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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	AOB for the meeting of the Competitiveness Council of 24 September 2026: Strategic Projects under the Critical Raw Materials Act <i>- Information from the Commission</i>

Background Note on Strategic Projects under the Critical Raw Materials Act

In implementation of the Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA), the Commission adopted the first list of 47 EU Strategic Projects in March 2025, followed by 13 projects in third countries and Overseas Countries and Territories in June 2025. A second selection process is currently under way, and a new list of Strategic Projects will be published shortly.

Strategic Projects are intended to strengthen the Union's security of supply of strategic raw materials. To be designated, projects must be technically feasible, sustainably implemented, and provide cross-border or mutual benefits for the Union and the third countries concerned.

The 47 EU Strategic Projects are located in 13 Member States. They span various stages of the raw materials value chain, including 25 extraction projects, 24 processing projects, 10 recycling projects and 2 substitution projects. Together, they cover 14 of the 17 strategic raw materials identified under the CRMA.

13 Strategic Projects are located outside the EU. Seven of these are in partner countries with which the EU has established strategic partnerships on raw materials value chains.

The Commission, together with the Member States and in a Team Europe spirit, is closely monitoring progress towards the production of designated Strategic Projects. Projects located in the EU benefit from streamlined permitting procedures, including administrative support through a single point of contact in the Member State concerned, as well as assistance in facilitating access to finance and offtake agreements.

The Commission will present an update on progress achieved by the designated Strategic Projects, highlighting both success stories and the challenges that continue to hinder the development of resilient and secure critical raw materials value chains in Europe.
