Public Consultation on the EU Critical Raw Materials Centre

Feedback from the European Federation of Geologists (EFG)

July 2026

1. Introduction

The European Federation of Geologists (EFG) welcomes the European Commission's initiative to establish a European Critical Raw Materials (CRM) Centre under the Critical Raw Materials Act. The Centre has the potential to become a strategic instrument for strengthening the resilience, competitiveness and strategic autonomy of the European Union by improving market intelligence, supporting strategic projects, enhancing supply-chain resilience and fostering international partnerships.

As the representative organisation of nearly 50,000 geoscientists across Europe, EFG wishes to emphasise that achieving these objectives requires not only access to reliable geological and market information, but also the mobilisation of recognised professional expertise throughout the CRM value chain. The following recommendations build on EFG's long-standing expertise in the field of resource reporting, professional competence, responsible mineral development and EU raw materials policy.

2. Strengthening investor confidence through recognised resource reporting standards

One of the principal barriers to developing European CRM projects remains their unfavourable risk-reward profile. Investors frequently perceive mineral projects as high-risk because of uncertainty surrounding geological confidence, resource quality, project maturity and technical feasibility. Although Europe possesses considerable geological potential, it currently lacks a systematic mechanism ensuring that projects seeking strategic support or public financing are presented using internationally recognised reporting standards that are trusted by financial institutions and global investors.

The European Critical Raw Materials Centre should require, or at minimum strongly encourage, the use of recognised Competent Persons and internationally accepted reporting standards for mineral projects benefiting from strategic support, investment facilitation or financial instruments.

Europe already has an established framework through:

- the European Geologist (EurGeol) professional title, which recognises qualified Competent Persons; and
- the Pan-European Reserves and Resources Reporting Standard (PERC Standard), fully aligned with the CRIRSCO family of international reporting standards.

These frameworks provide investors with confidence that mineral resources and reserves have been estimated, reviewed and reported according to internationally accepted professional and ethical standards.

Embedding recognised European reporting standards within the Centre's activities would:

- increase investor confidence in European CRM projects;
- improve access to public and private finance;

- facilitate cooperation with producing countries outside the EU through internationally recognised reporting practices;
- reduce investment risk and project uncertainty; and
- strengthen the global competitiveness of Europe's critical raw materials sector.

3. Supporting resilient and integrated critical raw materials value chains

Supply-chain disruptions rarely affect only one segment of the value chain. Current approaches often focus separately on extraction, processing, recycling or manufacturing, while vulnerabilities typically emerge through the interaction between these different stages. Building resilience therefore requires coordinated action across the entire CRM ecosystem.

The European Critical Raw Materials Centre should actively promote integrated partnerships covering the full CRM value chain, including:

- exploration;
- mining;
- mineral processing;
- refining;
- recycling;
- manufacturing; and
- downstream industrial users.

Measures such as strategic stockpiling, joint purchasing initiatives and investment support should be designed to reinforce these integrated partnerships rather than individual sectors in isolation.

A whole-value-chain approach would:

- improve Europe's resilience against supply disruptions;
- strengthen market transparency and visibility;
- facilitate financing through stronger long-term off-take agreements;
- improve coordination between industrial actors; and
- accelerate the development of strategic CRM projects.

4. Recognising expertise as a strategic component of market intelligence

Reliable market intelligence depends not only on the availability of data but equally on the expertise required to interpret geological, technical, regulatory and economic information. Europe has invested significantly in mapping mineral resources and analysing value chains. However, considerably less attention has been given to identifying, connecting and mobilising the professional expertise required to transform this information into effective strategic decisions.

The European Critical Raw Materials Centre should establish mechanisms to identify, map and mobilise recognised expertise across the CRM value chain, including professionals specialised in:

- geology and mineral exploration;
- resource and reserve reporting;
- mining engineering;
- mineral processing;
- recycling;

- permitting and environmental assessment;
- project financing; and
- market analysis.

EFG has already initiated work in this area through its European network of recognised professionals and competency frameworks, which could contribute directly to the Centre's objectives.

Professional expertise should be recognised as a strategic European asset alongside geological data and market intelligence. Strengthening expert networks would:

- improve evidence-based decision-making;
- enhance the quality of investment assessments;
- support strategic stockpiling and supply-risk analysis;
- strengthen international cooperation; and
- improve Europe's capacity to anticipate and respond to future supply disruptions.

5. Ensuring professional expertise is represented in the governance of the Centre

The success of the European Critical Raw Materials Centre will depend heavily on high-quality geoscientific and technical expertise. While Geological Surveys play a fundamental role in generating and managing geological information, a significant proportion of Europe's practical knowledge resides within industry, consultancies, engineering firms and financial institutions. These professionals are directly involved in:

- mineral exploration;
- resource estimation and reporting;
- project evaluation;
- permitting;
- financing;
- mine development; and
- supply-chain management.

At present, there is no explicit provision ensuring that recognised professional experts are represented within the governance or advisory structures of the future Centre.

EFG, as the representative organisation of professional geologists in Europe and the awarding body for the European Geologist (EurGeol) professional title, should be represented within the Centre's stakeholder and advisory mechanisms alongside Geological Surveys, research organisations and other institutional actors.

This would ensure that professional competence and practical implementation experience are fully integrated into the Centre's strategic activities. Including recognised professional organisations within the Centre's governance would:

- complement public-sector geological expertise with practical industry experience;
- strengthen the quality and credibility of strategic recommendations;
- improve the connection between policy development and project implementation;
- facilitate knowledge exchange across the CRM value chain; and
- enhance the overall effectiveness of the European Critical Raw Materials Centre.

6. Conclusion

EFG strongly supports the establishment of a European Critical Raw Materials Centre as a key instrument for implementing the Critical Raw Materials Act and strengthening Europe's strategic autonomy.

To maximise its impact, the Centre should not only collect data and coordinate policies but also strengthen the professional foundations upon which successful CRM projects depend. This includes promoting internationally recognised resource reporting standards, fostering integrated value-chain partnerships, recognising expertise as a strategic resource, and ensuring that professional organisations are represented within the Centre's governance.

By combining robust geological knowledge with recognised professional competence and practical industry experience, the European Critical Raw Materials Centre can become a trusted platform for investment, innovation and resilient supply chains, thereby contributing significantly to Europe's long-term security of supply and industrial competitiveness.

About EFG:

The European Federation of Geologists (EFG) is the largest and most influential network of geoscience professionals across the Council of Europe countries, with 28 national associations representing a direct membership of approximately 50,000 individuals. EFG collaborates extensively with leading geoscience organisations worldwide, including in Australia, the USA, Canada and South Africa, indirectly reaching over 150,000 experts.

About the EFG Panel of Experts on Minerals:

The EFG Panel of Experts on Minerals strengthens Europe’s voice in responsible mineral resource management through expert collaboration and global standards.

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