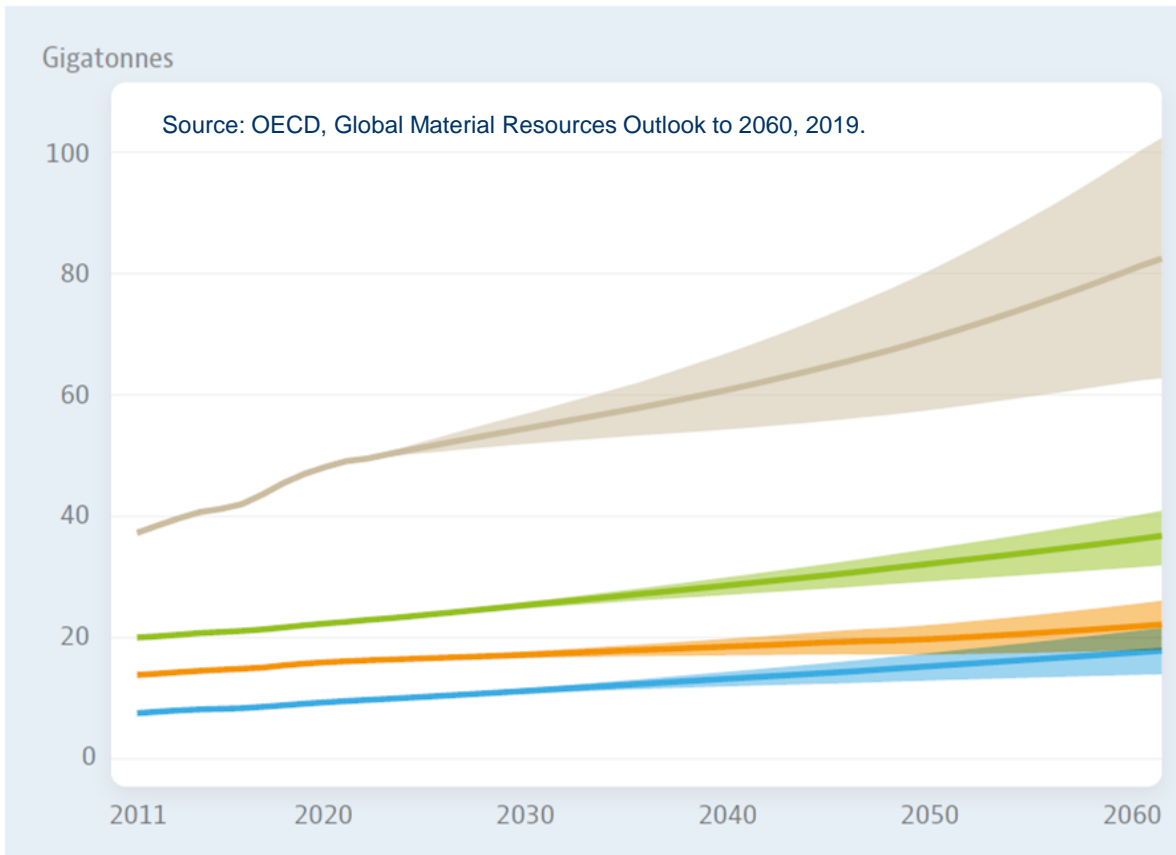




# EU policy on securing access to sustainable raw materials/EU principles for sustainable raw materials

 Biomass  Fossil fuels  Metals  Non-metallic minerals



## EU Green Deal

**EU new Industrial Strategy for Europe** (March 2020/April 2021)

**European recovery plan** (May 2020)

**Critical Raw Materials communication** (September 2020):

- Action Plan on Critical Raw Materials
- 2020 List of Critical Raw Materials

# 10 actions to ensure Europe's access to raw materials

1. European Raw Materials Alliance
2. Develop sustainable financing criteria for mining
3. Research and innovation on waste processing, advanced materials and substitution
4. Map the potential supply of secondary CRM from EU stocks and wastes
5. Investment needs for mining projects that can be operational in 2025
6. Develop expertise and skills in mining
7. Deploy Earth observation programmes for exploration, operation and post-closure environmental management
8. Develop research and innovation projects on exploitation and processing of CRMs
9. Develop strategic international partnerships to secure CRMs supply
- 10. Promote responsible mining practices for CRMs**

