



An Roinn Comhshaoil,
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide
Department of the Environment,
Climate and Communications

Critical Raw Materials Act

Briefing for the Waste Advisory Committee

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Introduction

Timeline/procedure



- The legal instrument will be a Regulation
 - Has direct, immediate effect in MSs (no transposition)
 - Expected to pass through European Parliament in Q1 2024
 - Accompanied by a Communication (non-binding)
- Geoscience Policy Division in DECC is the policy coordination lead, engaging with interdepartmental and external stakeholders
- Being negotiated at Industry Working Party, weekly meetings to June

European Critical Raw Materials Act



**Ensuring a secure and sustainable supply
of critical raw materials for the Union**



**Strengthen all stages of the
European CRM value chain**

**Improve EU capacity to monitor
and mitigate risks of disruption to
CRM supply**



**Diversify EU CRM imports to reduce
strategic dependencies**

**Improve CRM circularity
and sustainability**



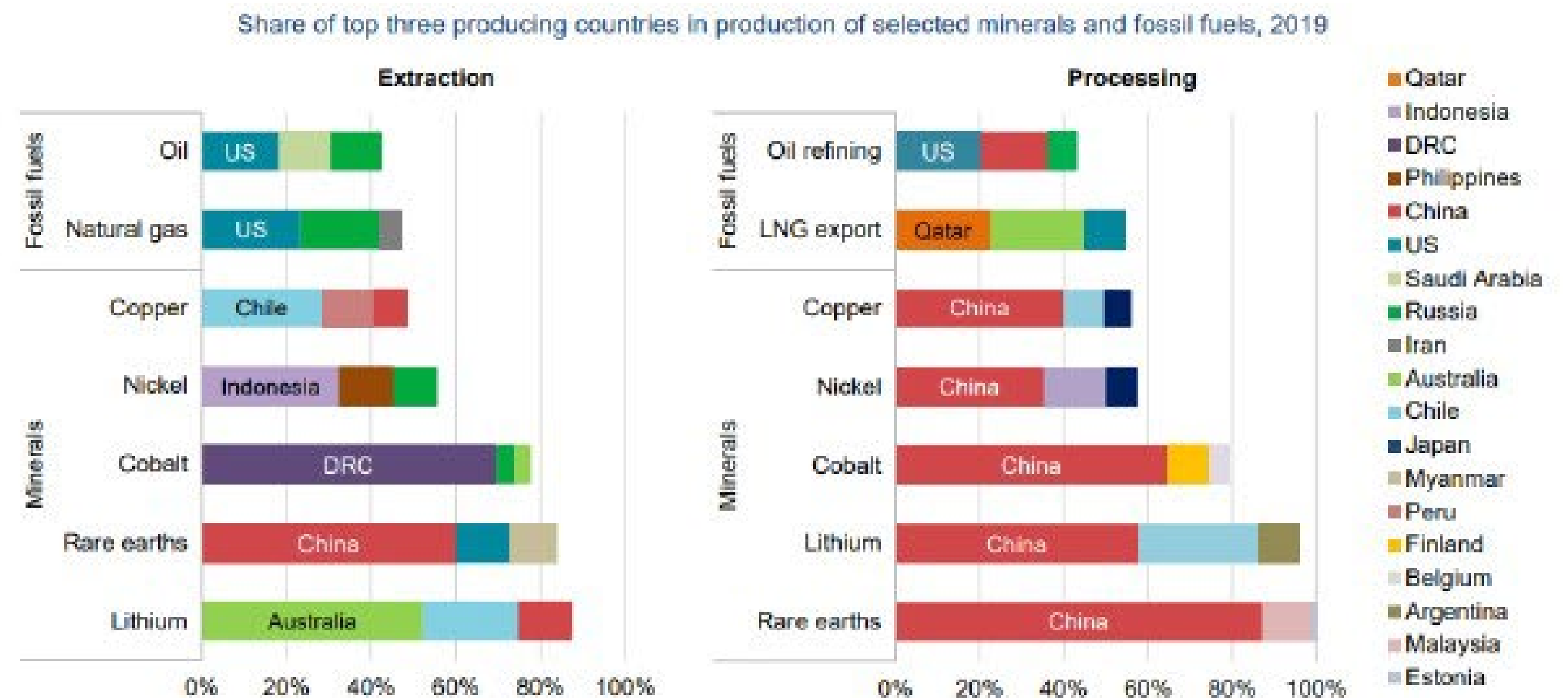
Main problem

Lack of secure access to critical raw materials

- EU heavily relies on imports of CRMs – for all value chain stages
- Within imports, suppliers are highly concentrated
- Suppliers often exposed to significant environmental, social and governance risks

