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## Research Report

# European economic security and access to critical raw materials: Trade, diversification, and the role of Mercosur

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**POLICY BRIEF – No. 09/2023**

# **European Economic Security and Access to Critical Raw Materials: Trade, Diversification, and the Role of Mercosur**

*By **Oscar Guinea**, Senior Economist at ECIPE, and **Vanika Sharma**,  
Junior Economist at ECIPE.*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Access to secure and stable supply of critical raw materials (CRMs) is vital for Europe's economic security. These raw materials, which are indispensable inputs for Europe's modernisation, are supplied by a handful of countries. Among them, China and Russia are two of the most important European suppliers of CRMs. This dependency leaves the EU exposed to Chinese and Russian policies that may harm Europe's economic and political interests.

The European Commission has recently proposed a Critical Raw Materials Act with the objective of increasing domestic production of strategic raw materials (SRMs) – a subset of CRMs vital for the energy and digital transitions. However well-intentioned, most of the policies in the Act – which aim at producing more SRMs in Europe – are a red herring. While the EU needs to reduce its vulnerable dependence on some countries, the politics about the supply of CRMs have become hostage to manufacturing fetish, import-substitution ideas, and companies who want governments to subsidise their investments and growth. In reality, getting substantial amounts of Europe-produced SRMs to market will take years – if not decades – and new mines will face significant legal and environmental resistance. It is simply

not realistic to expect that higher domestic production in the EU will reduce Europe's current dependency on imported SRMs anytime soon. If it is economic security and reduced vulnerabilities that Europe wants, a different strategy is needed.

There is a better alternative. Trade dependencies of CRMs can only be fought with more trade. One option exist already: the EU could diversify its supplies of CRMs away from China and Russia by trading more with other exporters of CRMs. Mercosur is an obvious partner to achieve this goal. Brazil, a member of Mercosur, is the largest supplier of SRMs to the EU by volume and the Mercosur countries are democratic market economies that are seeking deeper relations with Europe.

To encourage trade and investment in CRMs across both regions, the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement includes binding provisions that will place the bilateral trade and investment relations under a more certain institutional arrangement. Other policies, such as those included in the EU's CRM Act, can only complement but not substitute for a trade-oriented strategy to improve the structure of SRM supply.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

There are technological and trade risks that make the EU vulnerable to the whims – or, worse, the malicious abuse – of third countries. In a recent Economic Security Strategy,<sup>1</sup> the European Commission identified trade dependencies and the weaponization of these dependencies as one of the most substantial risks. These risks are not just theoretical. Russia's war on Ukraine is proof of the dangers of over relying on a single country with divergent values and interests for the supply of crucial goods such as hydrocarbons. Other and less dramatic examples of dependence on supply from countries that do not wish Europe well can be found: chemicals like red phosphorus from Kazakhstan or silicon wafers<sup>2</sup> and certain active pharmaceutical ingredients from China<sup>3</sup>, for instance.

Europe's dependencies on third countries extend to critical raw materials (CRMs), which are vital ingredients for industries such as defence as well as the economic sectors behind the green and digital transitions. A practical example of the political implications of these dependencies is Europe's inability to include palladium and nickel as part of the package of economic sanctions against Russia due to the lack of alternative sources for these CRMs<sup>4</sup>. China, a country with which the EU wants to de-risk its economic ties, is also a major global producer of many CRMs.

As a result, the supply of CRMs has become a huge political issue, and not just in the EU. Countries around the world are hatching up plans to secure the delivery of these raw materials: the U.S., the UK, Japan, South Korea, Australia and Canada have implemented policies and regulations to monitor the availability of CRMs and support domestic production. This is not just because of its criticality for strategic industries but also because the demand for CRMs is only going to increase.

For instance, meeting the REPowerEU's objective of tripling wind power capacities by 2030 will require five times more rare earth permanent magnets.<sup>5</sup> In 2030, for electric-vehicles batteries and energy storage alone, the EU will need up to 18 times more lithium and 5 times more cobalt<sup>6</sup>. At the global level, the International Energy Agency (IEA) predicts that demand for lithium will increase up to 42 times between 2020 and 2040, while annual demand for nickel and cobalt in that period is projected to be two and five times higher than the levels seen between 2010 and 2020<sup>7</sup>.

Securing a stable and diversified supply of CRMs is anything but simple. First, CRMs are concentrated in a few countries: 60 percent of global cobalt production is in the Democratic Republic of Congo; South Africa accounts for 77 percent of global palladium production; Russia

<sup>1</sup> European Commission (2023). Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council, and the Council on "European Economic Security Strategy". Brussels, 20 June 2023. JOIN (2023) 20 final.

<sup>2</sup> Arjona, R, W Connell and C Herghelegiu (2023). An enhanced methodology to monitor the EU's strategic dependencies and vulnerabilities. Single Market Economy Papers WP2023/14.

<sup>3</sup> European Commission (2021). Strategic dependencies and capacities. Staff Working Document SWD (2021) 352 final.

<sup>4</sup> OECD (2022). The supply of critical raw materials endangered by Russia's war on Ukraine. OECD. Gehrke, T. (2022). Securing EU critical raw material supplies after Russia's war. Encompass.

<sup>5</sup> JRC (2022). Supply chain challenges: Wind Turbines and magnets. Science for Policy Brief.

<sup>6</sup> JRC (2018). Cobalt: demand-supply balances in the transition to electric mobility.

<sup>7</sup> IEA (2021). The Role of Critical Minerals in Clean Energy Transitions.

holds 83 percent of platinum production; Brazil is responsible for 88 percent of the international production of niobium; and Australia and Chile together produced 81 percent of lithium<sup>8</sup>. In Europe, China provides 98 percent of the EU's supply of rare earth elements and Turkey provides 98 percent of the EU's supply of borate<sup>9</sup>. Second, for some CRMs like lithium, magnesium, or germanium, market concentration in the processing stage is even higher than in mining, which in the case of many CRMs, takes place mostly in China.

This market concentration in the mining and processing of CRMs makes their provision susceptible to price surges, scarcity and geopolitical disruptions – something that has materialised in the past. In September 2010, in the context of a territorial dispute with Japan over the Senkaku islands, China halted all exports of rare earth elements to Japan triggering a significant price spike on global markets<sup>10</sup>. Also in 2010, China reduced its export quota of rare earth to the U.S. and since 2022 China has included all rare earth elements in its export control measures<sup>11</sup>. Most recently, China has also imposed export curbs, in the form of licenses, on gallium and germanium which are essential for the production of semiconductors. Applications for export licenses will need to identify importers and end users and explain what these CRMs will be used for<sup>12</sup>.

It is in this context that the European Commission published its proposal for the Critical Raw Materials (CRM) Act. Based on an established methodology, the EU identified 34 CRMs<sup>13</sup> and a subset of 16 strategic raw materials (SRMs)<sup>14</sup>, which are vital for the green and digital transition, as well as defence and space applications (see Box 1). The Act contains provisions for the monitoring, circularity and sustainability of all CRMs, although specific attention is given to SRMs by setting targets for their extraction, processing, recycling and diversification of supply. The Act also includes public subsidies – in the form of favourable access to finance – to meet these targets. By 2030, the EU should be able to extract at least 10 percent, process at least 40 percent, and recycle at least 15 percent of its annual consumption of SRMs. These three targets will support the achievement of a fourth one which aims to reduce EU's reliance on the extraction and processing of SRMs from third countries to no more than 65 percent of the EU's annual consumption by 2030.

<sup>8</sup> Sancho Calvino, A., (2022). What makes "critical materials" critical? Zeitgeist Series Briefing 5. Global Trade Alert.

<sup>9</sup> European Commission (2020). Critical Raw Materials Resilience: Charting a Path towards greater Security and Sustainability. COM (2020) 474 final.

<sup>10</sup> Pitron, G. (2022). The Geopolitics of the rare-metals race. *The Washington Quarterly*, 45(1), 135-150.

<sup>11</sup> Government of China (2023). Situation and Policies of China's Rare Earth Industry. Retrieved from [http://english.www.gov.cn/archive/white\\_paper/2014/08/23/content\\_281474983043156.htm](http://english.www.gov.cn/archive/white_paper/2014/08/23/content_281474983043156.htm)

<sup>12</sup> Financial Times (2023). China imposes export curbs on chipmaking metals. Retrieved from: <https://www.ft.com/content/6dca353c-70d8-4d38-a368-b342a6450d95>

<sup>13</sup> These CRMs are: antimony; arsenic; bauxite; baryte; beryllium; bismuth; boron; cobalt; coking coal; copper; feldspar; fluorspar; gallium; germanium; hafnium; helium; heavy rare earth elements; light rare earth elements; lithium; magnesium; manganese; natural graphite; nickel – battery grade; niobium; phosphate rock; phosphorus; platinum group metals; scandium; silicon metal; strontium; tantalum; titanium metal; tungsten; vanadium. The list can be found in the Annex to the proposal.

<sup>14</sup> These SRMs are: bismuth; boron – metallurgy grade; cobalt; copper; gallium; germanium; lithium – battery grade; magnesium metal; manganese – battery grade; natural graphite – battery grade; nickel – battery grade; platinum group metals; rare earth elements for magnets (Nd, Pr, Tb, Dy, Gd, Sm, and Ce); silicon metal; titanium metal; tungsten. The list can be found in the Annex to the proposal.

**BOX 1: DEFINING CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS AND STRATEGIC RAW MATERIALS**

In the Critical Raw Materials Act, the European Commission makes a distinction between critical raw materials and strategic raw materials. In order to classify the raw materials into their corresponding categories, the Commission assessed more than 80 materials used in the EU economy based on two factors:

1. Supply risk: determined by global and EU supply concentration, EU import reliance, input of secondary materials, and technical substitutability.
2. Economic importance: calculated by the share of use in NACE 2-digit-level-sectors and their value added, taking into account the economic substitutability.

