To:  

Subject:  

Dear Colleagues,

On 6 May 2021, European Raw Materials Alliance (ERMA) representatives met the Commissioner for the first time since the ERMA launch in September 2020. The delegation included EIT Raw Materials and CEOs from different parts of the value chain (mining, refining, magnets, recycling). EIT RawMaterials managing ERMA, Vacuumschmelze, Neo Performance Materials, Finnish Minerals Group, Careter.

ERMA acknowledged that the EU already made a great progress in securing sustainable battery value chain for e-mobility and renewable energy, and the same is needed for high performance electric drivetrains/motors using rare earths based permanent magnets. The EU should mobilise its strong downstream industry to create demand for these products in the EU and regulations that can ensure production respecting environmental and social principles and keeping end of life products in the EU.

ERMA representatives also raised several crucial issues to enable sustainable rare earths and magnets production in the EU.

- There is a need to create level playing field vis-a-vis China which is actively incentivising local production and export of rare earths based high added value products,
- to make public finance easy to blend with private investment,
- to create market for domestic sustainable rare earths and magnets and incentivise the EU manufacturers to buy them,
- to improve circularity by promoting recycling of magnets and making the End of Life products containing rare earths stay in Europe.

All the best,

Raw materials

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DG Internal market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs
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