



2026/2349

22.10.2026

COMMISSION DECISION (EU) 2026/2349

of 9 October 2026

**recognising certain critical raw material projects as Strategic Projects under Regulation
(EU) 2024/1252 of the European Parliament and of the Council**

(notified under document C(2026) 8051)

(Only the English text is authentic)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to 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 ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 7(9) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Pursuant to Article 1(2), point (a) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1252 and in view of securing the Union's supply of critical raw materials, the Commission is to identify projects for the extraction, processing, recycling or substitution of strategic raw materials, with the aim of recognising such projects as Strategic Projects under the framework laid down in Article 7 of that Regulation.
- (2) In accordance with Article 7(3) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1252, the Commission launched on 23 May 2024 a call to apply for the recognition of a critical raw material project as a Strategic Project ⁽²⁾, with a second cut-off date on 15 January 2026.
- (3) Following the submission of applications, the Commission informed the applicants on 13 February 2026 whether the information provided was considered complete in accordance with Article 7(4) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1252.
- (4) At the time of the second cut-off date on 15 January 2026, 101 applications were submitted from proposed projects located in Member States, 98 of which the Commission considered complete in accordance with Article 7(1) and (4) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1252.
- (5) In accordance with Article 7(5) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1252, the Commission informed the European Critical Raw Materials Board ('the Board') established by Article 35(1) of that Regulation of the applications the Commission considered complete.
- (6) Thereafter, the Commission transmitted the full applications, in accordance with Article 7(7) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1252, to Member States whose territory is concerned by the proposed project or projects. The Member States concerned had the opportunity to provide technical feedback and object to those proposed projects in accordance with Article 7(8) of that Regulation.
- (7) The Commission assessed those applications in accordance with the criteria specified in Article 6(1) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1252, with the support of external experts with professional expertise in the technical, financial, environmental, social and governance (ESG) dimensions of a project, as well as in the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) ⁽³⁾. The expert report provided the basis for the Commission's assessment.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L, 2024/1252, 3.5.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1252/oj>.

⁽²⁾ Call for applications: Strategic Projects under the Critical Raw Materials Act – Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs.

⁽³⁾ United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) | UNECE.

- (8) In particular, the Commission assessed those applications in light of their contribution to the security of the Union's supply of strategic raw materials, technical feasibility, sustainable implementation and cross-border benefits, pursuant to Article 6(1) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1252. The projects that fulfil all the criteria set out in that Article should therefore be recognised as Strategic Projects.
- (9) The Commission provided the Board with its assessment in accordance with Article 7(6), second subparagraph, of Regulation (EU) 2024/1252. None of the projects that fulfil all the criteria provided for in Article 6(1) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1252 listed in the Annex to this Decision received an objection from the Member States whose territory is concerned by the proposed projects in accordance with Article 7(8) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1252.
- (10) The Commission should therefore notify all applicants for the recognition of a project as Strategic Project. In particular, the Commission should notify all applicants of the result of its assessment and the reasoning thereof ensuring the protection of trade and business secrets and other sensitive, confidential and classified information, in accordance with Article 46 of Regulation (EU) 2024/1252.
- (11) The Commission is to provide this Decision to the Board and to the Member State or Member States whose territory is concerned by the project or projects, in accordance with Article 7(9), second subparagraph, of Regulation (EU) 2024/1252.
- (12) This Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the Board,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The projects listed in the Annex are recognised as Strategic Projects.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the following undertakings:

	Project promoter	Promoter address	Project name
1	Mitsubishi Materials Europe B.V	Honthorststraat 19, 1071 DC Amsterdam, Netherlands	3ECYCLE
2	9-Tech	Via della Geologia 31, 30176, Venice, Italy	9PV-up: Upcycling raw materials from end-of-life photovoltaic panels.
3	Neptune Energy Innovations GmbH	Ahrensburger Straße 1, DE-30659 Hannover, Germany	ALE – Altmark Lithium Extraction
4	Alkeemia S.p.A.	Via della Chimica, 5, 30175 Porto Marghera (VE), Italy	Alkeemia PureGraph
5	ABENÓJAR TUNGSTEN S.A.	Calle Ayala n° 10, 4° Izquierda, Madrid, Spain	EU APT Tungsten Plant
6	MINERALIA – Minas, Geotecnia e Construções, Lda.	R. Padre José G. Eigenmann, n. 90, 4715-199 Braga, Portugal	BORRALHA MINING PROJECT
7	Rhodia Operations	9 rue des Cuirassiers 69003 Lyon, France	BREES (Best Rare Earth Element Separation)
8	Leonardo S.p.A.	Piazza Monte Grappa n. 4, 00195, Roma, Italy	CRM4Defence – Byproducts and Recycling of CRM for Defence