Raw materials that passed these thresholds were classified as critical raw materials.

These critical raw materials were assessed in terms of their global demand and supply and their importance for the EU's twin transition in green and digital sector, as well as the EU's defence and aerospace sectors. From the list of 34 critical raw materials previously selected, 16 were found to be important for the above-mentioned developments and categorised as strategic raw materials.

Source: European Commission (2023). Proposal for a regulation on establishing a framework for ensuring a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials. Accessed at: [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:903d35cc-c4a2-11ed-a05c-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC\\_1&format=PDF](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:903d35cc-c4a2-11ed-a05c-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF)

Achieving these targets will not be easy. Extraction capacity depends on whether the SRMs can be found in Europe's soil with sufficient concentration for mining to be commercially viable. Nor is it a given that SRM mining and processing can get started for political reasons. In the first place, public support for these activities is underwhelming<sup>15</sup>. Moreover, building new mines in Europe takes a long time – only getting all necessary approvals take years and years. Therefore, despite Europe's efforts to increase domestic production, there will be significant delays before any newly mined European SRMs can reach the EU market.

The contrast between future demand and supply for CRMs points to the obvious need to increase production of CRMs, in the EU and worldwide. However, it is simply unrealistic to assume that the EU can substantially meet its own demands for CRMs and lower its dependency on CRMs from China and Russia in the short and medium term by substituting imports from these countries with its own production. Spending public resources to increase domestic production will not make a difference in lowering these trade dependencies. Using public subsidies to increase domestic production of SRMs in the EU seeks the reindustrialisation of the EU, not lowering EU's CRMs dependencies from China and Russia. This policy is unnecessary. The share

<sup>15</sup> In the EU public consultation that informed the Act, more than six in ten respondents agreed that limited public acceptance for new CRMs projects in the EU was driving away investment in the sector. Source: SWD (2023) 161 final.

of EU's manufacturing sector over its GDP has not fallen and the EU is particularly strong in the manufacturing of green and digital technologies whose share of global production is, on average, 28 percent<sup>16</sup>. Public subsidies will not solve the problem of trade dependence because the barrier behind Europe's low levels of production of CRMs is not access to finance but a strict and slow regulatory system for the extraction and processing of CRMs. If the EU wants to become less vulnerable to Chinese and Russian interests, it needs to reduce its regulatory burden and trade more with other countries rather than handing over subsidies.

The EU's CRM Act acknowledges the need for trade diversification. However, there is a glaring omission in the partners identified by the EU for cooperation. There is no mention of Mercosur, its constituent countries (i.e., Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay) and the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement. This is a fundamental mistake. Argentina is one of the largest global producers of borate and lithium, and Brazil of bauxite, copper, iron ore, manganese, natural graphite, niobium, silicon metal, and tantalum<sup>17</sup>. Importantly, the EU has negotiated an Association Agreement with Mercosur, which includes the binding legal provisions and institutional structures that the EU's CRM Act aims to construct. If the EU could ratify this agreement, it would create great opportunities to diversify imports of raw materials and improve its own economic security.

The EU's proposal for a CRM Act lays out a plan for the creation of Strategic Partnerships, Strategic Projects – where public subsidies will be channelled to stimulate higher production of SRM in the EU and abroad – and the Critical Raw Materials Club. These actions contribute towards increased production of SRMs and the diversification of the EU's supply. However, they are a poor substitute for the binding commitments given by the EU-Mercosur Association Agreements. These commitments are essential to create the conditions for a reliable and stable supply of CRMs from Mercosur to the EU and for the required investments if the EU wants to encourage increased production of CRMs in Mercosur.

This Policy Brief makes the case in favour of the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement as a crucial tool to achieve EU's economic security by diversifying EU's imports of SRMs away from China and Russia. Achieving these objectives also contributes to the creation of higher value-added activities within the Mercosur's mining industry, supporting the industrialisation of the region. The next chapter of this Policy Brief presents the EU demand for SRMs, sources of supply and the risk of dependency on China and Russia. The third chapter shows Mercosur supply of SRMs. In particular, it presents Brazil exports of SRMs over time, as well as the potential for Brazil to replace Chinese and Russian SRMs. The final chapter shows that the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement is the best tool to support further integration of the supply chains of CRMs across both regions, placing the exchange of CRMs under a more certain and secure institutional arrangement.

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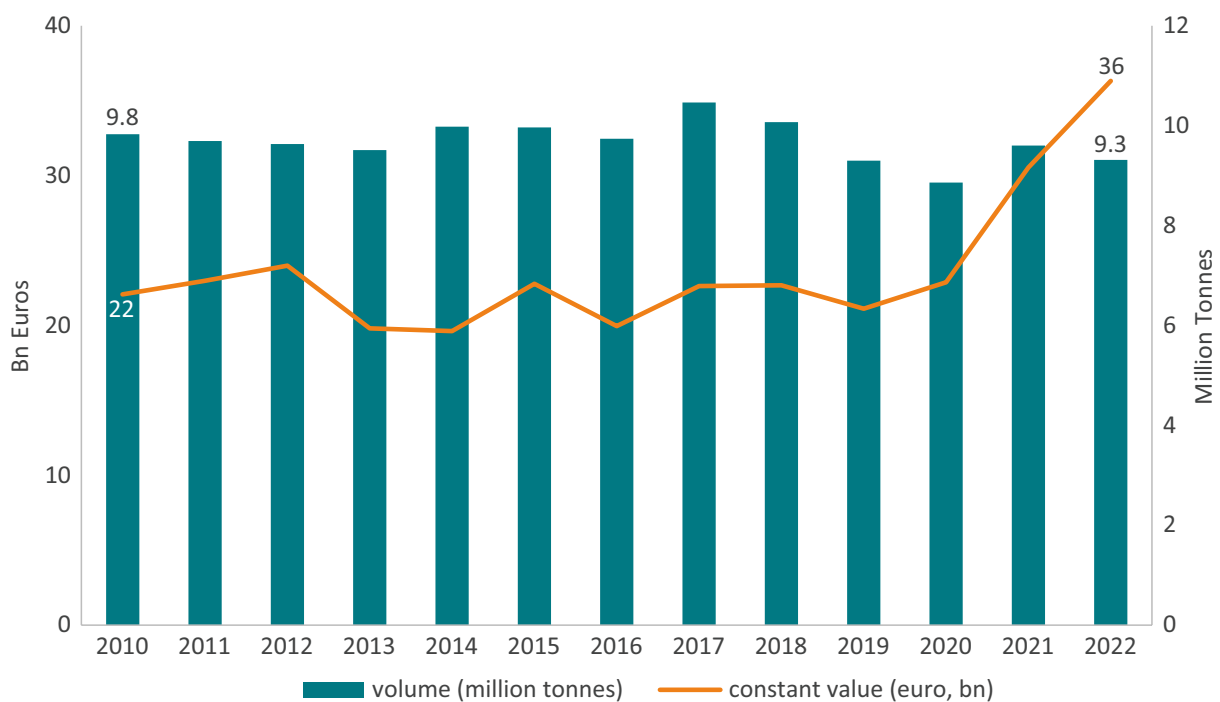
<sup>16</sup> JRC (2023). Supply chain analysis and material demand forecast in strategic technologies and sectors in the EU – A foresight study. European Commission. EUR 31437 EN.

<sup>17</sup> JRC (2021). Raw Materials Scoreboard 2021, Indicator g: Geographical concentration and governance.

## 2. EU'S DEMAND OF STRATEGIC RAW MATERIALS

The EU's share in the global production of CRMs used in the digital, defence, aerospace and green energy sectors is lower than 7 percent<sup>18</sup>. The vast majority of Europe's consumption of CRMs was supplied by foreign producers. In the case of SRMs, the value of EU's imports of SRMs has increased significantly during the last years<sup>19</sup>. In 2022, the EU imported €36 bn<sup>20</sup> of SRMs, which represents a 65 percent increase since 2010. By volume, however, the EU imported 9.3 million tonnes in 2022, a 5 percent fall from what it bought from abroad in 2010. The increase in value and fall in volume indicates a raise in SRMs unit prices (from 2.2 euros per kg in 2010 to 3.9 euros per kg in 2022). This is the result of two factors. First, many SRMs have become more expensive: unit value prices of 13 out of 15 SRMs went up between 2010 and 2022. Second, the EU has imported increasing amounts of the most expensive SRMs such as platinum metals or gallium.

**FIGURE 1: EXTRA-EU IMPORTS OF SRMs BY VALUE AND VOLUME (2010 – 2022)**



Source: Eurostat, Author's calculations

Across all SRMs, copper, platinum, and nickel were the SRMs that the EU imported from outside the EU in the highest value representing 39, 33 and 13 percent of EU total value of imports in 2022. By volume, the SRMs that had the highest share were copper, titanium, and manganese

<sup>18</sup> JRC (2023). Supply chain analysis and material demand forecast in strategic technologies and sectors in the EU – A foresight study. European Commission. EUR 31437 EN.

