The Netherlands' Position on the European Critical Raw Materials Centre
Feedback to the European Commission's public consultation

The Hague, June 2026

The Netherlands welcomes the Commission's intention to establish a European Critical Raw Materials Centre and supports the four policy pillars set out in the Call for Evidence. This response sets out the Dutch government's key priorities for each of the four pillars.

Pillar 1 - Market Intelligence

Centralized intelligence capability aligns with the Netherlands' commitment to better knowledge building and monitoring of critical raw material supply chains. Importantly, the Centre should interface structurally with national materials observatories or equivalent national organizations.[1] Member States and industry play a vital role in data collection and use. Confidentiality and information security are essential requirements for data sharing and usage at the EU level. With a clear, well-defined mandate the Centre play a coordinating role in the availability of data, validation and labelling of data across existing bodies such as the monitoring body of the CRMA Board, Economic Security Information Hub, the Observatory for Critical Technologies, the European Joint Research Centre, Eurostat and the International Energy Agency. Lastly, for the Centre's intelligence function, it is important that circularity is an integral part, covering both supply and demand of secondary critical materials.

Pillar 2 – Project financing

Bundling financing channels into a CRM hub aligns with the Netherlands' objective of deploying existing resources more effectively for strategic projects. The Netherlands underlines that this mobilisation should, on the short term, draw on existing instruments within the current MFF and encourages the Commission not to defer this to the next MFF or to the Centre becoming fully operational. In addition, the hub should deliver genuine transparency: meaning clear information on available funds, timelines, eligibility conditions, and upcoming calls, enabling Member States, companies, financial institutions and knowledge institutions to engage proactively. Financing instruments must be able to compete on a global scale, including for equity investments and offtake agreements. A sound balance between projects inside and outside the EU is essential, in coherence with Global Gateway and with a focus on local value addition. The financing hub should coordinate closely with national investment institutions[2] to maximise complementarity between EU-level and national financing, and thereby close as much of the financing gap for CRM value chain projects as possible. Lastly, the Netherlands underlines that the financing ambitions set out in RESourceEU are urgent, and must materialise on a short-term basis, preceding the Centre becoming fully operational.

Pillar 3 – Stockpiling

A coordinated European approach to stockpiling is necessary: value chains within the internal market are too integrated and demand for raw materials in the Netherland is too small, for standalone national programme to be effective. The Netherlands emphasises the need for a public-private mechanism. Such a mechanism should always be complemented with the stimulation of privately held stocks at company-level. The Netherlands notes that the success of the stockpiling pillar will depend on access to deep expertise in logistics, commodity markets and international trade flows. Given its unique position as a European logistics hub and its longstanding role in global

[1] Such as the Netherlands Material Observatory (NMO), The French Observatory of Mineral Resources for Industrial Sectors (Ofremi), and Deutsche Rohstoffagentur (Dera)
[2] Such as InvestNL and InvestInternational

commodity trading, the Netherlands can contribute to the development and operationalisation of the Centre's stockpiling function. In this regard, the Netherlands underlines that the ongoing pilot[3] must be designed from the outset as a building block of the Centre's stockpiling pillar, not as a parallel track. Only then will the pilot generate the practical experience and institutional knowledge needed to make the Centre's stockpiling function effective.

Pillar 4 – Demand aggregation and joint purchasing.

The Netherlands underlines that demand-side measures, including demand aggregation, long-term offtake agreements, and demand creation in downstream sectors, are as important as supply-side interventions. The Netherlands sees potential in the EU Energy and Raw Materials Platform as an instrument to match supply and demand, particularly for priority value chains. However, it urges the Commission to draw on the lessons learned from the AggregateEU system, where private buy-in was less than expected. The success of the platform hinges on broad industry adoption.

[3] The Coaltion of the Willing stockpiling pilot