



To the attention of: Heads of State and Government of the EU Member States

Cc: European Council President Costa, European Commission President Von der Leyen

Date: 9 October 2026

Dear European Leaders,

On behalf of Europe's metals and critical raw materials industry, we urge you to match Europe's ambitious competitiveness, decarbonisation, and strategic autonomy objectives with **dedicated funding for critical raw materials** in the upcoming European Competitiveness Fund.

Our industry is a critical enabler of the energy and digital transitions and is vital to providing European made materials necessary for the defence of our values.

To ensure the success of the Critical Raw Materials Act, we urge EU leaders to prioritize the following during discussions on the European Competitiveness Fund:

- **Establish a Critical Raw Materials envelope:** While the inclusion of critical raw materials under the 'Resilience and Security' policy window in the European Commission's proposal is a positive step, the upcoming **Critical Raw Materials Centre** needs funding. Only with such finance can it fulfill its strategic mandate and deliver security of CRM supply. We fully support the European Parliament ITRE rapporteurs' draft report proposal for a €10 billion dedicated CRM envelope.

This level of support is essential given intense global competition: Canada has deployed a \$15 billion strategy, while the United States has allocated over \$30 billion for critical raw materials processing, including a recent \$2 billion direct investment in a single zinc smelter.

Our credibility on critical raw materials is at stake!

- **Support industrial modernisation and energy competitiveness:** EU funding must extend beyond decarbonisation to support the modernisation of existing facilities and the expansion of industrial production capacity of existing value chains. This must be complemented by targeted measures that strengthen the overall business case for industrial investment and facilitate consumption of renewable and low-carbon electricity.



We need dedicated and accessible EU-level financing, for the European metals industry and critical raw materials, so that we can remain competitive and reduce Europe's critical dependencies in an increasingly volatile geopolitical context.

To achieve the Critical Raw Materials Act's 2030 objectives, Europe must not only restart facilities shuttered since 2020, but build an additional 10 mines, 15 processing plants, and 15 recycling facilities for non-ferrous metals.

Our industry counts on your leadership at the 15-16 October European Council meeting to ensure the European Competitiveness Fund provides the financial support needed to the non-ferrous metals industry, strengthening domestic manufacturing, protecting high-quality manufacturing jobs, and securing our strategic autonomy.

Yours Sincerely,



James Watson, Director General of European Metals