<sup>19</sup> The EU published individual factsheets for each of the SRM included in the EU Critical Raw Materials Act, with the exception of natural graphite (battery grade). These factsheets include the corresponding trade codes for each of the SRM. Annex I presents the list of the codes for the corresponding SRM, which were used in this analysis. Source: SCREEN (2023). Factsheets – CRMS 2023. Retrieve from <https://screen.eu/crms-2023/>

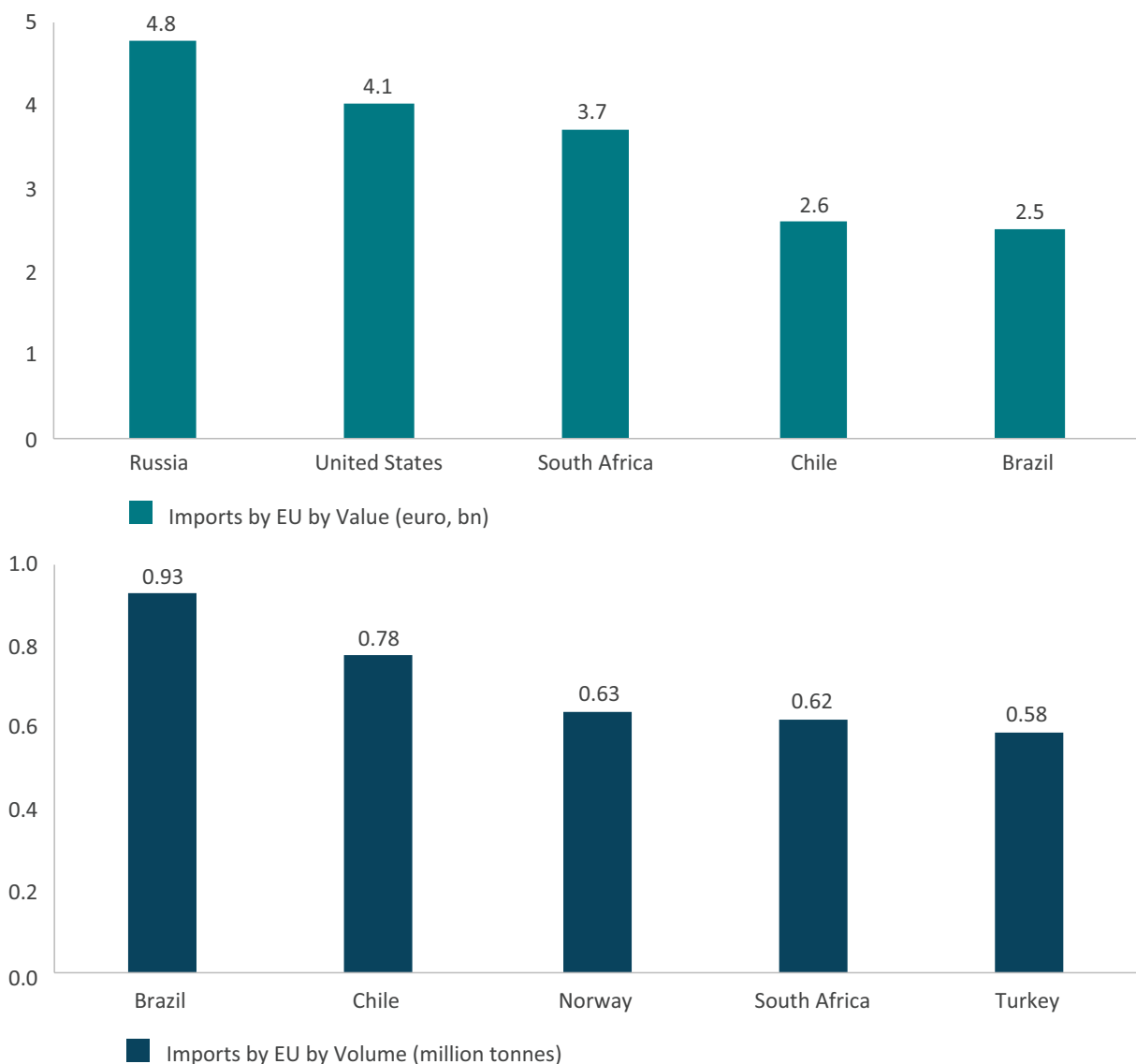
<sup>20</sup> All prices in this Policy Brief are presented as constant prices with 2016 as the base year. Prices were deflated using GDP figures from the IMF.



with 52, 16, and 12 percent of EU total volume of imports during the same year. The SRMs that experienced the fastest growth between 2010 and 2022 were lithium in value terms and platinum in volume terms. And while platinum was the most expensive SRM per kg, lithium was the SRM that experienced the biggest increase in its unit value during this period.

The EU's demand for SRMs was met by a small number of countries. In 2022, the five largest EU suppliers provided almost half of EU's total demand for SRMs by value and 38 percent by volume. The figure below shows that Russia, U.S., South Africa, Chile, Brazil, Norway and Turkey were the EU's top suppliers of many SRMs either by value or volume. For instance, Brazil was one of the EU's largest suppliers by value and volume of copper, battery grade nickel, and silicon metal; Chile supplied copper and lithium; South Africa was the main EU supplier of platinum group metals, and Russia was the largest EU's provider of nickel by value.

