International Antimony Association

CRM Alliance
Critical Raw Materials

Reducing Strategic Dependencies in Global Critical Raw Materials

organized in the context of

ANTIMONY DAY 2026 – Strategic Control?

24 and 25 November 2026

Hotel Renaissance, Brussels

About the Event

Date: 24–25 November 2026

Place: Renaissance Brussels Hotel, Brussels

Day 1: **Critical raw materials policy and strategic dependencies**

Day 2: The geopolitically reshaped antimony market

Registration: https://www.antimony.com/antimony-day-2026/

Why attend?

As the European Union moves from adopting its critical raw materials framework to implementing it, important questions remain about whether existing policy instruments are delivering tangible results for strategic projects and European industrial value chains.

This policy and industry dialogue will bring together European and national policymakers, industry leaders and international experts to examine:

- the implementation and effectiveness of the Critical Raw Materials Act and related EU instruments;
- the growing use of critical raw materials as instruments of geopolitical leverage;
- Europe's vulnerabilities in processing and refining; and
- the policy and investment conditions needed to strengthen resilient European value chains.

The discussions will move beyond policy ambition to consider what is working in practice, where gaps remain and what further action is needed.

Who should attend?

- EU and national policymakers and regulators
- Representatives of industries dependent on critical raw materials
- Raw-material producers, processors, refiners and traders
- Investors and financial institutions supporting strategic projects
- Researchers and experts working on industrial policy, economic security and supply-chain resilience
- Think tanks and organisations working on resource governance and sustainability

PROGRAMME

12:00 – 12:45 **Registration and light lunch**

12:45 – 13:05 **Introduction to the day and to the conference**

- Mr Raymond Devaux – President, I2A
- Mr Mike Blakeney- President, CRM Alliance
- Mr David Rose, Mr Peter Handley – Moderators

13:05- 14:30 **Session 1: Effectiveness of EU Policy Instruments to Secure Sustainable and Resilient Supply of CRMs: From Ambition to Implementation**

Over the past years, the EU has put in place an ambitious framework to reduce strategic dependencies on critical raw materials, most notably through the Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA), the Batteries Regulation, and related industrial and trade instruments. While these initiatives clearly demonstrate political ambition, questions remain regarding their practical effectiveness, internal coherence, and impact on real projects on the ground.

This session aims to critically examine whether current EU policy instruments are delivering on their objectives, and what adjustments may be required to bridge the gap between ambition and implementation.

- Mr Lieven Top, Senior Advisor Raw Materials, Trade & Industry bij Flemish ministry of Economy, Sciences and Innovation, Deputy high-level representative in the Board of the Critical Raw Materials Act
- Mr Thomas Wyns, Doctoral Researcher in the Environment and Sustainable
- Development cluster, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
- Ms Keit Pentus-Rosimannus , European Court of Auditors,
- Mr Ben Van de Voorde, Director Government Affairs, Umicore
- Mr Romain Charvet, Public Affairs Manager, France & Europe, ERAMET

14:30 - 15:00 **Coffee Break**

15:00 - 16:15 **Session 2: Critical Raw Materials as a Geopolitical Weapon: Strategic Competition, Dependencies and Industrial Consequences**

Critical raw materials have become a central element of geopolitical strategy, increasingly used as tools of influence, leverage, or pressure. Export controls, trade restrictions, and state backed industrial strategies are reshaping global value chains for CRMs, with direct implications for Europe's industrial base.

This session aims to decipher how major global actors approach CRMs strategically, and what this means for European industry and policy choices.

- Ms Zora Mincheva, Policy Officer, DG TRADE, European Commission

- Mr Jeff Frankston, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of War, Industrial Base Resilience (IBR), Ministry of War USA [via Videoconference + a recorded video as back up plan]
- Ms Camille Boullenois, Associate Director, Rhodium Group's China Projects team
- Mr Gabriel Ratiu, Supply Officer, NATO
- Mr Marco Levi, CEO, Ferroglobe

16:15 – 17:00 **Session 3: Looking Downstream: Why Processing and Refining Are the Real Bottlenecks in Europe's CRM Strategy**

Securing access to raw materials is only part of the challenge. Europe's greatest strategic dependency often lies further downstream, in the processing and refining stages that transform raw materials into the inputs needed for batteries, wind energy, advanced manufacturing and other strategic industries.

Despite growing demand, Europe continues to face significant challenges in maintaining and expanding its processing capacity, including high energy costs, global competitive pressures and difficult investment conditions. This session will explore how Europe can strengthen its midstream industries, reduce strategic dependencies and create the business case for investing in processing and refining within Europe.

- Mr Nils Backerberg, Founder & Director, Project Blue
- Mr Pierre Tardieu, Chief Policy Officer, Wind Europe
- Ms Kinga Timaru-Kast : Director of Public Affairs & Communications, RECHARGE
- Mr Mike Blakeney, Head of Government and Public Affairs, Cobalt Institute

17:00 – 17:15 **Closing remarks**

19:00 – 23:00 **SOCIAL EVENT**