	Project promoter	Promoter address	Project name
9	Cobre San Rafael, S.L.	Lugar La Mina, s/n, 15.822 Touro (A Coruña), Spain	Cobre San Rafael Project
10	Umicore	Broekstraat 31, 1000 Brussels, Belgium	CoNiKo – Cobalt and Nickel refining in Kokkola
11	Comet Traitements	Rivage de Boubier, 25 – 6200 Chatelet, Belgium	CUPIDON
12	KGHM Polska Miedź S.A.	ul. Marii Skłodowskiej-Curie 48, 59-300 Lubin, Poland	Development and extraction of the Retków-Grodziszczę Deposit in KGHM Polska Miedź S.A.
13	ELECTRO MOBILITY MATERIALS EUROPE (EMME)	43 rue d'Armagnac, 33800 Bordeaux, France	EMME
14	ECO LIFE STYLE S.R.L.	Strada Plevnei no. 42, Dascalu Commune, Ilfov County, Romania	Establishment of electric battery recycling capacity, Racari city, Dambovită county
15	ElvalHalcor Hellenic Copper and Aluminium industry S.A.	62nd km Athens – Lamia National Road, GR 320 11, Oinofyta, Viotia, Greece	ETEOCLES – Developing a recycling hub for low quality copper scrap
16	cylib Production I GmbH	Philipsstraße 8, 52068 Aachen, Germany	EU BEST STRAT: Battery Economical Sustainable (Recycling-) Technology
17	AMG Lithium GmbH	Industriepark Höchst Gebäude B852, 65926 Frankfurt, Germany	European Lithium Refining and Recycling Hub Bitterfeld: from primary raw materials via recycling to critical solid state battery components.
18	CMK s.r.o.	Sandricka 30, 96681 Žarnovica, Slovakia	GaRefine – Gallium Recycling & Refining for Europe
19	FinnCobalt Oy	Suutarinkatu 9 83500 Outokumpu, Finland	Hautalampi Cobalt-Nickel-Copper Mine Project
20	HyProMag GmbH	Unterm Wolfsberg 9/9a, 75177 Pforzheim, Germany	HyProMag GmbH
21	Lithium de France	31 rue de la Redoute, 67500 Haguenau, France	Lithium de France
22	Aubert & Duval SAS	12 rue d'Oradour-sur-Glane, 92130 Issy-les-Moulineaux, France	LUERN
23	Myne Circular Metals B.V	Lorentzkade 2, 3846BP Harderwijk, Netherlands	Myne Circular Metals Harderwijk
24	NEOMAT PCAM	Zac des Bassins, 124 rue ru Magasin General, 59140 Dunkerque, France	NEOMAT-PCAM
25	Aluminium Rolling Division of ELVALHALCOR (Hellenic Copper and Aluminium Industry S.A)	61st km Athens – Lamia National Road, GR 320 11, Oinofyta, Viotia, Greece	NEW ALUMINIUM RECYCLING HUB IN GREECE