# EU principles for sustainable raw materials

- Strategic Action Plan for Batteries implementation report (April 2019)
- Action 10 of the CRM Action Plan: *Promote responsible mining practices for CRMs*

## Objective:

- Integrated approach to sustainable raw materials extraction and processing in Europe in terms of social, environmental, and economic performance.
- Align the understanding of sustainable raw materials extraction (from exploration to post-closure) and processing operations amongst Member States and define the general direction towards the SDGs.
- Enable to better communicate with the public on the conditions at which sustainable raw materials extraction and processing takes place in Europe and increase public acceptance for this activity.



# EU principles for sustainable raw materials

Who is developing the principles - what is the process?

- Developed by the **RMSG Subgroup** (members include **Member States, industry associations, research organisations, NGO's, social partners**)  
“Exchanging best practices on land use planning, permitting and geological knowledge”
- Reflect the good practices that are followed within the European Union and that are expected to be applied also by new entrants to the market.
- The principles will be presented to the RMSG for adoption and endorsement by end of Q2/21.



# EU principles for sustainable raw materials

## Scope:

- Applicable to the extraction and processing stages of non-energy raw materials and to the entire minerals value chains lifecycle from exploration to post-closure, as well as to the production of secondary raw materials from extractive waste streams such as waste rocks, processing wastes/tailings.
- The principles do not impose any obligations on the Member States or the industry.
- Development of indicators and certification is outside the scope of this action.



# EU principles for sustainable raw materials

- 8 principles in social, economic/governance and environmental areas.
- Build upon a list of the existing EU acquis that Member States and companies should respect for sustainable raw materials extraction (from exploration to post-closure) and processing.
- Add to coherence amongst internationally agreed sustainable raw materials extraction and processing initiatives (e.g. TSM, OECD DDL, the Cobalt Industry Responsible Assessment Framework (CIRAF), ICMM, IRMA...)



## III Environmental principles

### Environmental management and impact mitigation

6. Sustainable raw materials extraction and processing apply sound environmental management practices. It is ensured by\*:

a. applying sound science- and knowledge-based environmental management of technical and economic feasibility, which is in alignment with the current legal framework in place and the European Green Deal, the main negative impacts of the operations on the **environment** (e.g. water, air and soil) as well as resulting damages will be **adequately monitored, assessed and minimised**.

b. **environmental protection and mitigation measures** being applied throughout the life of an extraction and processing operation, from exploration to post closure.

*\* This supports Sustainable Development Goal 6 "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all", Sustainable Development Goal 12, Sustainable Development Goal 15: "Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss".*





## III Environmental principles

### Environmental management and impact mitigation

c. applying the **best available techniques on extractive waste management**, in line with the Extractive Waste Directive and Reference Document for the Management of Waste from Extractive Industries (MWEI) BREF in place.

d. applying, in line with the current EU legislation and the European Green Deal and Biodiversity Strategy, the **conservation of biodiversity\***, and any negative impact on biodiversity is minimised and where legally stipulated compensated through implementation of integrated approaches as well as reconciliation of extractive and processing activities in Natura 2000 sites\*\*.