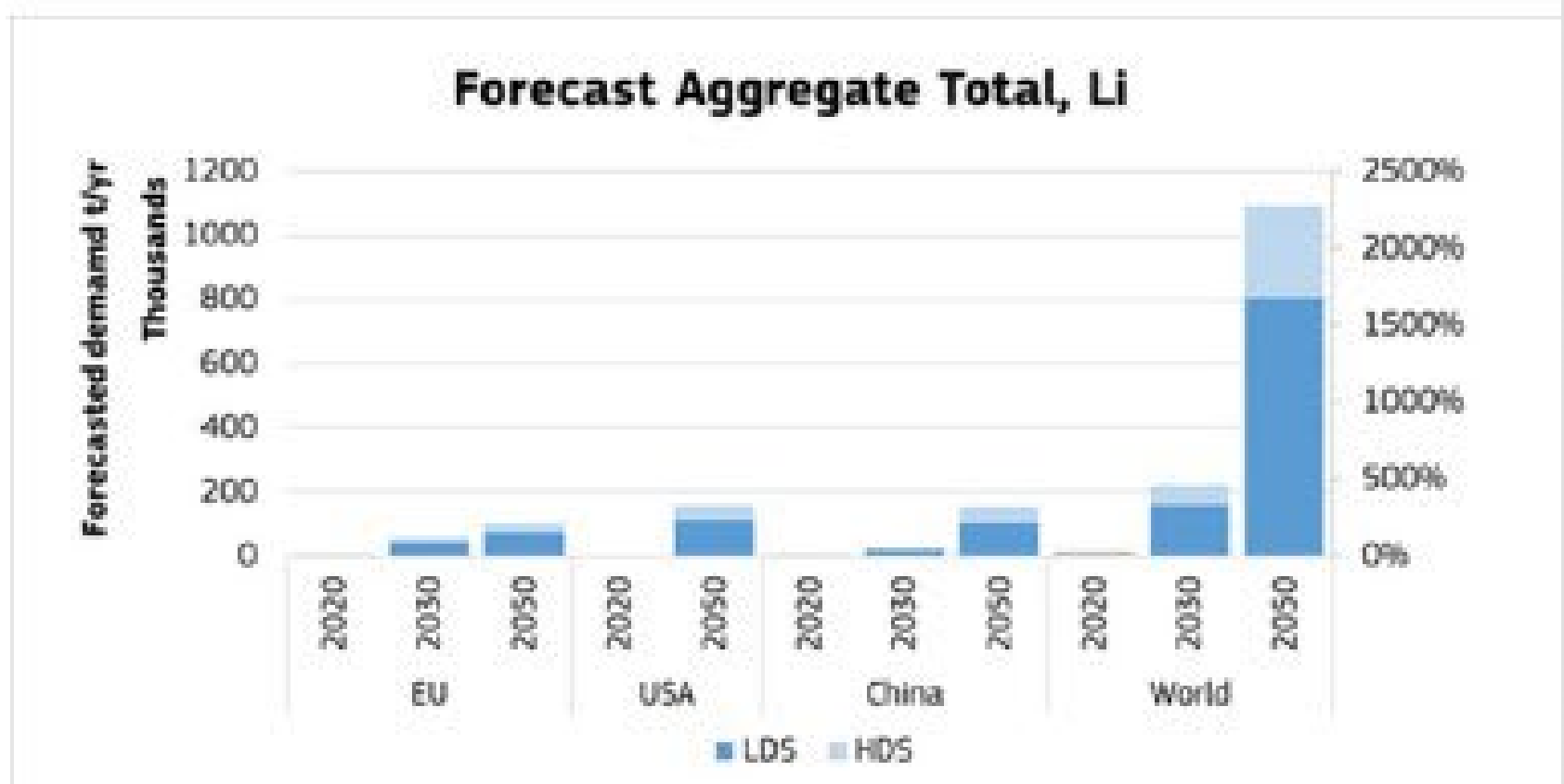
Problem context

- Expected increase in demand for CRMs in light of twin transitions
- E.g. --> EU demand for lithium is expected to grow by 12 times by 2030 and by 21 by 2050



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Notes: LNG = liquefied natural gas; US = United States. The values for copper processing are for refining operations.
Sources: IEA (2020a); USGS (2021); World Bureau of Metal Statistics (2020); Adamas Intelligence (2020).





