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“Strategic alliance for resource security: EU-US talks on critical minerals”

Opening of negotiations of an agreement with the United States of America on strengthening international supply chains of critical minerals

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Negotiations with the United States on a Critical Minerals Agreement are a major step to address some of the EU's concerns about the IRA and contribute to increasing the extraction, processing, and recycling of critical raw materials in the EU, in particular those of strategic nature.

They can also impact supply chain dependencies with China, especially when it comes to critical materials and products that are needed for the digital and green transitions and are of critical importance for EU supply chains.

If we are not watchful, the EU runs the risk of switching addictions from Russian fossil fuels to Chinese raw materials.

I trust that no efforts will be spared to ensure the best possible outcome of the negotiations.

I agree with Chair Lange, it will be important that the final agreement covers all 50 minerals listed in the IRA.

I strongly regret that the scope of the mandate sought by the Commission does not cover recycled raw materials.

The EU should push for the inclusion of recycling in the scope of negotiations.

I trust that concluding the deal before the end of the year will be feasible and would allow the EU critical raw materials to qualify for the US Clean Vehicles tax break.

Of course the CMA would only remedy one concern, though a big one, the EU faces under the IRA.

In the IRA, there are more provisions with negative repercussions on the EU industry that go beyond the CMA and which are not compatible with WTO rules or unfairly disadvantage EU companies on the US market.

Let me conclude by urging the Commission to keep engaging with the US government to address all our outstanding concerns.

We also expect an agreement that will be fully in line with the goals of the EU Critical Raw Materials Act, promote fair competition, and facilitate EU-US trade.