



Federal Ministry
for Economic Affairs
and Climate Action



MINISTÈRE
DE L'ÉCONOMIE,
DES FINANCES
ET DE LA SOUVERAINETÉ
INDUSTRIELLE ET NUMÉRIQUE

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Joint Communiqué

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GERMANY, FRANCE AND ITALY DEEPEN THEIR COOPERATION TO SECURE INDUSTRY'S ACCESS TO CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS

The German Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, Dr. Robert HABECK, invited Economy Ministers from Italy and France, Bruno LE MAIRE and Adolfo URSO, to Berlin on June 26th in order to share perspectives and solutions to address the security of supply of critical raw materials (CRM). Representatives from the industry attended the meeting and debated with the Ministers.

The series of crises Europe has gone through since 2020 has shown the urgent need to rethink the EU's position in the global value chains, especially for the critical minerals and metals (lithium, nickel, rare earth elements, gallium, tungsten...) we depend on to build any equipment, from photovoltaic cells to wind turbines and electronic equipment. The green and digital transition will drive an exponential demand for these materials; while scarce supply will intensify global competition. This is why critical materials were listed within the six priority sectors to reduce the strategic dependencies of the EU, developed in the Versailles Agenda in 2022.

During their meeting, ministers Dr. Habeck, Le Maire and Urso exchanged their ideas on the future challenges. Germany, France and Italy agreed to coordinating proposals made in the international fora such as G7 working groups, and to agree on common positions on the EU's Critical Raw Materials Act for the further EU negotiations. With respect to the CRMA, they call for a speedy conclusion of negotiations in the Council and with the European Parliament, while reaching an ambitious result. They notably pledge for:

- Setting up extraction, processing and recycling targets per strategic raw material
- The reinforcement of measures to promote re-use and recycling Strategic Raw materials (SRM)/Critical Raw materials (CRM) in Europe
- Ambitious environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria
- The extension of the lists of CRM/SRM, notably to include aluminum.

In order to secure the entire supply chain, from mining to transformation and recycling, the three Ministers agreed to intensify their cooperation at project level, sharing data and support criteria (with strong promotion of environmental, social and governance standards) for joint investments in strategic projects.

To embody their cooperation, Italy, France and Germany decided to create a working group between experts of their administrations, mandated to follow up on these initiatives and ensure their successful implementation.

This meeting kicks-off a series of trilateral meetings aimed at strengthening Germany, France and Italy's cooperation in key economic areas. The next meeting will take place in Italy in October 2023.