

Eurometaux reaction for BHRRC on Friends of the Earth Critical Raw Materials Act report

“Europe’s raw materials challenge threatens to be a critical bottleneck to the energy transition. We [as Eurometaux] have provided open positions and data-backed evidence to highlight this challenge for policymakers and propose solutions. Throughout, we have supported high environmental and social standards. The report in question provides a skewed and incomplete interpretation of a sound political process.

We are clear in our outreach that the scale of Europe’s metals supply gap requires a comprehensive approach. All scenarios for 2030 and beyond will need an increase in responsible mining and processing activities together with demand-side measures, plus reliable trade partners and recycling advancements. Sustainability must be a core principle across the supply chain, and Europe is well-placed to make this one of its raw materials differentiators compared with other regions.

The EU already has a world leading package of environmental and due diligence legislation, which is a great foundation for ensuring supply chain responsibility. We are proud as an industry to operate in this framework. Together we now need to ensure that all individual policies are working coherently, so the EU can achieve its sustainability and resilience goals together. This is not always the case today across EU Member States. The Critical Raw Materials Act provides a solid basis for all stakeholders to build on, and we have supported its new actions on environmental footprinting, due diligence, and circularity alongside efforts to drive forwards new responsible EU projects.

The biggest risk remains that Europe fails to take control of its raw materials supply chains, meaning that our Green Deal will be supplied by raw materials from third country suppliers not all meeting Europe’s sustainability expectations.”

Attributable to Chris Heron, Communication and Public Affairs Director, Eurometaux – 31 July 2023