2. The assessment of whether a project in a third country or in a OCTs fulfils the criterion laid down in Article 6(1), point (a) shall take into account:

- (a) whether the project contributes to the benchmarks set out in Article 5(2), point (b) or contributes to maintaining the resilience of the Union's supply of strategic raw materials;
- (b) whether the applicable legal framework or other conditions provide assurance that trade and investment related to the project will not be distorted, taking into account, in particular, whether the Union has concluded a Strategic Partnership referred to in Article 37 or a trade agreement containing a chapter on raw materials with the relevant third country, or OCTs, and is consistent with the Union's common commercial policy;
- (c) the extent to which there are undertakings that have or are willing to conclude offtake agreements with the project promoter with a view to using or processing the strategic raw materials produced by the relevant projects in the Union;
- (d) whether the project is in line with the Union's development cooperation and foreign policy objectives.

A project's contribution to the benchmarks referred to in point (a) shall be assessed taking into account the project's business plan and supporting technical information included in the application, the project's estimated time to market as well as the share of the project's output that is covered by existing or potential offtake agreements referred to in point (c). Evidence related to point (c) may include contractual agreements, letters of intent or memoranda of understanding.

3. The assessment of whether a project fulfils the criterion laid down in Article 6(1), point (b) shall take into account:

- (a) the quality of the feasibility studies carried out on the potential of development of the project;
- (b) whether the technology intended to be used has been demonstrated in the relevant environment.

4. The feasibility studies referred to in point 3(a) shall be designed to:

- (a) assess whether a proposed project is likely to be successful by analysing technological and environmental considerations;
- (b) identify potential technical issues and problems that could arise while pursuing the project.

Further studies may be required to confirm the feasibility of the project.

5. The assessment of whether projects located in the Union fulfil the criterion laid down in Article 6(1), point (c) shall take into account an overall assessment of a project's compliance with relevant Union or national law as well as relevant supplementary evidence, taking into account the location of the project.

The assessment of whether projects in third countries or in OCTs fulfil the criterion laid down in Article 6(1), point (c) shall take into account compliance with the applicable national law where that national law provides sufficient assurance of compliance with the criterion or aspects of it and with the following international instruments:

- (a) ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy;
 - (b) OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Business Conduct, in particular the guidelines related to combatting corruption;
 - (c) OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas;
 - (d) OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Meaningful Stakeholder Engagement in the Extractive Sector, including where referring to the principles set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
 - (e) OECD Principles of Corporate Governance;
 - (f) OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct;
 - (g) UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights;
 - (h) IFC Performance Standard 5 on Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement.
6. Project promoters may also attest compliance with the criterion laid down in Article 6(1), point (c) by:
- (a) providing evidence that the project concerned is individually certified by one or more schemes recognised pursuant to Article 30(2) that jointly cover the requirements listed in Annex IV, point (2); or
 - (b) committing to obtain certification for the project concerned as part of by one or more schemes recognised pursuant to Article 30(2) that jointly cover the requirements listed in Annex IV, point (2), and providing sufficient evidence that when implemented the project concerned will be able to meet the criteria for such certification.
7. The assessment of whether a project in the Union fulfils the criterion laid down in Article 6(1), point (d) shall take into account:
- (a) whether undertakings from different Member States participate in the project;
 - (b) whether potential offtakers are located also in more than one Member State;
 - (c) effects on the availability of strategic raw materials for downstream users in more than one Member State.
8. The assessment of whether a project in a third country fulfils the criterion laid down in Article 6(1), point (e) shall take into account the extent to which the project contributes, in the relevant third country:
- (a) to strengthening more than one stage of the raw materials value chain in that country or its wider region;
 - (b) to fostering private investment in the domestic raw materials value chain;
 - (c) to the creation of wider economic or social benefits, including the creation of employment.

ANNEX IV

Criteria for certification schemes

1. A recognised certification scheme shall meet the following criteria:
 - (a) it is open under transparent, fair and non-discriminatory terms to all economic operators willing and able to comply with the scheme's requirements and subject to multi-stakeholder governance;
 - (b) verification and monitoring of compliance is objective, based on international, Union or national standards, requirements and procedures and carried out independently from the relevant economic operator;
 - (c) it includes sufficient requirements and procedures to ensure the competence and independence of the verifiers responsible;
 - (d) it includes requirements to ensure an audit-report established at the site level.
2. The requirements for certification shall include at least:
 - (a) requirements ensuring environmentally sustainable practices, including requirements ensuring environmental management and impact mitigation in the following environmental risk categories:
 - (i) air, including air pollution such as greenhouse gas emissions;
 - (ii) water, including seabed and marine environment, and water pollution, water use, water quantities, taking into account flooding or droughts, and access to water;
 - (iii) soil, including soil pollution, soil erosion, land use and land degradation;
 - (iv) biodiversity, including damage to habitats, wildlife, flora and ecosystems, including ecosystem services;
 - (v) hazardous substances;
 - (vi) noise and vibration;
 - (vii) plant safety;
 - (viii) energy use;
 - (ix) waste and residues;
 - (b) requirements for ensuring socially responsible practices, including respect for human rights and labour rights including the community life of indigenous peoples;
 - (c) requirements for ensuring business integrity and transparency including requirements to apply sound management of financial, environmental and social matters and anti-corruption and anti-bribery policies.

