

Magnesia for Europe

Pledge by the
Magnesite and Magnesium Chloride Mining
&
Magnesia producing Companies
in Europe

Brussels | December 9, 2024



Magnesia for Europe

To the esteemed members of the European Commission,

We, the undersigned representatives of Europe's magnesite and magnesium chloride mining as well as magnesia producing companies, hereby appeal to the European Commission to carefully assess the strategic importance of magnesite, magnesium chloride and magnesia during the update of the critical and strategic raw materials lists starting in 2025.

Magnesite* and magnesia** are crucial and irreplaceable components for the European industry:

- Magnesite and magnesia are indispensable in the processing and recycling of over 50% of strategic raw materials and over 30% of all critical raw materials
- Magnesite/magnesia is used in over 100 applications covering a wide range of sectors from agriculture to metallurgy and steel making. It is an essential raw material even for batteries, heating elements, transformers and CO2 absorbers and catalysts.
- European magnesite has unique properties and is well-positioned to meet the demands of these diverse applications. Most importantly, 75% of the world steel production relies on European magnesite for its transformation towards green steel by using Electric Arc Furnaces.
- Even one of the scarcest strategic raw materials in Europe – magnesium metal, essential for the aerospace and defense industry – can be derived from magnesite and magnesia, which is the only viable way of producing this metal in Europe at a fraction of the CO2-footprint elsewhere in the world.

Magnesite and magnesia also enable the production of key climate, energy storage and other advanced technologies, such as electric vehicles and latest generation batteries, rendering them essential to the EU's green and digital transitions.

Alas, Europe has limited magnesite deposits. China, Russia, and North Korea own nearly 80% of the world's magnesite deposits, whereas China is the biggest magnesite mining and magnesia producing country with 70% of the world's production. This makes China the number one magnesia exporting country, and the EU dependent on China for these strategically important materials.

Despite its unquestionable importance to enable the sustainability transition, and despite the strategic dependence the EU faces – magnesite and magnesia are not recognized as strategic raw material under the Critical Raw Materials Act.

As Europe works to strengthen its raw material security, we emphasize the importance of going further in evaluating the entire supply chain of critical and strategic raw materials as well as their applications in key industrial sectors in Europe such as green technology, energy efficiency and defense.

We therefore call on the European Commission to

- Recognize the strategic role of magnesite and magnesia in securing a sustainable future for Europe and bolstering EU strategic autonomy
- Including magnesite and magnesia in the upcoming assessment of Critical and Strategic raw materials
- And screen magnesite and magnesia in their entire value chain, including the possibility to produce magnesium metal – such as it is the case with the strategic raw material bauxite/alumina/aluminium

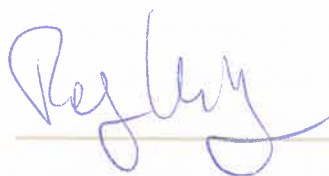
A comprehensive assessment will not only help identify potential vulnerabilities but also support sustainable sourcing in the EU that are vital for our economic resilience, competitiveness, and growth.

We, the European magnesite and magnesia producers will serve European competitiveness, growth and the green transition. We are committed to sustainable and responsible production practices and the strengthening of the European supply of these strategically important raw materials. Finally, we commit to improving the data availability on magnesite and magnesia so that an informed assessment under the CRMA is possible.

**Magnesite includes magnesium carbonate, magnesium hydroxide from natural or synthetic sources, hydro magnesite, nesquehonite and magnesium chloride*

***Magnesia includes caustic calcined magnesia, hard burned magnesia, dead burned magnesia and fused magnesia*

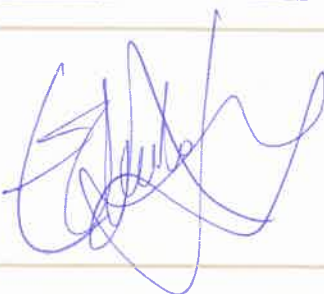
Signing Companies and Associations



Rolf Kuby
Director General
Euromines



Dimitris Kalogeropoulos
Manager Corporate Strategy
Grecian Magnesite



Eduardo Jimenez Aguirre
Director General
Magnesitas de Rubian



Magnesitas Navarras
CEO
Javier Crexell



Bert Jan Bruning
CEO
Nedmag



Stefan Borgas
CEO
RHI Magnesita



Roman Gazur
CEO
SMZ, a.s. Jelšava