



UNFC in the EU Critical Raw Materials Act

Raw Materials Week, 6th Event on the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and the United Nations Resource Management System

16 November 2023, Brussels

Milan GROHOL

European Commission. Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SME's (DG GROW).

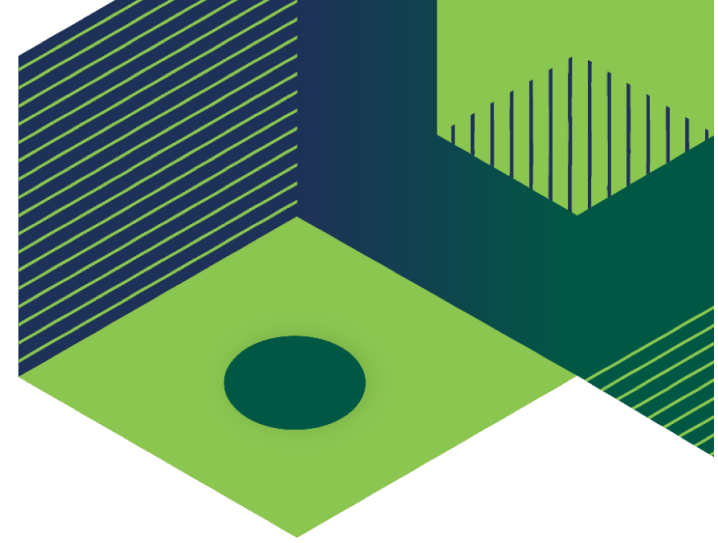
Unit I1 - «Energy intensive industries, Raw Materials, Hydrogen»

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Why UNFC?

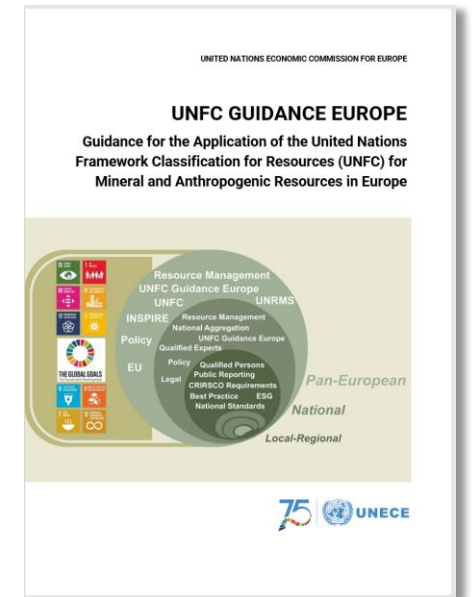
UNFC allows us to

- Compare different resource projects (minerals, secondary RM, hydrogen...)
- Classify the projects along value chain from exploration, mining, processing and recycling
- Assess environmental and social performance of the projects
- Transpose information from a wide range of reporting systems
- Monitor development of projects over time



Deploying UNFC in the EU

- **UNECE project to support development and implementation of UNFC and UNRMS in the EU and beyond 2020-2024**
- **Network of practitioners**
- **UNFC Guidance Europe 2022**
- **EU database of CRM projects (CRM Action Plan 2020)**
- **Geological Service for EU (GSEU) 2022-2027**
- **Future Availability of Secondary Raw Materials (Futuram) 2022-2026**
- **Critical Raw Materials Act**



EUROPEAN CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS ACT

March 2023

SETTING 2030 BENCHMARKS FOR STRATEGIC RAW MATERIALS



Strengthen all stages of the European CRM value chain



Diversify EU CRM imports to reduce strategic dependencies



Improve EU capacity to monitor and mitigate risks of disruption to CRM supply



Improve CRM circularity and sustainability



EU EXTRACTION

At least **10%** of the EU's annual consumption for extraction



EU PROCESSING

At least **40%** of the EU's annual consumption for processing



EU RECYCLING

At least **15%** of the EU's annual consumption for recycling



EXTERNAL SOURCES

Not more than **65%** of the EU's annual consumption of **each strategic raw material at any relevant stage of processing** from a single third country

Critical and Strategic Raw Materials 2023

34 RAW MATERIALS DEFINED AS CRITICAL BY THEIR HIGH

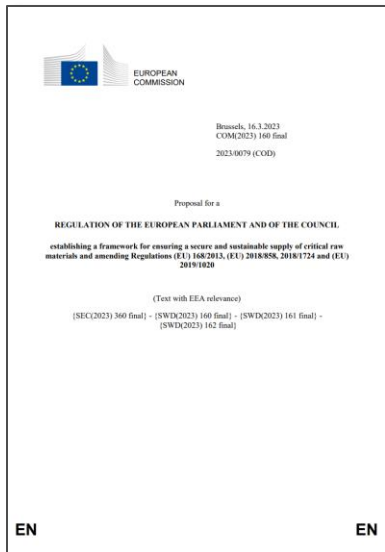
- Economic importance
- Supply risk

Note: A subset of the CRMs are classified as „strategic raw materials“ due to their use in strategic technologies and strong projected demand growth. Certain measures under the CRMA apply only to them.