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Main provisions of Act

Chapter 1 General provisions



Overall objective: EU capacity reaches the following benchmarks



EU EXTRACTION

At least **10%** of the EU's annual consumption for extraction



EU PROCESSING

At least **40%** of the EU's annual consumption for processing



EU RECYCLING

At least **15%** of the EU's annual consumption for recycling



EXTERNAL SOURCES

Not more than **65%** of the EU's annual consumption of **each strategic raw material at any relevant stage of processing** from a single third country

Chapter 2 CRM & SRM lists



Critical Raw Material list:

- Raw materials (34) deemed to be at high risk of **supply disruption** and at the same time **economically important**
- Based on retrospective data
- Thresholds calculated and applied for vulnerability and importance

Critical Raw Materials list 2023

(a) Antimony	(s) Lithium
(b) Arsenic*	(t) Magnesium
(c) Bauxite	(u) Manganese*
(d) Baryte	(v) Natural Graphite
(e) Beryllium	(w) Nickel – battery grade*
(f) Bismuth	(x) Niobium
(g) Boron	(y) Phosphate rock
(h) Cobalt	(z) Phosphorus
(i) Coking Coal	(aa) Platinum Group Metals
(j) Copper*	(bb) Scandium
(k) Feldspar*	(cc) Silicon metal
(l) Fluorspar	(dd) Strontium
(m) Gallium	(ee) Tantalum
(n) Germanium	(ff) Titanium metal
(o) Hafnium	(gg) Tungsten
(p) Helium*	(hh) Vanadium
(q) Heavy Rare Earth Elements	
(r) Light Rare Earth Elements	
* New to 2023 list	

Chapter 2 CRM & SRM lists



Strategic raw materials list:

- Raw materials (16) deemed to be strategically important for the green and digital transitions,
- Taking into account:
 - the **amount needed** for strategic technologies and
 - the expected **global demand** for these technologies
- ‘Forward-looking’

Strategic Raw Materials list 2023	
(a)	Bismuth
(b)	Boron - metallurgy grade
(c)	Cobalt
(d)	Copper
(e)	Gallium
(f)	Germanium
(g)	Lithium - battery grade
(h)	Magnesium metal
(i)	Manganese - battery grade
(j)	Natural Graphite - battery grade
(k)	Nickel - battery grade
(l)	Platinum Group Metals
(m)	Rare Earth Elements for magnets (Nd, Pr, Tb, Dy, Gd, Sm, and Ce)
(n)	Silicon metal
(o)	Titanium metal
(p)	Tungsten

Chapter 3 Strengthening the value chain



Identifying **Strategic Projects** in the Union and third countries that intend to become active in the extraction, processing or recycling of strategic raw materials. They would benefit from streamlined and predictable permitting procedures in the Union and coordination of support to improve access to finance



Speeding up permitting for all critical raw material projects with a one-stop-shop contact



Developing national exploration programmes to **boost knowledge on European critical raw materials resources**