**FIGURE 2: LARGEST EU SUPPLIERS PER SRMs BY VALUE AND VOLUME (2022)**

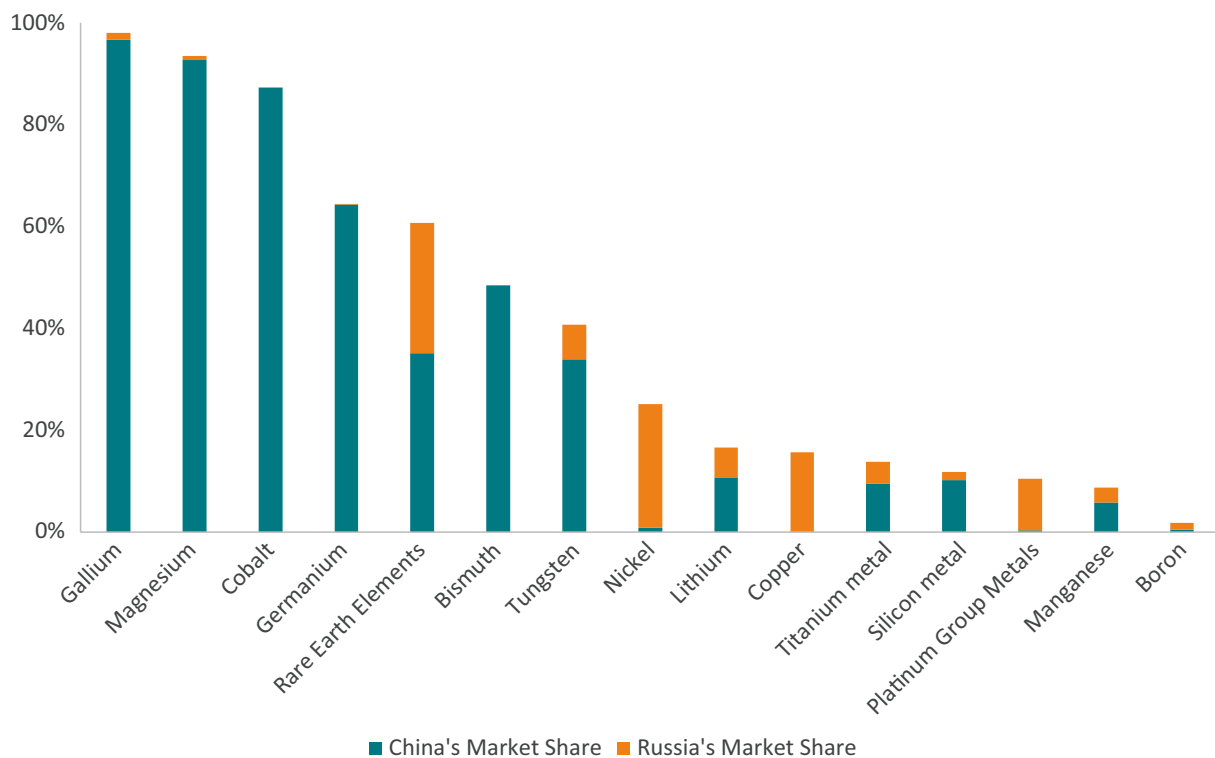


Source: Eurostat, Author's calculations

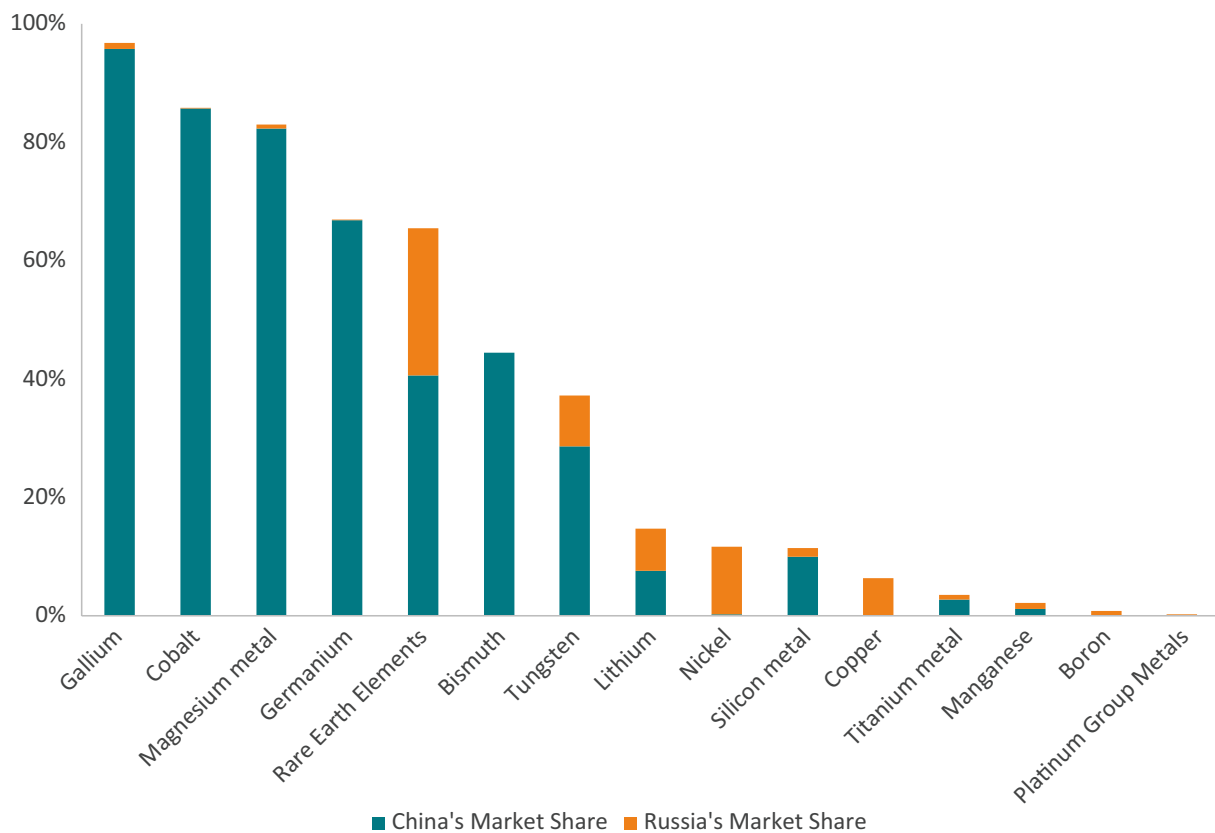
The fact that China was not Europe's main supplier of SRMs but appears in everything but name in the EU's Economic Security Strategy and as one of the main motivations behind the EU's CRM Act demonstrates that not all dependencies are created equal. The institutional arrangements and economic integration that the EU has with Norway dramatically lowers the risk of any SRMs interruption as a result of a political disagreement. A similar argument can be made about other countries like the U.S., Chile and Brazil, which are market-based economies underpinned by democratic political systems.

In the case of China and Russia, however, EU's dependency is much more problematic. China was the largest EU supplier of seven out of the 15 SRMs, which were bismuth, cobalt, gallium, germanium, magnesium, rare earths, and tungsten. As can be seen in Figure 3 and 4, this dependency was particularly problematic for cobalt, gallium, and magnesium for which China's share of EU's total imports was larger than 80 percent in value and volume. Russia supplied more than 10 percent of EU's import of rare earth elements, nickel, platinum, and copper in value and nickel and rare earth metals in volume.

**FIGURE 3: CHINA AND RUSSIA MARKET SHARE OF SRMs IN THE EU BY VALUE (2022)**



Source: Eurostat, Author's calculations

**FIGURE 4: CHINA AND RUSSIA MARKET SHARE OF SRMs IN THE EU BY VOLUME (2022)**

Source: Eurostat, Author's calculations

The figures show acute trade dependencies on SRMs from China and Russia. EU member states produce some of these SRMs – e.g., Germany is a producer of gallium and Finland of cobalt<sup>21</sup>. However, the size of Chinese imports demonstrates the scale of the challenge of any policy seeking import substitution. Trade diversification and not subsidising Europe's domestic production is the EU's most honest and reasonable answer to the issue of trade dependency. Even for the SRMs in which China is the major supplier, the EU also buys from other countries. In the case of germanium and rare earth, the EU bought from companies based in 18 and 15 different countries. In the case of gallium, cobalt and magnesium – where China is overwhelmingly the most important EU supplier, the EU acquired these SRMs from 3, 12, and 36 different countries apart from China including US, Canada, Korea, Japan, Israel, Turkey, Morocco or Brazil.

<sup>21</sup> See Figure 5: Geographical concentration of global product and supply to the EU. European Commission (2023). SWD (2023) 161 final. pp. 29 – 31.

**BOX 2: EU DEPENDENCY ON RUSSIAN STRATEGIC RAW MATERIALS**

One of the motivating factors behind Europe's call for economic security comes from the war in Ukraine. Europe's dependency on Russian hydrocarbons limited its ability to respond to Russian aggression against Ukraine – starting already in 2014. Since then, the EU has been adamant to reduce its economic ties with Russia. So far, the EU has been successful in reducing its dependence from some Russian raw materials such as oil and gas, but not from all of them.

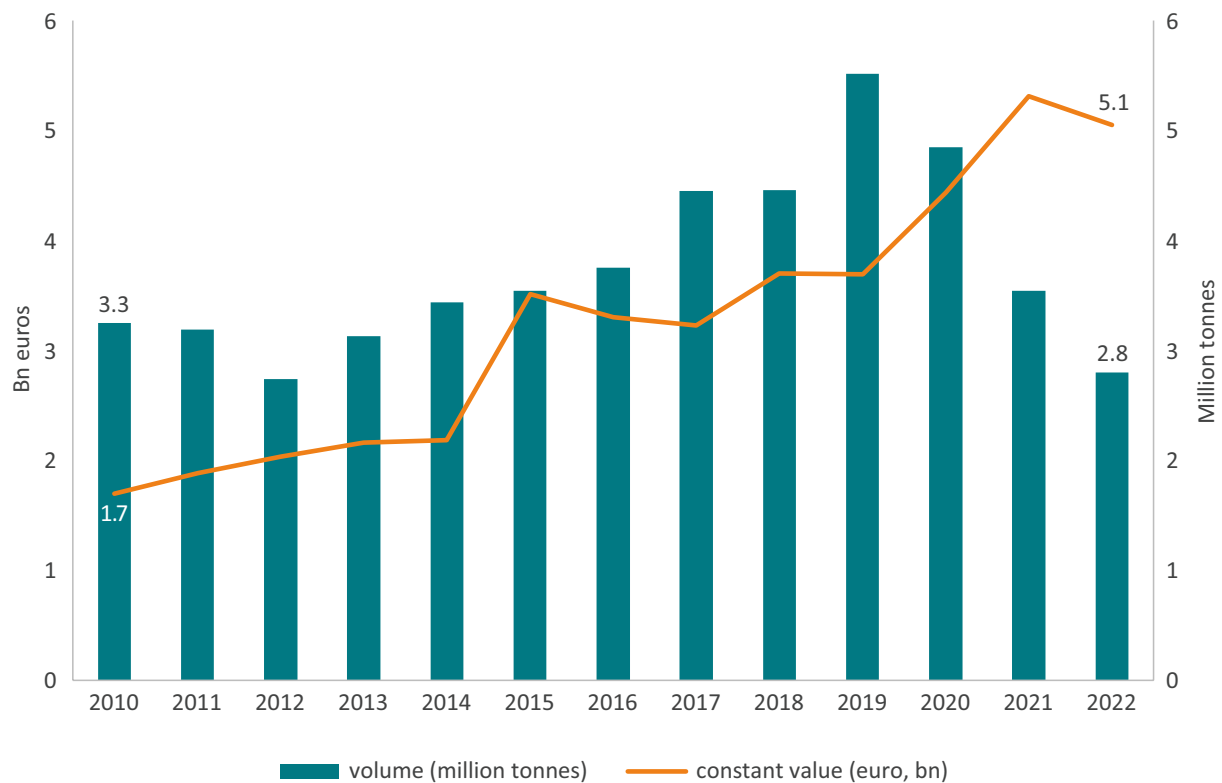
In the case of critical and strategic raw materials, EU's imports from Russia have fallen considerably but Russia still supplied 14 out of the 16 SRMs identified by the European Commission. In 2022, Russia exported significant amounts of copper (€2.21 billion), platinum (€1.22 billion), and nickel (€1.17 billion), representing 16, 10, and 24 percent of all EU's imports for each SRM. In the case of nickel, Russian exports to the EU increased by €188 million between 2021 and 2022. This dependency and the lack of alternative suppliers stopped the EU from imposing economic sanctions on Russian exports of nickel.

**3. MERCOSUR'S SUPPLY OF STRATEGIC RAW MATERIALS**

Undoubtedly, the EU will need to engage with resource-rich countries to secure and diversify the supply of critical raw materials. And Mercosur has a large role to play if the EU wants to achieve this objective. In 2022, EU imports of SRMs from Mercosur amounted to €2.5 bn and 0.9 million tonnes representing 7 percent and 10 percent of EU's imports of SRMs by value and volume. The majority of this share (99 percent in value and 99 percent in volume) was supplied from Brazil.

These figures demonstrate the importance of Mercosur as a supplier of SRMs to the EU. However, Mercosur also exports SRMs to many other countries. Using publicly available data from the Brazilian Government<sup>22</sup>, we estimate Brazil's total exports of the SRMs identified in the EU CRM Act. In 2022, Brazil exported €5 bn of SRMs amounting to 2.8 million tonnes. Over time, this represented a 160 percent increase from 2010 in value and a 14 percent decrease in volume. Similar to EU's imports, the increase in the average price of Brazilian exports of SRMs is the result of Brazilian SRMs becoming pricier and an increase in Brazilian exports of the more expensive SRMs. Brazilian exports in volume of some of the most expensive SRMs such as platinum increased by close to 160 percent between 2010 and 2022. Brazil also started exporting lithium (another expensive SRM) which reached export volumes of 0.1 million kg in 2022.

