Flash from a meeting between Mr. Maroš Šefčovič, European Commission Vice-President and CEO of Infinity Lithium

Date and time: 1 March 2022 at 10:30-11:00

Key points:

- The CEO has informed about the progress in and an outlook for developing a sustainable lithium mining and refining “San José Valdéflorez Lithium” project in Spain, which could become an important part of a future vertically-integrated battery value chain in Spain. The project is expected to create local growth and some 400 direct jobs in the Extremadura region.

- The CEO informed about the actions recent undertaken to lower the social and environmental footprints of the project, including redesign of the mine from an original open-pit to an underground project, electrification of the underground fleet, and use of hydrogen to power the lithium chemical conversion process.

- The Vice-President stressed the necessity of ensuring full compliance of the project, both during its development and operation, with the environmental and social legislation, and the highest standards on transparency and public engagement.

- The Vice-President informed about the Commission’s efforts to ensure stable and long-term supply of critical raw materials needed to decarbonise and digitalise the European economy, as well as to strengthen resilience of the strategic value chains, such as batteries/energy storage, renewables, hydrogen. The Vice-President has pointed to the three axis, i.e. fostering domestic sustainable and responsible projects, diversifying supplies by creating strategic partnerships with like-minded trade partners, and fully implementing the circular economy concept.