ANNEX V

Environmental footprint**Part I**
Definitions

For the purposes of this Annex, the following definitions shall apply:

- (a) 'activity data' means the information associated with processes while modelling Life-Cycle Inventories (LCI), whereby the aggregated LCI results of the process chains that represent the activities of a process are each multiplied by the corresponding activity data and then combined to derive the environmental footprint associated with that process;
- (b) 'bill of materials' means list of the raw materials, sub-assemblies, intermediate assemblies, sub-components, parts and the quantities of each needed to manufacture the product in scope of the study;
- (c) 'company-specific data' or 'primary data' means directly measured or collated data from one or multiple facilities (site-specific data) that are representative for the activities of the company;
- (d) 'impact assessment method' means the protocol for quantitative translation of life-cycle inventory data into contributions to an environmental impact of concern;
- (e) 'impact category' means a class of resource use or environmental impact to which the life-cycle inventory data are related;
- (f) 'life cycle' means the consecutive and interlinked stages of a product system, from raw material acquisition or generation from natural resources to final disposal (ISO 14040:2006);
- (g) 'life-cycle inventory' or 'LCI' means the combined set of exchanges of elementary, waste and product flows in a LCI dataset;
- (h) 'life-cycle inventory dataset' or 'LCI dataset' means a document or file with life-cycle information of a specified product or other reference, such as the site or the process, covering descriptive metadata and quantitative life-cycle inventory and can be a unit process dataset, partially aggregated or an aggregated dataset;
- (i) 'secondary data' means data not from a specific process within the supply-chain of the company performing an environmental footprint study, namely data that is not directly collated, measured, or estimated by the company, but sourced from a third party LCI database or other sources, including industry average data — such as from published production data, government statistics, and industry associations — literature studies, engineering studies and patents, and may also be based on financial data, and contain proxy data, and other generic data and including primary data that go through a horizontal aggregation step;
- (j) 'system boundary' means the aspects included or excluded from the life-cycle study.

The calculation rules for the environmental footprint of a critical raw material shall include any further definition necessary for their interpretation.

Part II
Scope

This Annex provides essential elements on how to calculate the environmental footprint of critical raw materials.

The calculation rules for the environmental footprint of specific critical raw materials shall build on the essential elements included in this Annex, taking into account scientifically sound assessment methods and relevant international standards in the area of life-cycle assessment.

The calculation of the environmental footprint of a critical raw material shall be based on the bill of material, the energy, production methods, and auxiliary materials used at the facilities involved on the production of critical raw material.

When establishing calculation rules for the environmental footprint of specific critical raw materials, the Commission shall aim to ensure consistency with calculation rules for the environmental footprint of intermediate and final products making use of the relevant critical raw materials.

Part III
Declared unit

The declared unit shall be 1 kg of the relevant critical raw material type.

The calculation rules for the environmental footprint of specific critical raw materials may specify a higher or lower declared unit, expressed in kg, where necessary to take into account the nature or use of the relevant critical raw material.

All quantitative input and output data collated by the manufacturer to quantify the carbon footprint shall be calculated in relation to this declared unit.

Part IV
System boundary

1. Extraction, concentration and refining are the three life-cycle stages to be included in the system boundary of primary critical raw materials with the following processes, when relevant to the specific raw material:

- (a) upstream processes including the extraction of ore for raw material production, production and supply, including transport, of chemicals, auxiliary processes, production and supply, including transport, of fuels, production and supply of electricity, and transport of materials in vehicles not owned or operated by the organisation;
- (b) transport of ore, concentrates and raw materials in vehicles owned or operated by the organisation;
- (c) storage of ore, concentrates and raw materials;
- (d) ore crushing and cleaning;
- (e) raw material concentrate production;
- (f) metal extraction, by chemical, physical or biological means;
- (g) smelting;
- (h) metal conversion;
- (i) slag cleaning;
- (j) metal refining;
- (k) metal electrolysis;
- (l) metal casting or packaging;
- (m) spent material and slag treatment;
- (n) all related auxiliary processes, such as for on-site waste-water treatment, including for process water treatment, direct cooling and surface runoff water; gas abatement systems, including for primary and secondary off gases; boilers, including for the pre-treatment of feed water; internal logistics.