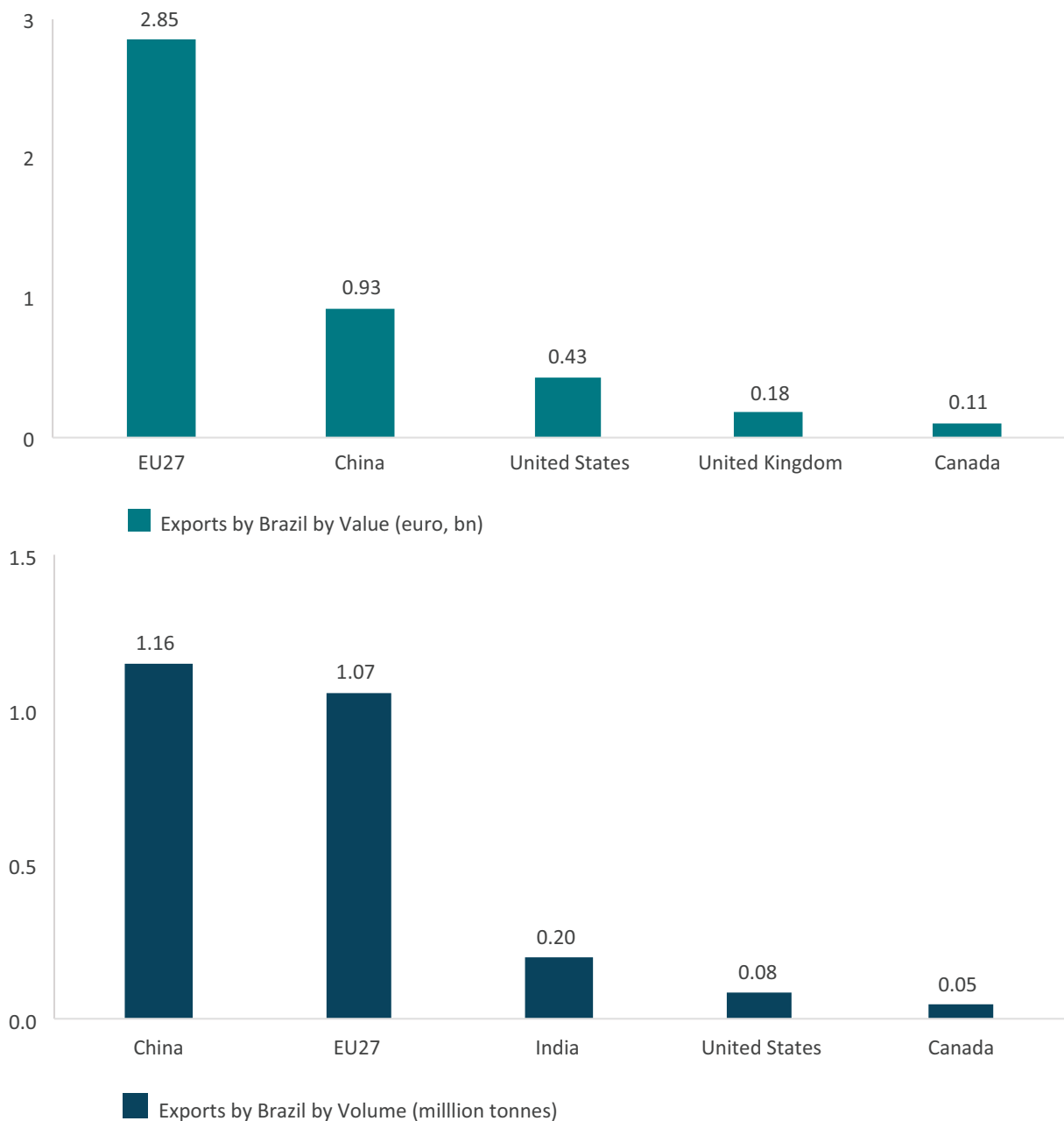
<sup>22</sup> Source: <http://comexstat.mdic.gov.br/en/home>. A table with the concordance of Eurostat CN codes and Mercosur's NCM Codes for SRMs is presented in Annex II.

**FIGURE 5: BRAZIL'S EXPORTS OF SRMs BY VALUE AND VOLUME (2010 – 2022)**

Source: Brazilian Government. Author's calculations

Copper is the primary export of Brazil in terms of value and accounted for 51 percent of Brazil's total exports of SRMs in 2022. This is followed by nickel and silicon, responsible for 26 percent and 15 percent respectively. In terms of volume, manganese was the leading Brazilian export of SRMs, accounting for 41 percent in 2022, followed by copper and nickel representing 38 percent and 12 percent. Over time, the SRM that experienced the fastest growth between 2010 and 2022 was nickel in both value and volume terms.

The EU is one of the main buyers of Brazilian SRMs. In 2022, the EU was Brazil's most important trading partner in SRMs in value (56 percent) and the second (38 percent) most important after China in volume. The reason why China was Brazil's largest buyer of SRMs in volume terms is because of its purchases of Brazilian manganese, copper, and nickel, which have a relatively lower unit price compared to imports of titanium and lithium, that China imports from Brazil in smaller volumes. In comparison, the EU imported from Brazil some of the more expensive SRMs such as platinum group metals and boron, that China did not import at all.

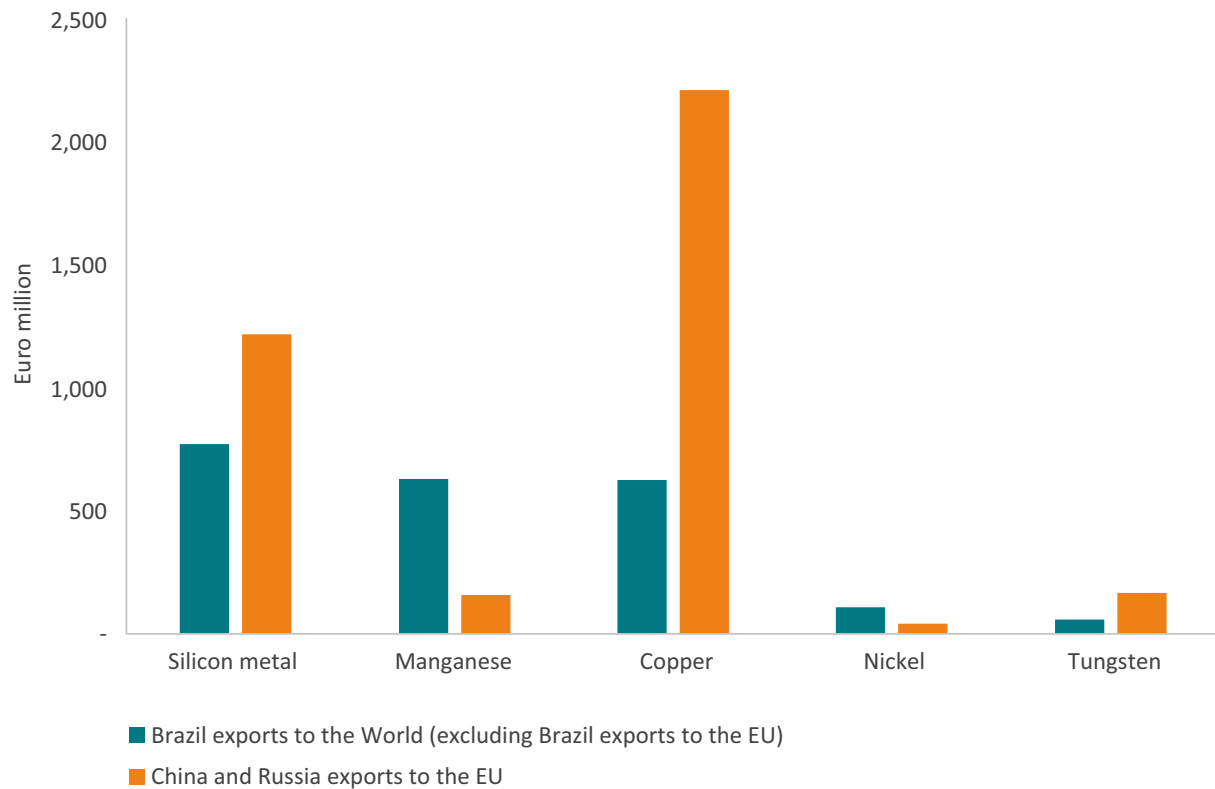
**FIGURE 6: BRAZIL'S EXPORTS OF SRMs BY TRADE PARTNER AND VALUE AND VOLUME (2022)**

Source: Brazilian Government. Author's calculations

Brazil can play a critical part in reducing EU dependencies on Chinese and Russian SRMs. Europe's radical departure from Russian hydrocarbons shows that dependencies can be broken if there is sufficient political will. Comparing Brazilian exports of SRMs to the World (excluding Brazil's exports to the EU) with EU imports of SRMs from China and Russia indicates clear opportunities for diversification. Figure 7 shows that Brazilian exports of manganese and nickel could substitute all EU imports of these two SRMs coming from China and Russia in value terms. This is important. If the EU is serious about de-risking its economy from China and decoupling from Russia, buying more of these SRMs from Brazil is an obvious starting point. Brazil's untapped potential as a lever

to lower EU dependence on China and Russia is also clear when looking at Brazilian exports of silicon, copper and tungsten to non-EU countries which represented 63, 28, and 35 percent of EU imports of these SRMs from China and Russia. In volume terms (Figure 8), Brazilian exports of copper, manganese, nickel, and silicon were larger than the sum of Chinese and Russian exports to the EU of these SRMs and slightly lower for titanium and tungsten<sup>23</sup>.