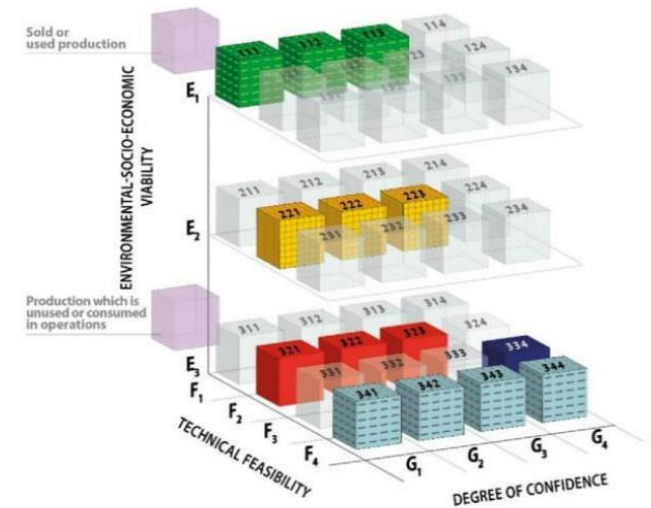
... based on a regular assessment of available data in an established methodology

- Antimony
- Arsenic
- Bauxite
- Baryte
- Beryllium
- Bismuth
- Boron
- Cobalt
- Coking Coal
- Copper
- Feldspar
- Fluorspar
- Gallium
- Germanium
- Hafnium
- Helium
- Heavy Rare Earth Elements
- Light Rare Earth Elements
- Lithium
- Magnesium
- Manganese
- Natural Graphite
- Nickel – battery grade
- Niobium
- Phosphate rock
- Phosphorus
- Platinum Group Metals
- Scandium
- Silicon metal
- Strontium
- Tantalum
- Titanium metal
- Tungsten
- Vanadium

UNFC in CRMA



1. STRATEGIC PROJECTS
2. EXPLORATION
3. MONITORING
4. EXTRACTIVE WASTE



BUILDING EUROPEAN CAPACITIES

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Identifying **Strategic Projects** in the Union and third countries that intend to become active in the extraction, processing or recycling of strategic raw materials. They would benefit from streamlined and predictable permitting procedures in the Union and coordination of support to improve access to finance



Speeding up permitting for all critical raw material projects with a one-stop-shop contact



Developing national exploration programmes to **boost knowledge on European critical raw materials resources**

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STRATEGIC PROJECTS

Chapter 3: Strengthening the Union raw materials value chain

SECTION 1: STRATEGIC PROJECTS

Article 6: Application and Recognition

“Applications for recognition of a raw material project as a **Strategic Project** shall be submitted by the project promoter to the Commission. The **application** shall include: a classification of the project according to the **United Nations Framework Classification for Resources**, supported by appropriate evidence”

EXPLORATION

Chapter 3: Strengthening the Union raw materials value chain

SECTION 4: EXPLORATION

Article 18: National exploration programmes

“**Member States** shall make the information on their **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. This information shall, where applicable, include the classification of the identified occurrences using the **United Nations Framework Classification for Resources**”

IMPROVING RESILIENCE

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Monitoring critical raw materials and stress testing strategic raw materials supply chains by pooling EU and Member State expertise



Mitigating the risk of strategic raw materials supply disruptions by coordinating the development of national **strategic stocks**, requiring audits of large companies' supply chains and facilitating the joint purchasing



Expanding the **network** of strategic raw materials partnerships **with third countries**



Creating a **Critical Raw Materials Club** with interested countries globally to strengthen supply chains and foster sustainable investment and trade



Strengthening the WTO and enhancing the network of Free Trade Agreements and Sustainable Investment Facilitation Agreements



Using the Global Gateway for soft and hard infrastructure for projects along the raw materials value chain, support connectivity to lower the risk of investment abroad and combatting unfair trade practices related to raw materials

MONITORING

Chapter 4: Risk monitoring and mitigation

Article 20: Information obligations for monitoring

“**Member States** shall, as part of the report referred to in Article 43, provide information to the Commission on any new or existing **raw material project** on their territory that is relevant regarding to Article 19(1), point (d), including a **classification of new projects** according to the **United Nations Framework Classification of Resources**”

PROMOTING A MORE SUSTAINABLE AND CIRCULAR CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS ECONOMY

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CIRCULARITY

Chapter 5 Sustainability

SECTION 1: CIRCULARITY

Article 26: Recovery of critical raw materials from extractive waste

“... 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.**”

Useful links

[CRM Act Press Release](#)

[CRM Act \(Draft Regulation\)](#)

[CRM Act \(Communication\)](#)

[2023 Study on CRMs for the EU](#)

[2023 JRC Foresight Study](#)

[CRM Factsheets by SCRREEN](#)