	Project promoter	Promoter address	Project name
26	Umicore	Broekstraat 31, 1000 Brussel, Belgium	OREON (Optimal REcycling Of Nickel)
27	Slovalco, a.s.	Priemyselná 14, 965 48 Žiar nad Hronom, Slovakia	Production of Primary Aluminium and Product Diversification in Slovalco, a.s.
28	Arctial Group Oy	Fabianinkatu 9, 00130 Helsinki, Finland	Project Arctial
29	Pure Battery Technologies Ltd.	Level 32, 10 Eagle Street, Brisbane, QLD,4000, Australia	Pure Battery Technologies pCAM plant Europe
30	KGHM Polska Miedź S.A.	ul. Marii Skłodowskiej-Curie 48, 59-300 Lubin, Poland	Integrated Recycling Smelter
31	Refinis	Pramones street 2, Lazdenai, Lithuania	Refinis recycling plant (UAB Refinis)
32	Italrecycling & Investment srl	Via della costituzione 19, 52048 Monte San Savino, Italy	ReSuPLIR – Recovery and Supply of Platinum, Iridium and Ruthenium
33	OMCD TEK HUB S.p.A.	via Megolo, 43 – 28877 Anzola d'Ossola (VB), Italy	REW-ITA green HUB: Recovery of Wolfram: Italian Technology Advanced green Hub
34	Aurubis AG	Hovestrasse 50, 20539, Hamburg, Germany	Second TBRC Lünen
35	NPM Silmet OÜ	Sillamäe linn, Kesk tn 2/1, 40231, IDA-Viru maakond, Estonia	Silmet 2.0
36	Hellas Gold S.A.	Leoforos Vasilissis Sofias 23A, Athens, Greece	Skouries Project
37	Sokli Oy	Soklinkairantie 12, 98840, Ruuvaoja, Finland	Sokli
38	Back to Battery B.V.	Mezenlaan 75, 2566ZE, Delft, Netherlands	Enabling CRM production in Europe by recovering CRM from end-of-life batteries: A scalable battery black mass refining process that extracts critical raw materials from all types of Li-ion batteries in an environmental friendly way.
39	Suhanko Arctic Platinum Oy	Ahjtie 7, 96320 Rovaniemi, Finland	Suhanko project
40	Aurubis Bulgaria AD	Industrial zone, 2070, Pirdop Bulgaria	Tankhouse Expansion Pirdop
41	Isabellenhütte Heusler GmbH & Co. KG	Eibacher Weg 3-5, 35683 Dillenburg, Germany	Titanium alloys made in Europe
42	TDM Electronics Inc.	Spokojna 1, 05-555, Rembertów, Poland	Urban mining

	Project promoter	Promoter address	Project name
43	CRITICAL. (owner of Circular Industries)	Veembroederhof 281, 1019 HD Amsterdam, Netherlands	Urban Mining Factory – Printed Circuit Boards
44	Verde Magnesium Industries SRL	Virgil Plesoianu, 84, Ap. 1, Sector 1, Bucharest, Romania	Verde Magnesium Industries
45	Gruvaktiebolaget Viscaria	Viscariavägen 10, 981 99, Kiruna, Sweden	Viscaria Copper Project
46	Zinnwald Lithium Plc	22A St James's Square, London, SW1Y 4JH, United Kingdom	Zinnwald Lithium Project

Done at Brussels, 9 October 2026.