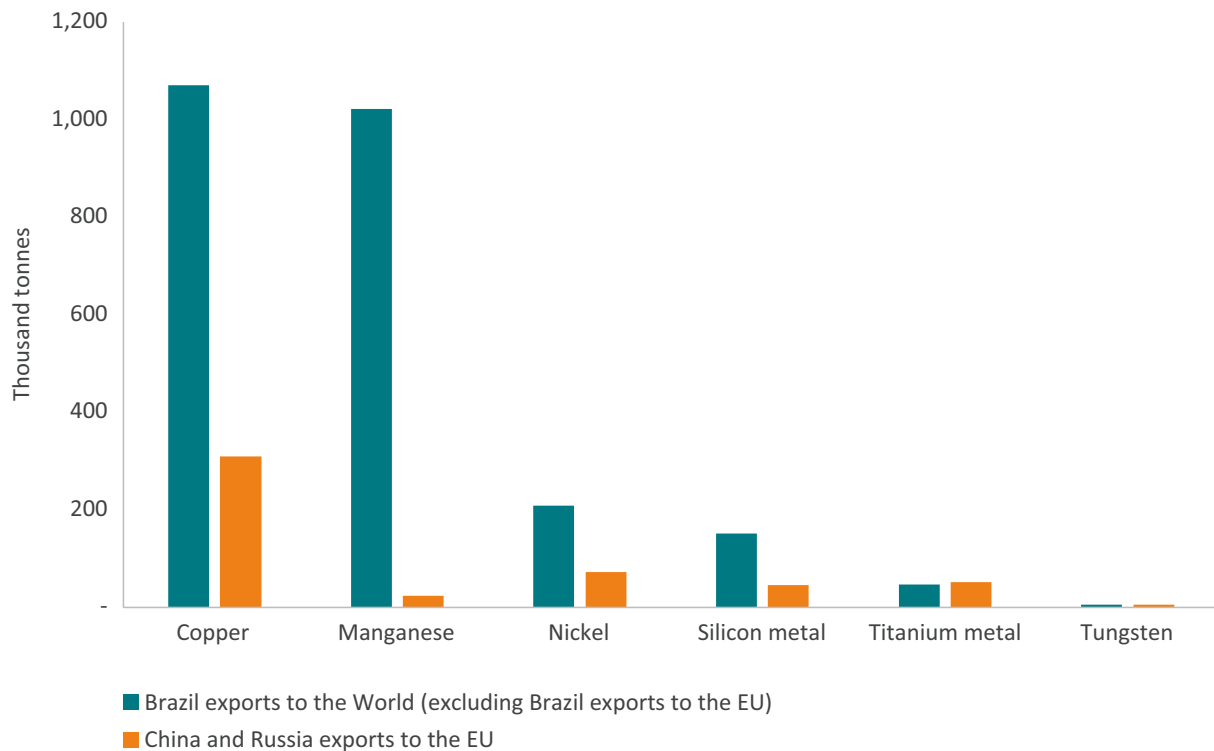
**FIGURE 7: BRAZIL EXPORTS OF SRMs (EXCLUDING BRAZIL EXPORTS TO THE EU) AND EU IMPORTS FROM CHINA AND RUSSIA OF SRMs (VALUE, 2022)**



Source: Brazilian Government; Eurostat. Author's calculations

<sup>23</sup> The variation in unit prices across SRMs from Russian, China and Brazil could be an indication of differences in quality or use for the same SRM. This points out to the imperfect substitutability of one SRM from one country for the same SRM from another country.

**FIGURE 8: BRAZIL EXPORTS OF SRMs (EXCLUDING BRAZIL EXPORTS TO THE EU) AND EU IMPORTS FROM CHINA AND RUSSIA OF SRMs (VOLUME, 2022)**



Source: Brazilian Government; Eurostat. Author's calculations

Some of the SRMs that Europe buys from abroad can be found on Europe's soil. However, it is much more realistic and will lower EU's dependencies on China and Russia faster to start buying more SRMs from other countries. It is true that Brazil is not a major exporter of gallium, cobalt, magnesium, germanium or rare earth – some of the SRMs in which the EU's dependence on China was more pronounced. However, China is not the only exporter of these SRMs, which were exported by, on average, four other non-EU countries including the U.S., India, Japan, Norway, Israel, Turkey, Australia, or Canada<sup>24</sup>. Promoting trade with Brazil – and other resource-rich countries – is a must if the EU is serious about increasing global supply of SRMs and reducing its dependence on Chinese and Russian SRMs. The dramatic rise in the production of rare earth outside China since 2015 shows that markets are not static, production can be diversified and the leverage of the main supplier will decline<sup>25</sup>. In order to achieve these objectives, the EU and Mercosur should establish policies and norms that support long-term trade and investment in SRMs. The EU-Mercosur Association Agreement is the best tool at its disposal.

<sup>24</sup> The availability of suppliers across CRMs was documented in Evenett, S. and Fritz, J (2023).

<sup>25</sup> Evenett, S. and Fritz, J (2023). The Scramble for Critical Raw Materials: Time to Take Stock? Global Trade Alert.



## 4. THE EU-MERCOSUR ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT AND THE EU'S SEARCH FOR STRATEGIC RAW MATERIALS

There is a role for governments to reduce trade dependencies. Firms trade, not countries, but countries can establish rules and incentives that change relative prices and encourage commerce with firms from certain places and not from others. Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) do exactly this by reducing import tariffs and changing relative prices between exporters. Crucially for CRMs, FTAs offer a stable legal framework which supports long-term business relationships, which is important for trade and vital for investment. Firms need to be assured that the rules and regulations underpinning a business case can withstand political turmoil – even more when it takes years before any new production of CRMs goes to market. This is the reason why the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement is important for Europe's economic security since it establishes a better institutional arrangement that provides safer conditions for trade and investment in CRMs between the EU and Mercosur.

The proposal for the CRM Act identifies the relevance of rules and incentives to reduce the EU's dependency on Chinese and Russian SRMs. The CRM Act lays out bilateral Strategic Partnerships on raw materials in order to integrate the EU and third countries CRMs' value chains. These Partnerships can be complemented with Strategic Projects in which the EU will offer public funding for the extraction, processing or recycling of SRMs in the EU and in non-EU countries to increase the supply of SRMs. At the same time, the CRM Act wants to counter the weaponization of CRMs with the creation of the CRM Club that will bring together consuming and resource-rich countries to monitor market developments and maintain a regulatory dialogue.

The Strategic Partnerships, the Strategic Projects and the Critical Raw Materials Club can complement the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement but they are not a substitute for it. The Association Agreement will not only eliminate import tariffs – which is not that relevant for most CRMs since the vast majority of them already enter the EU duty free<sup>26</sup> – but will establish a level playing field and reduce regulatory barriers with the elimination of export restrictions, taxes and licensing<sup>27</sup>, offering undistorted trade and investment conditions for EU firms in Mercosur. Moreover, the Association Agreement offers legal commitments in the fields of labour, human and environmental rights across the economy and not just for SRMs<sup>28</sup>.

As a tool to lower EU's dependence on Chinese and Russian SRMs, the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement offers better value-for-money than channelling public funds to businesses to increase production of SRMs. In the same way as the EU CRM Act eases the burden of regulation to facilitate investment in the extraction and processing of SRMs in the EU, the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement establish better norms that reduce trade cost and uncertainties to encourage more bilateral trade and long-term investment in SRMs. Given the growing demand for CRMs during

<sup>26</sup> Some CRMs do pay import duties. For example, the EU most-favoured nation (MFN) tariffs for unprocessed magnesium is 5 percent and for processed gallium is 3 percent. Source: COM(2023) 165 final.

<sup>27</sup> European Commission. EU-Mercosur Agreement Documents: Trade in Goods. Accessed at: <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/09242a36-a438-40fd-a7af-fe32e36cbd0e/library/52c860b0-c1f2-43fb-97c0-8be8f0a591dc/details>

<sup>28</sup> European Commission. EU-Mercosur Agreement Documents: Trade and Sustainable Development. Accessed at: [https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/mercocur/eu-mercocur-agreement/documents\\_en](https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/mercocur/eu-mercocur-agreement/documents_en)

the next decades and the increase in unit prices experienced across most CRMs, supply-side policies that facilitate business operations will make a more substantial difference than handing over money to companies for investments that they are likely to do anyway.

In addition, the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement will deliver binding legal provisions while the Critical Raw Materials Club, the Strategic Partnerships and the Strategic Projects will do not. This is another reason why the Association Agreement is a much better tool to achieve a secure, predictable and resilient value chain in CRMs between the EU and Mercosur than the EU CRM Act. For example, countries' participation in the CRM Club is a poor substitute for the binding commitments and regulatory cooperation established in the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement that can actually limit the policy space of any government willing to weaponize CRMs for its geopolitical gains. The same argument can be made about the Strategic Partnerships, which have grand ambitions<sup>29</sup>, but lack the right institutional framework to support long-term investments that the Association Agreement provides. This is why, as the European Commission acknowledges<sup>30</sup>, the activities presented in the EU's CRM Act are a complement not a substitute for the market access and binding regulatory commitments achieved in FTAs like the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Access to critical raw materials (CRMs) is a question of strategic security. If Europe wants to achieve its digital and energy transition, it has to secure an uninterrupted supply of these raw materials. Unfortunately, the defining feature of CRMs is its geographical concentration. This concentration is problematic since supply disruptions due to idiosyncratic risks such as natural disasters are always more severe than when production is distributed in several places. This concentration becomes particularly challenging when a large number of CRMs are supplied by less reliable partners such as China and Russia, which makes the supply of CRMs and strategic raw materials (SRMs) vulnerable to geopolitical risks.

