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ACCESS TO RAW MATERIALS

KEY MESSAGES

- 1 Access to raw materials from European sources and international markets is crucial for the functioning of the European economy.
- 2 The supply of raw materials is increasingly constrained by the growing demand of raw materials in emerging economies as well as by discriminatory trade and regulatory measures by some governments to provide preferential access to their local producers.
- 3 The 2008 Commission “Raw Materials Initiative” updated in 2011 “Tackling the challenges in commodity markets and on raw materials” sets a cross-cutting strategy to address these pressures and should be implemented.

WHAT DOES BUSINESSEUROPE AIM FOR?

To reduce supply uncertainties of raw materials and safeguard European competitiveness, the EU should:

- Secure a reliable and undistorted access to raw materials in global markets through cooperation in different international fora and enhanced dialogue/bilateral relations with third countries.
- Promote new rules and agreements on access to raw materials in bilateral and international agreements.
- Remove existing distortions to raw materials trade through trade policy instruments and dispute settlement.

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

Raw materials imports (including energy) represent around a third of EU imports:	Total EU imports for 2010 amounted €528 billion	Total EU exports for 2010 amounted €181 billion
Non-energy industrial materials represent about 10% of EU imports:	Total EU imports for 2010 amounted €142 billion	Total EU exports for 2010 amounted €100 billion



- Use EU development policy to strengthen the governance of raw materials development in resource-holding countries.
- Lower tariffs and avoid regulatory restrictions for the import of raw materials used for industrial production.
- Improve conditions and remove administrative obstacles for expanding the sustainable extraction of raw materials in Europe.
- Improve the recycling chain and prevent the fraudulent export of industrial and consumer waste.
- Promote resource efficiency and the use of secondary raw materials.