

**From:** LEINONEN Suvi (CAB-URPILAINEN)  
**Sent:** jeudi 6 octobre 2022 09:22  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Debrief: meeting with the Cobalt Institute on critical raw materials

To Ares pls-

<b>Subject: meeting with the Cobalt Institute on critical raw materials</b>
<b>Date: 21 September 2022</b>
<b>Participants:</b> [REDACTED] [REDACTED] SL from cab Urpilainen
<p>The Cobalt Institute (CB) proposed a meeting with cab Urpilainen to present themselves (first meeting with cab Urpilainen – the institute met INTPA in the summer) and to shed light on CB’s objectives as they continue to work with different supplier countries, most notably DRC. CB represents 80% of cobalt used globally. [REDACTED] specified that that CB’s focus is on the whole value chain, including recycling, and is not therefore limited to extracting. These were their main messages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 50-60% of cobalt goes to batteries and half of this to electric vehicles;</li><li>- Demand will skyrocket in the next years due to decarbonisation and electrification;</li><li>- Cobalt is a great material in a sense that it is very recyclable. Cobalt holds a great promise as European societies move to circular economy;</li><li>- However, circularity demands recycled raw material which requires that the first generation of EVs reach their end of life in the medium term (we are not there yet). In the meantime, a lot of extracted cobalt is needed;</li><li>- Currently cobalt is being extracted in e.g. Australia, Canada and Indonesia. Queensland has a very large, untapped reserve of cobalt;</li><li>- Deep sea mining is being discussed; it is estimated that there is 40 million tonnes of cobalt in the deep seas. However, environmental studies are needed and deep sea mining is not without problems and challenges, demonstrated by the sensitivity of the topic in the public sphere;</li><li>- Apart from the deep sea, the biggest cobalt reserve (3,6 million tonnes) is in DRC. Its share represents 60% of the known (land) cobalt reserves. In DRC, cobalt is a by-product of cobber mines;</li><li>- Global Gateway is a great opportunity to ensure strategic benefits for the EU while reducing poverty and end child labour in DRC.</li></ul> <p>SL took note, thanked CB for their very interesting presentation and suggested to keep in touch as critical raw materials are high on the Commission agenda, e.g. due to the upcoming act/communication and the sustainable raw materials partnerships with selected African partners.</p> <p>SL +++</p>

**Suvi Leinonen**  
Member of Cabinet



**European Commission**  
**Cabinet of Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen**  
**International Partnerships**