To counter this, the EU has published a proposal for the Critical Raw Materials Act which sets out targets, lowers the regulatory burden and provides public resources to increase production of SRMs. While some of the policies behind the EU's CRMs Act are well-intentioned, it is unrealistic to believe that increasing European production of CRMs in the future will reduce China and Russia's grip on the extraction and processing of CRMs now. The most likely scenario is that public resources in the form of favourable financial conditions to increase domestic production of SRMs will not make a difference since access to finance is not the issue that stops domestic production of SRMs in the EU.

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<sup>29</sup> "Although the ultimate objective of the partnerships is about integration of the raw materials value chains between the partner country and the EU, they are comprehensive, and cover aspects such as research and innovation and leverage of ESG (environmental, social and governance) standards". European Commission (2023). SWD (2023) 161 final. pp. 29 – 31.

<sup>30</sup> "To date strategic partnerships have been agreed with countries with whom the EU has negotiated or concluded a trade and investment agreement. Such agreements and strategic partnerships are in fact complementary, offering a political framework and concrete bilateral cooperation in the specific field of CRMs. For countries that do not have trade and investment agreements with the EU in force, the Commission will promote the objective of undistorted trade and investment when negotiating the memorandum of understanding establishing the partnership." European Commission (2023). COM (2023) 165 final. p. 11.

Europe's economic security is inextricably tied to its ability to diversify its trade of CRMs away from Russia and China by trading more with other countries. Moreover, if given a choice, the EU should partner with like-minded countries that share the values of open and free trade. Mercosur (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay) stands out as such a trade partner. Brazil – which supplies the vast majority of the SRMs that Mercosur sells to the EU – is not only the EU's largest supplier of SRMs in volume terms but it has the capacity to substitute large amounts of SRMs such as silicon, manganese, copper, nickel, tungsten and titanium coming from China and Russia.

The EU must assist its firms in the process of reducing their dependence on Chinese and Russian CRMs. EU's assistance does not require public subsidies but less burdensome rules in the EU and the establishment of shared rules and regulations that facilitate trade and investment in CRMs between the EU and Mercosur. The EU-Mercosur Association Agreement is the best tool to place bilateral trade in CRMs in a more secure and certain institutional arrangement. Afterwards, growing investments in the production of CRMs will follow.

The EU's CRMs Act outlines Strategic Partnership, Strategic Projects and the Critical Raw Materials Club as actions to diversify EU's trade and increased production of SRMs. These initiatives are a good complement to the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement but they are not a substitute for it. The Strategic Partnership, the Strategic Projects and the Critical Raw Materials Club lack commitment. Participating countries can always leave if they want to, which does little to reduce the geopolitical uncertainty associated with trade and investment in CRMs. In contrast, the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement establishes binding provisions that contribute towards building a common regulatory framework, stopping both parties from setting up export restrictions, and incentivising the integration of EU and Mercosur supply chains of CRMs.

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# ANNEX I

**TABLE 1: LIST OF CN CODES FOR EACH SRMs**

CN Code	Description	Strategic Raw Material
81060010	Unwrought bismuth, bismuth powders, bismuth waste and scraps (excl. ash and residue containing bismuth)	Bismuth
81011000	Tungsten powders	Bismuth
81060090	Articles of bismuth	Bismuth
25280000	Borates, natural and concentrates thereof.	Boron - metallurgy grade
28401910	Disodium tetraborate pentahydrate	Boron - metallurgy grade
28100010	Diboron trioxide	Boron - metallurgy grade
28100090	Oxides of boron and and boric acid	Boron - metallurgy grade
28401100	Anhydrous disodium tetraborate (refined borax)	Boron - metallurgy grade
26050000	Cobalt ores and concentrates	Cobalt
282200	Cobalt oxides and hydroxides	Cobalt
28273400	Cobalt chlorides	Cobalt
29152300	Cobalt acetates	Cobalt
81050000		Cobalt
26030000	Copper ores and concentrates	Copper
74031100	Copper, refined, in the form of cathodes and sections of cathodes	Copper
74010000	Copper mattes; cement copper "precipitated copper"	Copper
74020000	Copper, unrefined; copper anodes for electrolytic refining	Copper
81129289	Unwrought gallium; gallium powders	Gallium
81129295	Unwrought germanium; germanium powders	Germanium
28256000	Germanium oxides and zirconium dioxide	Germanium
81129940	Articles of germanium, n.e.s.	Germanium
28252000	Lithium oxide and hydroxide	Lithium - battery grade
28369100	Lithium carbonates	Lithium - battery grade
28273100	Magnesium chloride	Magnesium metal
81040000		Magnesium metal
81041100	Unwrought magnesium, containing >= 99,8% by weight of magnesium	Magnesium metal

CN Code	Description	Strategic Raw Material
81041900	Unwrought magnesium, containing < 99,8% by weight of magnesium	Magnesium metal
2602	Manganese ores and concentrates, incl. ferruginous manganese ores and concentrates, with a manganese content of >= 20%, calculated on the dry weight	Manganese - battery grade
2820	Manganese oxides	Manganese - battery grade
720211	Ferro-manganese, containing by weight > 2% of carbon	Manganese - battery grade
		Natural Graphite - battery grade
26040000	Nickel ores and concentrates	Nickel - battery grade
75021000	Nickel, not alloyed, unwrought	Nickel - battery grade
75022000	Unwrought nickel alloys	Nickel - battery grade
75040000	Powders and flakes, of nickel (excl. nickel oxide sinters)	Nickel - battery grade
28254000	Nickel oxides and hydroxides	Nickel - battery grade
28273500	Nickel chloride	Nickel - battery grade
28332400	Sulphates of nickel	Nickel - battery grade
72026000	Ferro-nickel	Nickel - battery grade
711041	Iridium, osmium and ruthenium, unwrought or in powder form	Platinum Group Metals
711049	Iridium, osmium and ruthenium, in semi-manufactured forms	Platinum Group Metals
711021	Palladium, unwrought or in powder form	Platinum Group Metals
711029	Palladium in semi-manufactured forms	Platinum Group Metals
711011	Platinum, unwrought or in powder form	Platinum Group Metals
711019	Platinum, in semi-manufactured forms	Platinum Group Metals
711292	Waste and scrap of platinum, incl. metal clad with platinum, and other waste and scrap containing platinum or platinum compounds, of a kind used principally for the recovery of precious metal (excl. ash containing platinum or platinum compounds, waste and scrap of platinum melted down into unworked blocks, ingots, or similar forms, and sweepings and ash containing precious metals)	Platinum Group Metals
711510	Catalysts in the form of wire cloth or grill, of platinum	Platinum Group Metals
711031	Rhodium, unwrought or in powder form	Platinum Group Metals
711039	Rhodium in semi-manufactured forms	Platinum Group Metals
28461000	Cerium compounds	Rare Earth Elements for magnets (Nd, Pr, Tb, Dy, Gd, Sm, and Ce)
28469010	Compounds of lanthanum, praseodymium, neodymium or samarium, inorganic or organic	Rare Earth Elements for magnets (Nd, Pr, Tb, Dy, Gd, Sm, and Ce)



CN Code	Description	Strategic Raw Material
28469020	Compounds of europium, gadolinium, terbium, dysprosium, holmium, erbium, thulium, ytterbium, lutetium or yttrium, inorganic or organic	Rare Earth Elements for magnets (Nd, Pr, Tb, Dy, Gd, Sm, and Ce)
28053010	Intermixtures or interalloys of rare-earth metals, scandium and yttrium	Rare Earth Elements for magnets (Nd, Pr, Tb, Dy, Gd, Sm, and Ce)
28053020	Cerium, lanthanum, praseodymium, neodymium and samarium, of a purity by weight of >=95% (excl. intermixtures and interalloys)	Rare Earth Elements for magnets (Nd, Pr, Tb, Dy, Gd, Sm, and Ce)
28053030	Europium, gadolinium, terbium, dysprosium, holmium, erbium, thulium, ytterbium, lutetium and yttrium, of a purity by weight of >=95% (excl. intermixtures and interalloys)	Rare Earth Elements for magnets (Nd, Pr, Tb, Dy, Gd, Sm, and Ce)
28046900	Silicon containing < 99,99% by weight of silicon	Silicon metal
28046100	Silicon containing >= 99,99% by weight of silicon	Silicon metal
26140000	Titanium ores and concentrates	Titanium metal
28230000	Titanium oxides	Titanium metal
26209960	Slag, ash and residues containing mainly titanium	Titanium metal
81082000	Unwrought titanium; titanium powders	Titanium metal
81083000	Titanium waste and scrap (excl. ash and residues containing titanium)	Titanium metal
72029100	Ferro-titanium and ferro-silico-titanium	Titanium metal
26110000	Tungsten ores and concentrates	Tungsten
28259040	Tungsten oxides and hydroxides	Tungsten
810100		Tungsten
28418000	Tungstates "wolframates"	Tungsten
72028000	Ferro-tungsten and ferro-silico-tungsten	Tungsten
28499030	Carbides of tungsten, whether or not chemically defined	Tungsten