For the Commission
Stéphane SÉJOURNÉ
Executive Vice-President

ANNEX

LIST OF STRATEGIC PROJECTS

- (1) 3ECYCLE is an ongoing recycling project in the Netherlands. The project promoted by Mitsubishi Materials Europe B.V aims to contribute to the supply of copper.
- (2) 9PV-up: Upcycling raw materials from end-of-life photovoltaic panels. is an ongoing recycling project in Italy. The project promoted by 9-Tech aims to contribute to the supply of bauxite/alumina/aluminium, copper and silicon metal.
- (3) ALE – Altmark Lithium Extraction is an ongoing integrated project in Germany. The project promoted by Neptune Energy Innovations GmbH aims to contribute to the supply of lithium (battery grade).
- (4) Alkeemia PureGraph is an ongoing processing project in Italy. The project promoted by Alkeemia S.p.A. aims to contribute to the supply of graphite (battery grade).
- (5) EU APT Tungsten Plant is an ongoing processing project in Spain. The project promoted by ABENÓJAR TUNGSTEN S.A. aims to contribute to the supply of tungsten.
- (6) BORRALHA MINING PROJECT is an ongoing extraction project in Portugal. The project promoted by MINERALIA – Minas, Geotecnia e Construções, Lda. aims to contribute to the supply of tungsten.
- (7) BREES (Best Rare Earth Element Separation) is an ongoing recycling project in France. The project promoted by Rhodia Operations aims to contribute to the supply of rare earth elements for magnets.
- (8) CRM4Defence – Byproducts and Recycling of CRM for Defence is an ongoing recycling project in Italy, Poland, United Kingdom and France. The project promoted by Leonardo S.p.A. aims to contribute to the supply of bauxite/alumina/aluminium, magnesium and titanium-metal.
- (9) Cobre San Rafael Project is an ongoing extraction project in Spain. The project promoted by Cobre San Rafael, S.L. aims to contribute to the supply of copper.
- (10) CoNiKo – Cobalt and Nickel refining in Kokkola is an ongoing processing project in Finland. The project promoted by Umicore aims to contribute to the supply of cobalt and nickel (battery grade).
- (11) CUPIDON is an ongoing recycling project in Belgium. The project promoted by Comet Traitements aims to contribute to the supply of copper.
- (12) Development and extraction of the Retków-Grodziszczce Deposit in KGHM Polska Miedź S.A. is an ongoing extraction project in Poland. The project promoted by KGHM Polska Miedź S.A. aims to contribute to the supply of copper.
- (13) EMME is an ongoing integrated project in France. The project promoted by ELECTRO MOBILITY MATERIALS EUROPE (EMME) aims to contribute to the supply of cobalt and nickel (battery grade).
- (14) Establishment of electric battery recycling capacity, Racari city, Dambovită county is an ongoing recycling project in Romania. The project promoted by ECO LIFE STYLE S.R.L. aims to contribute to the supply of cobalt, lithium (battery grade), manganese (battery grade), graphite (battery grade) and nickel (battery grade).
- (15) ETEOCLES – Developing a recycling hub for low quality copper scrap is an ongoing recycling project in Greece. The project promoted by ElvalHalcor Hellenic Copper and Aluminium industry S.A. aims to contribute to the supply of copper.

- (16) EU BEST STRAT: Battery Economical Sustainable (Recycling-) Technology is an ongoing recycling project in Germany. The project promoted by cylib Production I GmbH aims to contribute to the supply of bauxite/alumina/aluminium, copper, cobalt, lithium (battery grade), manganese (battery grade), graphite (battery grade) and nickel (battery grade).
- (17) European Lithium Refining and Recycling Hub Bitterfeld: from primary raw materials via recycling to critical solid state battery components is an ongoing integrated project in Germany. The project promoted by AMG Lithium GmbH aims to contribute to the supply of lithium (battery grade).
- (18) GaRefine – Gallium Recycling & Refining for Europe is an ongoing recycling project in Slovakia. The project promoted by CMK s.r.o. aims to contribute to the supply of gallium.
- (19) Hautalampi Cobalt-Nickel-Copper Mine Project is an ongoing extraction project in Finland. The project promoted by FinnCobalt Oy aims to contribute to the supply of copper, cobalt and nickel (battery grade).
- (20) HyProMag GmbH is an ongoing recycling project in Germany. The project promoted by HyProMag GmbH aims to contribute to the supply of rare earth elements for magnets.
- (21) Lithium de France is an ongoing integrated project in France. The project promoted by Lithium de France aims to contribute to the supply of lithium (battery grade).
- (22) LUERN is an ongoing processing project in France. The project promoted by Aubert & Duval SAS aims to contribute to the supply of titanium-metal.
- (23) Myne Circular Metals Harderwijk is an ongoing recycling project in Netherlands. The project promoted by Myne Circular Metals B.V aims to contribute to the supply of bauxite/alumina/aluminium and copper.
- (24) NEOMAT-PCAM is an ongoing processing project in France. The project promoted by NEOMAT PCAM aims to contribute to the supply of cobalt, manganese (battery grade) and nickel (battery grade).
- (25) NEW ALUMINIUM RECYCLING HUB IN GREECE is an ongoing recycling project in Greece. The project promoted by Aluminium Rolling Division of ELVALHALCOR (Hellenic Copper and Aluminium Industry S.A) aims to contribute to the supply of bauxite/alumina/aluminium.
- (26) OREON (Optimal REcycling Of Nickel) is an ongoing processing project in Belgium. The project promoted by Umicore aims to contribute to the supply of copper, cobalt, nickel (battery grade) and platinum group metals.
- (27) Production of Primary Aluminium and Product Diversification in Slovalco, a.s. is an ongoing processing project in Slovakia. The project promoted by Slovalco, a.s. aims to contribute to the supply of bauxite/alumina/aluminium.
- (28) Project Arctial is an ongoing processing project in Finland. The project promoted by Arctial Group Oy aims to contribute to the supply of bauxite/alumina/aluminium.
- (29) Pure Battery Technologies pCAM plant Europe is an ongoing integrated project in Germany. The project promoted by Pure Battery Technologies Ltd. aims to contribute to the supply of cobalt, manganese (battery grade) and nickel (battery grade).
- (30) Integrated Recycling Smelter is an ongoing recycling project in Poland. The project promoted by KGHM Polska Miedź S.A. aims to contribute to the supply of copper and nickel (battery grade).