2. In the system boundary of secondary critical raw materials, defining the recycling life-cycle stage, the following processes, when relevant to the specific recycled raw material, shall be included:

- (a) upstream processes including the generation of raw feed material (scrap materials and virgin concentrates), the production and supply (transport) of chemicals, auxiliary processes, production and supply (transport) of fuels, the production and supply of electricity, and the transport of materials in vehicles not owned by the organisation;
- (b) transport of concentrates and scraps in vehicles owned or operated by the organisation;
- (c) storage of scraps, concentrates and raw materials;
- (d) secondary raw material pre-treatment;
- (e) smelting;

- (f) metal conversion;
 - (g) metal refining;
 - (h) metal electrolysis;
 - (i) metal casting or packaging;
 - (j) spent material treatment;
 - (k) all related auxiliary processes, such as for on-site waste-water treatment, including for process water treatment, direct cooling and surface runoff water; gas abatement systems, including for primary and secondary off gases; boilers, including for the pre-treatment of feed water; and internal logistics.
3. The use phase or end-of-life phase shall be excluded from the environmental footprint calculations, as it is not under the direct influence of the economic operator responsible. Other processes may be excluded where their contribution to the environmental footprint of a specific critical raw material is insignificant.

Part V

Impact categories

The calculation rules shall specify the impact categories that need to be included in the environmental footprint calculation. The choice shall be based on the hotspot analysis carried out in line with scientifically sound methodologies developed at international level and taking into account the:

- (a) relative importance of different impacts, including their relative importance for meeting Union climate and environmental objectives;
- (b) needs of downstream undertakings wishing to communicate on the environmental footprint of the critical raw materials they use.

Part VI

Use of company-specific and secondary datasets

The calculation rules shall specify the use of company specific or secondary datasets for all relevant processes and materials. If calculation rules allow for the choice between a company specific dataset and a secondary dataset, the Commission shall consider incentivising the use the company specific dataset.

The use of company-specific data shall be required at least for the processes under the direct influence of the operator responsible and have the largest contribution to the relevant impact categories.

The company specific activity data shall be used in combination with the relevant environmental footprint compliant secondary datasets. The calculation rules shall specify whether sampling is allowed, in line with the criteria set out in scientifically sound methodologies developed at international level.

A change in the bill of materials or energy mix used to produce a critical raw material type requires a new calculation of the environmental footprint.

When setting calculation rules, including for the greenhouse gas emissions generated by the electricity used for the production of critical raw materials, the Commission shall ensure consistency and alignment with other relevant Union law, unless it is justified not to do so.

The calculation rules to be elaborated via a delegated act shall include detailed modelling of the following lifecycle stages:

- (a) primary raw material extraction, concentration and refining stage;
- (b) secondary raw material acquisition and processing stage.

Part VII**Impact assessment methods**

The environmental footprint shall be calculated using scientifically sound impact assessment methods which take into account developments on the international level for relevant impact categories related to climate change, water, air, soil, resources, land use and toxicity.

The results shall be provided as characterised results, without normalisation and weighting.

Part VIII**Environmental footprint performance classes**

Depending on the distribution of the values of the environmental footprint declarations placed on the internal market, a meaningful number of classes of performance shall be identified, with category A being the best class with the lowest life-cycle impact, to allow for market differentiation. The identification of the threshold for each class of performance, as well as their width, shall be based on the distribution of performances of the relevant critical raw materials placed on the market in the previous three years, the expected technological improvements, and other technical factors to be identified.

The Commission shall review the number of performance classes and the thresholds between them every three years in order to keep them representative of the market reality and its expected development.

Part IX**Conformity assessment**

The calculation and verification rules shall specify the applicable conformity assessment procedure from among the modules set out in Annex II to Decision No 768/2008/EC, with the adaptations necessary in view of the material concerned.

When specifying the applicable conformity assessment procedure, the Commission shall consider the following criteria:

- (a) whether the module concerned is appropriate to the type of material and proportionate to the public interest pursued;
- (b) the nature of the risks entailed by the product and the extent to which conformity assessment corresponds to the type and degree of risk;
- (c) where third party involvement is mandatory, the need for the manufacturer to have a choice between quality assurance and product certification modules set out in Annex II to Decision No 768/2008/EC.