Source: Individual Factsheets. <https://screen.eu/crms-2023/>

## ANNEX II

**TABLE 1: SRMs CONCORDANCE OF EUROSTAT CN CODES AND MERCOSUR'S COMMON NOMENCLATURE (NCM) CODES**

SRM	CN Code	Description	NCM Codes	Description
Bismuth	81011000	Tungsten powders	810110	Tungsten powders
Bismuth	81060010	Unwrought bismuth; bismuth powders; bismuth waste and scrap (excl. ash and residues containing bismuth)		
Bismuth	81060090	Articles of bismuth, n.e.s.		
Boron - metallurgy grade	25280000	Borates, natural, and concentrates thereof, whether or not calcined, and natural boric acids containing <= 85% of H <sub>3</sub> BO <sub>3</sub> calculated on the dry weight (excl. borates separated from natural brine)	252800	Borates, natural, and concentrates thereof, whether or not calcined, and natural boric acids containing <= 85% of H <sub>3</sub> BO <sub>3</sub> calculated on the dry weight (excl. borates separated from natural brine)
Boron - metallurgy grade	28100010	Diboron trioxide	281000	Diboron trioxide
Boron - metallurgy grade	28100090	Oxides of boron and boric acids (excl. diboron trioxide)	281000	Oxides of boron and boric acids (excl. diboron trioxide)
Boron - metallurgy grade	28401100	Anhydrous disodium tetraborate "refined borax"	284011	Anhydrous disodium tetraborate "refined borax"
Boron - metallurgy grade	28401910	Disodium tetraborate pentahydrate	284019	Disodium tetraborate pentahydrate
Cobalt	26050000	Cobalt ores and concentrates	260500	Cobalt ores and concentrates
Cobalt	28273400	Cobalt chlorides	282734	Cobalt chlorides
Cobalt	29152300	Cobalt acetates	291523	Cobalt acetates
Copper	26030000	Copper ores and concentrates	260300	Copper ores and concentrates
Copper	74010000	Copper mattes; cement copper "precipitated copper"	740100	Copper mattes; cement copper "precipitated copper"
Copper	74020000	Copper, unrefined; copper anodes for electrolytic refining	740200	Copper, unrefined; copper anodes for electrolytic refining
Copper	74031100	Copper, refined, in the form of cathodes and sections of cathodes	740311	Copper, refined, in the form of cathodes and sections of cathodes
Gallium	81129289	Unwrought gallium; gallium powders		
Germanium	28256000	Germanium oxides and zirconium dioxide	282560	Germanium oxides and zirconium dioxide

SRM	CN Code	Description	NCM Codes	Description
Germanium	81129295	Unwrought germanium; germanium powders		
Germanium	81129940	Articles of germanium, n.e.s.		
Lithium - battery grade	28252000	Lithium oxide and hydroxide	282520	Lithium oxide and hydroxide
Lithium - battery grade	28369100	Lithium carbonates	283691	Lithium carbonates
Magnesium metal	81041100	Unwrought magnesium, containing >= 99,8% by weight of magnesium	8104	Magnesium and articles thereof, n.e.s.; magnesium waste and scrap (excl. ash and residues containing magnesium)
Magnesium metal	81041900	Unwrought magnesium, containing < 99,8% by weight of magnesium		
Magnesium metal	28273100	Magnesium chloride	282731	Magnesium chloride
Manganese - battery grade	2602	Manganese ores and concentrates, incl. ferruginous manganese ores and concentrates, with a manganese content of >= 20%, calculated on the dry weight	2602	Manganese ores and concentrates, incl. ferruginous manganese ores and concentrates, with a manganese content of >= 20%, calculated on the dry weight
Manganese - battery grade	2820	Manganese oxides	2820	Manganese oxides
Manganese - battery grade	720211	Ferro-manganese, containing by weight > 2% of carbon	720211	Ferro-manganese, containing by weight > 2% of carbon
Nickel - battery grade	26040000	Nickel ores and concentrates	260400	Nickel ores and concentrates
Nickel - battery grade	28254000	Nickel oxides and hydroxides	282540	Nickel oxides and hydroxides
Nickel - battery grade	28273500	Nickel chloride	282735	Nickel chloride
Nickel - battery grade	28332400	Sulphates of nickel	283324	Sulphates of nickel
Nickel - battery grade	72026000	Ferro-nickel	720260	Ferro-nickel
Nickel - battery grade	75021000	Nickel, not alloyed, unwrought	750210	Nickel, not alloyed, unwrought
Nickel - battery grade	75022000	Unwrought nickel alloys	750220	Unwrought nickel alloys
Nickel - battery grade	75040000	Powders and flakes, of nickel (excl. nickel oxide sinters)	750400	Powders and flakes, of nickel (excl. nickel oxide sinters)
Platinum Group Metals	711011	Platinum, unwrought or in powder form	711011	Platinum, unwrought or in powder form
Platinum Group Metals	711019	Platinum, in semi-manufactured forms	711019	Platinum, in semi-manufactured forms

SRM	CN Code	Description	NCM Codes	Description
Platinum Group Metals	711021	Palladium, unwrought or in powder form	711021	Palladium, unwrought or in powder form
Platinum Group Metals	711029	Palladium in semi-manufactured forms	711029	Palladium in semi-manufactured forms
Platinum Group Metals	711031	Rhodium, unwrought or in powder form	711031	Rhodium, unwrought or in powder form
Platinum Group Metals	711039	Rhodium in semi-manufactured forms	711039	Rhodium in semi-manufactured forms
Platinum Group Metals	711041	Iridium, osmium and ruthenium, unwrought or in powder form	711041	Iridium, osmium and ruthenium, unwrought or in powder form
Platinum Group Metals	711049	Iridium, osmium and ruthenium, in semi-manufactured forms	711049	Iridium, osmium and ruthenium, in semi-manufactured forms
Platinum Group Metals	711292	Waste and scrap of platinum, incl. metal clad with platinum, and other waste and scrap containing platinum or platinum compounds, of a kind used principally for the recovery of precious metal (excl. ash containing platinum or platinum compounds, waste and scrap of platinum melted down into unworked blocks, ingots, or similar forms, and sweepings and ash containing precious metals)	711292	Waste and scrap of platinum, incl. metal clad with platinum, and other waste and scrap containing platinum or platinum compounds, of a kind used principally for the recovery of precious metal (excl. ash containing platinum or platinum compounds, waste and scrap of platinum melted down into unworked blocks, ingots, or similar forms, and sweepings and ash containing precious metals)
Platinum Group Metals	711510	Catalysts in the form of wire cloth or grill, of platinum	711510	Catalysts in the form of wire cloth or grill, of platinum
Rare Earth Elements for magnets (Nd, Pr, Tb, Dy, Gd, Sm, and Ce)	28053010	Intermixtures or interalloys of rare-earth metals, scandium and yttrium	280530	Intermixtures or interalloys of rare-earth metals, scandium and yttrium
Rare Earth Elements for magnets (Nd, Pr, Tb, Dy, Gd, Sm, and Ce)	28053020	Cerium, lanthanum, praseodymium, neodymium and samarium, of a purity by weight of >=95% (excl. intermixtures and interalloys)	280530	Cerium, lanthanum, praseodymium, neodymium and samarium, of a purity by weight of >=95% (excl. intermixtures and interalloys)
Rare Earth Elements for magnets (Nd, Pr, Tb, Dy, Gd, Sm, and Ce)	28053030	Europium, gadolinium, terbium, dysprosium, holmium, erbium, thulium, ytterbium, lutetium and yttrium, of a purity by weight of >=95% (excl. intermixtures and interalloys)	280530	Europium, gadolinium, terbium, dysprosium, holmium, erbium, thulium, ytterbium, lutetium and yttrium, of a purity by weight of >=95% (excl. intermixtures and interalloys)
Rare Earth Elements for magnets (Nd, Pr, Tb, Dy, Gd, Sm, and Ce)	28461000	Cerium compounds	284610	Cerium compounds
Rare Earth Elements for magnets (Nd, Pr, Tb, Dy, Gd, Sm, and Ce)	28469010	Compounds of lanthanum, praseodymium, neodymium or samarium, inorganic or organic	284690	Compounds of lanthanum, praseodymium, neodymium or samarium, inorganic or organic

SRM	CN Code	Description	NCM Codes	Description
Rare Earth Elements for magnets (Nd, Pr, Tb, Dy, Gd, Sm, and Ce)	28469020	Compounds of europium, gadolinium, terbium, dysprosium, holmium, erbium, thulium, ytterbium, lutetium or yttrium, inorganic or organic	284690	Compounds of europium, gadolinium, terbium, dysprosium, holmium, erbium, thulium, ytterbium, lutetium or yttrium, inorganic or organic
Silicon metal	28046100	Silicon containing >= 99,99% by weight of silicon	280461	Silicon containing >= 99,99% by weight of silicon
Silicon metal	28046900	Silicon containing < 99,99% by weight of silicon	280469	Silicon containing < 99,99% by weight of silicon
Titanium metal	26140000	Titanium ores and concentrates	261400	Titanium ores and concentrates
Titanium metal	26209960	Slag, ash and residues containing mainly titanium	262099	Slag, ash and residues containing mainly titanium
Titanium metal	28230000	Titanium oxides	282300	Titanium oxides
Titanium metal	72029100	Ferro-titanium and ferro-silico-titanium	720291	Ferro-titanium and ferro-silico-titanium
Titanium metal	81082000	Unwrought titanium; titanium powders		
Titanium metal	81083000	Titanium waste and scrap (excl. ash and residues containing titanium)		
Tungsten	26110000	Tungsten ores and concentrates	261100	Tungsten ores and concentrates
Tungsten	28259040	Tungsten oxides and hydroxides	282590	Tungsten oxides and hydroxides
Tungsten	28418000	Tungstates "wolframates"	284180	Tungstates "wolframates"
Tungsten	28499030	Carbides of tungsten, whether or not chemically defined	284990	Carbides of tungsten, whether or not chemically defined
Tungsten	72028000	Ferro-tungsten and ferro-silico-tungsten	720280	Ferro-tungsten and ferro-silico-tungsten
			8101	Tungsten "wolfram" and articles thereof, n.e.s.; tungsten waste and scrap (excl. ash and residues containing tungsten)