- (31) Refinis is an ongoing recycling project in Lithuania. The project promoted by Refinis recycling plant (UAB Refinis) aims to contribute to the supply of platinum group metals.
- (32) ReSuPLIR – Recovery and Supply of Platinum, Iridium and Ruthenium is an ongoing integrated project in Italy. The project promoted by Italrecycling & Investment srl aims to contribute to the supply of platinum group metals.
- (33) REW-ITA green HUB: Recovery of Wolfram: Italian Technology Advanced green Hub is an ongoing recycling project in Italy. The project promoted by OMCD TEK HUB S.p.A. aims to contribute to the supply of copper, cobalt and tungsten.
- (34) Second TBRC Lünen is an ongoing recycling project in Germany. The project promoted by Aurubis AG aims to contribute to the supply of copper.
- (35) Silmet 2.0 is an ongoing processing project in Estonia. The project promoted by NPM Silmet OÜ aims to contribute to the supply of rare earth elements for magnets.
- (36) Skouries Project is an ongoing extraction project in Greece. The project promoted by Hellas Gold S.A. aims to contribute to the supply of copper.
- (37) Sokli is an ongoing extraction project in Finland. The project promoted by Sokli Oy aims to contribute to the supply of rare earth elements for magnets.
- (38) Enabling CRM production in Europe by recovering CRM from end-of-life batteries: A scalable battery black mass refining process that extracts critical raw materials from all types of Li-ion batteries in an environmental friendly way. is an ongoing recycling project in Netherlands. The project promoted by Back to Battery B.V. aims to contribute to the supply of cobalt, lithium (battery grade), nickel (battery grade), manganese (battery grade) and graphite (battery grade).
- (39) Suhanko project is an ongoing extraction project in Finland. The project promoted by Suhanko Arctic Platinum Oy aims to contribute to the supply of copper, nickel (battery grade) and platinum group metals.
- (40) Tankhouse Expansion Pirdop is an ongoing processing project in Bulgaria. The project promoted by Aurubis Bulgaria AD aims to contribute to the supply of copper.
- (41) Titanium alloys made in Europe is an ongoing integrated project in Germany. The project promoted by Isabellenhütte Heusler GmbH & Co. KG aims to contribute to the supply of titanium-metal.
- (42) Urban mining is an ongoing recycling project in Poland. The project promoted by TDM Electronics Inc. aims to contribute to the supply of copper, germanium, bauxite/alumina/aluminium and platinum group metals.
- (43) Urban Mining Factory – Printed Circuit Boards is an ongoing recycling project in Netherlands. The project promoted by CRITICAL. (owner of Circular Industries) aims to contribute to the supply of bauxite/alumina/aluminium, copper and nickel (battery grade).
- (44) Verde Magnesium Industries is an ongoing processing project in Romania. The project promoted by Verde Magnesium Industries SRL aims to contribute to the supply of magnesium.
- (45) Viscaria Copper Project is an ongoing extraction project in Sweden. The project promoted by Gruvaktiebolaget Viscaria aims to contribute to the supply of copper.
- (46) Zinnwald Lithium Project is an ongoing integrated project in Germany. The project promoted by Zinnwald Lithium Plc aims to contribute to the supply of lithium (battery grade).