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EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMES
Decarbonisation, Mobility, Raw Materials
I.1 – Raw Materials, Energy Intensive Industries

Minutes of the 2nd meeting of the CRM Board subgroup on strategic stocks
22 May 2025, 11h00 – 16h00
Location : Brussels

1. NATURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting was non-public.

2. POINTS DISCUSSED

The second meeting of the Stockpiling Subgroup was held on 22 May 2025 in Brussels, where the European Commission and Member States discussed the current state of stockpiling in the EU. The meeting began with welcome and introductory remarks by DG GROW, European Commission.

Overview of Member States' Survey Results and Gaps

DG GROW summarised the main findings of the survey on stockpiling, which was conducted among Member States.

The results showed that some Member States have centralised multipurpose agencies, the others specialised agencies for oil and gas, emergency situations, defence etc. Regarding stockpiling forms, governments control physical stockpiles stored in governmental warehouses or rented by government, obliged stocks by industry, contracted stockpiles by industry (such as oil), or reserved production capacity in industry. Many Member States provided references to the legislation defining rules or procedures applicable to the release, allocation and distribution of strategic stocks. Some Member States stressed the importance of the data security regarding strategic stocks. Some Member States would welcome cross border cooperation.

The Commission emphasised that industry involvement is crucial, but sensitive information should not be shared. The Commission clarified that there is no obligation for Strategic projects to stockpile.

Benchmarks for Strategic Stocks

The Commission presented an initial draft proposal for a methodology to develop benchmarks for a safe level of strategic stocks. The proposal aimed to clarify how to take into account requirements of the Article 23, including parameters as net imports, publicly reported private stocks, supply risk and economic importance of individual strategic raw materials. Member States were asked to provide their views on the overall approach, including data constraints, minimum number of days net imports to be covered in case of supply disruption, and how to gather publicly available information on strategic stocks held by private operators.

International aspects

The Commission presented developments in the International Energy Agency (IEA) Critical Minerals Security Programme related to stockpiling.

3. CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

The Commission thanked Member States for sharing information and invited them to the Raw Materials Week on 17-21 November 2025 in Brussels.

Member States expressed a general support for a joint action on stockpiling at the EU level, complementing activities of the Member States.

The Commission asked Member States to provide written comments and additional information regarding the survey by 5 June and comments on the benchmarks' methodology by the end of June.

Next meeting is planned online in Q3 2025.