*\* This supports Sustainable Development Goal 15 "Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss".*

*\*\* See [Guidance Document: Non-energy mineral extraction and Natura 2000](#)*



## I Social principles

### Human rights, engagement with communities of interest, employment, health and safety:

2. Sustainable raw materials extraction and processing support Decent Work for the workforce\* through:

- a. improving the worker's health and safety with the commitment of achieving a zero accidents target;
- b. continuously improving the skills of the workers, creating and maintaining a stable and quality workplace;
- c. respect for worker's rights in line with the International Labor Organization Fundamental Conventions

*\* This supports Sustainable Development Goal 8 "Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all".*



## **II Economic- and governance principles**

### **Business integrity, transparency and wider economic contribution**

4. Sustainable raw materials extraction and processing constitute an essential building block for sustainable value chains that have a strategic importance for economic growth and the sustainability of Europe's economy and society\* including the transition to climate neutrality and a digital economy as stated in the European Green Deal in that they:

a. contribute to the economic growth and the socio-economic advancement of communities, including indigenous people, associated with or affected by extraction and processing operations\*\*.

*\* This supports Sustainable Development Goal 12 "Ensure sustainable production and consumption patterns", Sustainable Development Goal 8 "Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, Sustainable Development Goal 9 "Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation".*

*\*\* This supports Sustainable Development Goal 8, Sustainable Development Goal 9, Sustainable Development Goal 12.*



## **II Economic - and governance principles**

### **Business integrity, transparency and wider economic contribution**

b. are carried out to ensure long-term sustainability and economic viability to develop and meet the demands and expectations of modern society for minerals and metals.

c. facilitate innovation\* and encourage the uptake of digital technologies for safer, cleaner and cost-effective production processes.

d. implement circular economy and resource efficiency driven mineral-based technology value chains to promote waste recovery, and enable energy transition and electrification.

*\* In alignment with EU Industrial strategy and EU Digital strategy*

# Example principles (draft)



## ANNEX

### ANNEX

#### EU principles for sustainable raw materials, links to relevant EU legislation, scope

EU principles for sustainable raw materials, Social/ Economic- and governance/ Environmental	EU principles for sustainable raw materials, 1-8	EU principles for sustainable raw materials, sub-categories	EU legislation	EU legislation - scope
Social principles	Human rights, engagement with communities of interest, employment, health and safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Respect for human rights, cultures, customs and values of people, including indigenous populations, affected by extraction and processing activities.</li> <li>- A constructive and active dialogue <u>with communities and workers concerned</u>, including those of indigenous people, to advance the social, economic and institutional development of those communities. The dialogue shall be effective and transparent and deliver on reporting arrangements with concerned stakeholders.</li> <li>- Commitment to ensure safe living conditions in communities concerned, including of indigenous</li> </ul>	Council Directive 92/104/EEC of 3 December 1992 on the minimum requirements for improving the safety and health protection of workers in surface and underground mineral-extracting industries	The Directive covers surface and underground mineral-extracting industries, including prospecting, and the preparation of extracted materials for sale. It does not cover the subsequent processing of the materials extracted.
			Council Directive 92/91/EEC of 3 November 1992 concerning the minimum requirements for improving the safety and health protection of workers in the mineral- extracting industries through drilling	The objective of this Directive is to improve the safety and health conditions of workers in the extractive industries concerned with exploration for and extraction of minerals by means of boreholes (onshore and offshore),
			DIRECTIVE 2004/107/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 15 December 2004 relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air.	Target value for arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic

**Thank you!**



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**EU raw materials policy:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/raw-materials/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/raw-materials/index_en.htm)

**Critical raw materials for the EU:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/raw-materials/specific-interest/critical\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/raw-materials/specific-interest/critical_en)

**2020 Communication on Critical Raw Materials Resilience: Charting a Path towards greater Security and Sustainability (contains CRM Action Plan and 2020 list of CRM):**

<https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/42849>

**Guidance document on non-energy mineral extraction and Natura 2000:**

[https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/nee\\_n2000\\_guidance.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/nee_n2000_guidance.pdf)

**Strategic Action Plan for Batteries implementation report (April 2019):**

[https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:72b1e42b-5ab2-11e9-9151-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC\\_1&format=PDF](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:72b1e42b-5ab2-11e9-9151-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF)