

Driving European Competitiveness: Unlocking Innovation through Raw Materials

Transforming Value Chains: Strategic Raw Materials
for a Sustainable and Resilient Europe



Shaping the Future of European Industry

EUMICON is a voice for all segments of the mineral resources and metals industries across Europe, playing a vital role in Europe's prosperity, competitiveness, and the transition to a carbon-neutral future. As a European platform covering all aspects from extraction and processing to refining, manufacturing, and recycling, we are dedicated to boosting the competitiveness of European industry and ensuring that value chains remain in Europe. We recognise that effective collaboration of industries with policymakers, NGOs, academia, and trade unions is essential for fostering resilience and sustainability within the raw materials system in Europe.

As Europe's strong platform for metals and industrial raw materials, EUMICON fosters strategic discussions and collaborations among diverse stakeholders through high-level events, bilateral meetings, delegation trips, and workshops. We actively safeguard economic prosperity, ensure competitiveness, and drive technological innovation. Our commitment to metals and raw materials is crucial for a sustainable future, supporting job security and social cohesion across the continent, while advancing economic growth and environmental sustainability.



In the pursuit of competitiveness

Raw materials are the backbone of Europe's twin transition to a low-carbon and innovation-driven economy. Ensuring their supply, including critical raw materials and base metals, is essential for Europe's industrial and economic stability, especially considering recent global events.

EUMICON advocates for a comprehensive strategy to secure Europe's industrial future and reduce reliance on external sources by:



Implementing these measures is critical for Europe's resilience against global supply chain disruptions and energy price volatility. By focusing on the above solutions, Europe can secure materials essential for innovation and decarbonisation, while reinforcing its strategic autonomy and ensuring long-term sustainability.

Strengthening the European Market's Leading Role

The Draghi report on *'The Future of European Competitiveness'* outlines some ideas for an EU roadmap to reclaim its leadership position. As challenges bring opportunities, Europe must take key actions to boost competitiveness, drive growth, and build resilience, including:

- **Produce Raw Materials in Europe:** Boosting Europe's raw materials sourcing and production is vital to reduce its external dependency and strengthen strategic autonomy, as the EU produces today less than 7% of critical raw materials globally. Additionally, we aim to retain European scrap by limiting exports.
- **Invest in Renewable Energy:** Investing in renewable energy is key to meet EU sustainability targets and secure a competitive green economy, as demand for clean energy technologies will multiply two to three times by 2030.
- **Strengthen Trade and the Single Market:** Promoting fair trade enhances transparency, while reducing administrative burdens boosts competition. Member states should target 27-month permits for extraction and 15 months for processing, 3 to 5 times shorter than today.
- **Finance for Strategic Sectors:** Increasing financial support is vital for manufacturing, energy, and trade, as EU production facilities face 70% to 130% higher costs than in China due to elevated prices for raw materials, energy, and labour.
- **Develop Innovation and Talent:** Building on its strong position in research and innovation in critical minerals, the EU aims to drive long-term growth and competitiveness. The Horizon Europe program will invest €95.5 billion until 2027 to support new technologies and skills development.

Core challenges of our value chain



Energy

Europe's energy value chain is key to the renewable transition:

- Minerals and metals are essential for clean tech and reducing fossil fuel reliance.
- Ensuring competitive energy prices is crucial for the renewable transition.
- Simplified permits and partnerships strengthen resources and climate goals.



Mobility

Essential for Europe's 2050 carbon neutrality goal:

- Sustainable mobility solutions will multiply the demand for metals and raw materials.
- EU trade actions must ensure equitable resource access to protect European industry from unfair practices.
- A cohesive regulatory framework is key for the industrial policy.



Digitisation

Europe's digital leadership depends on raw materials:

- Critical and strategic raw materials are essential for high-tech and sustainable solutions.
- A stable and resilient supply of materials is essential for strategic autonomy.
- A supportive regulatory framework fosters innovation and global competitiveness.

How can the EU ensure the resilience of its raw materials value chains?

To ensure competitive and stable access to raw materials, strengthen supply chains, and reduce dependency risks, Europe must follow a coordinated strategy across the entire value chain, from raw materials to final products. This approach is crucial for achieving EU-wide and global climate and sustainability goals and preserving European competitiveness.

EUMICON is crucial in this effort, advocating for sustainable practices and collaboration in the raw materials sector, with the **#MadeinEurope** initiative supporting local industries and jobs, and enhancing Europe's strategic autonomy. The Draghi report calls for reducing dependence on external suppliers through local resource investment, recycling technology advancement, and supply chain diversification. The proposed 'Critical Raw Materials Club' would foster collaboration and establish common standards, enhancing Europe's resilience.

By focusing on **collaboration, innovation, and energy cost reduction**, Europe is well-positioned to lead in the global economy for years to come.

Join us today to:



Connect and engage with a network of European experts and industry decision-makers.



Attend and contribute to exclusive high-level events for sharing best practices on the raw materials value chains.



Follow and explore more about raw material regulations, trends, and new technologies on our website and social media channels.



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