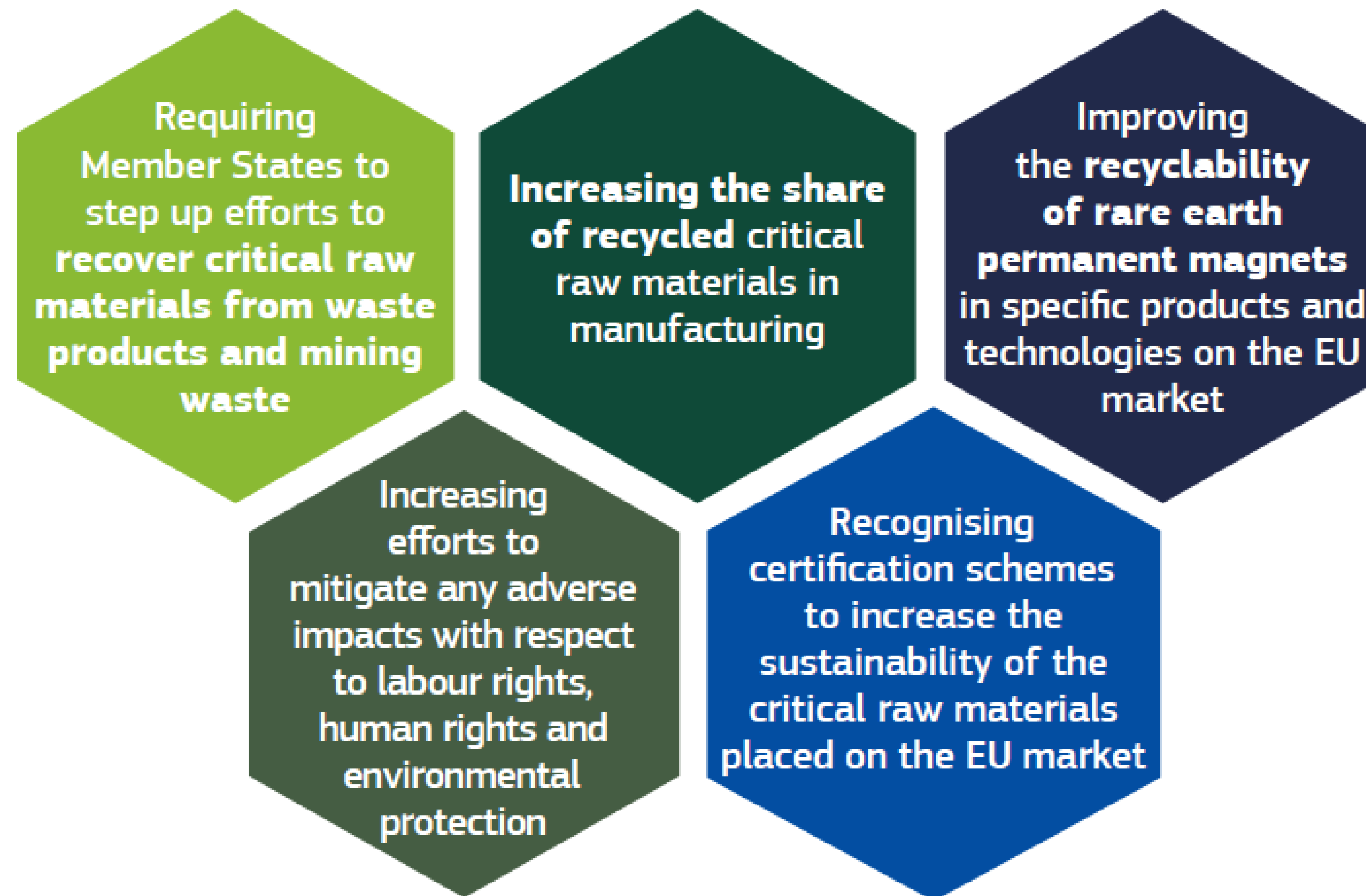
- MS to shall recover CRMs from **extractive waste**:
 - Operators of extractive waste facilities to conduct economic assessment of potential recovery of CRMs
 - MS inventory of closed waste facilities

Chapter 4 Risk monitoring and mitigation



- Commission to monitor supply risk including trade flows, demand and supply, production; undertake stress testing
- To be supported by MS inputs. **Ireland appears to lack data and market intelligence on:**
 - Capacities of economic operators along CRM value chain for processing and recycling (have good data on mining primary production and refining) NB strategic technologies
 - Strategic stocks held by all public authorities, publicly owned companies or economic operators; ability to coordinate same

Chapter 5 Sustainability



Specifically:

- National measures on **circularity** required to increase CRM collection, recycling, reuse and substitution
- Introduction of **Environmental Footprint** concept for RMs (possible delegated Act)

No dedicated article on environmental and social responsibility

Chapter 6 Strategic Partnerships



- CRMs Board will consider which third countries should be prioritised for Strategic Partnerships, considering existing cooperation agreement and benefits for emerging markets

Chapter 7 Governance

- Establishes the CRMs board; 1 appointee per MS, technical subgroups

Communication (non-binding provisions)

Range of tools to facilitate international trade, investment and cooperation

- CRMs Club
- Discussions on finance mechanisms with MSs and financial institutions
- Raw Materials (skills) Academy (via Net Zero Industry Act)

Ireland's position



Position in development with DECC, DHLGH, DETE, external stakeholders

Welcome the objectives and ambition of the Act, clearly required.

Seeking further information and advice on:

- Strategic Projects: compatibility with IE planning and legal system, permitting timelines, finance mechanisms, trade effects.
- The need for specific provisions for environmental protection and public acceptance

For consideration by the Waste Advisory Committee



- What questions or concerns does your sector have in relation to the proposal?
- What CRMs and SRMs could be recovered from the Irish waste sectors (NB; C&D, WEEE, pharma, extractive, other)?

Main sources: Extractive waste; Waste batteries; Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE); End-of-life vehicles; Renewable energy: wind turbines, solar photovoltaics (PV) waste.

- How do you see the Strategic Project concept incentivising recycling projects? What are the barriers to implementation?

Thank you

Questions welcome



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