



ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

EU-Western Balkans strategic cooperation on secondary raw materials

3 December 2025, Autoworld, Brussels

Facing rising demand and geopolitical pressures, the EU is seeking to diversify and secure its supply of Critical Raw Materials (CRM). At the same time, the Western Balkans' extensive legacy of old mine waste and tailings offer a significant yet underexplored potential for secondary CRM recovery. Unlocking this potential can advance shared economic, security, and environmental objectives, turning environmental liabilities into strategic assets. This roundtable, jointly organised by OSF Western Balkans and CEPS, will highlight the mutual opportunities for the EU - Western Balkans cooperation on CRM recovery from secondary sources in the region.

Preliminary agenda

9:30 - 10:00 Networking Coffee

10:00 - 10:10 Opening Remarks

Andi Dobrushki, Regional Director, OSF Western Balkans

10:10 - 11:30 Session 1: Recovering secondary critical raw materials from industrial waste and mine tailings in the Western Balkans

This session will present new insights from recent studies on the technical, economic, political, and social dimensions of recovering CRM from mining slags and waste materials in the Western Balkans. The discussion will focus on exploring the business case for valorising secondary CRM sources in the region.

Opening presentations by:

Sait Uysal, Founder of Critical Minerals Initiative Türkiye

Daniel Pop, Political Economist, Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania

Open roundtable discussion, with key input comments from:

EIT Raw Materials (tbc)

11:30 - 11:50: Coffee break



11:50 - 13:10 Session 2: EU-Western Balkans strategic cooperation on secondary raw materials: unlocking shared opportunities

This session present key policy findings on how the region's CRM recovery potential can be transformed into concrete opportunities through structured EU-Western Balkans cooperation. Discussions will focus on how policy initiatives can unlock shared benefits, strengthen supply resilience, and support the development of sustainable industrial value chains in the Western Balkans.

Opening presentation by:

Edoardo Righetti, Researcher, Energy, Resources and Climate Change, CEPS

Open roundtable discussion, with key input comments from:

Patrick Klein, Policy Officer, DG GROW

Anja Nagel, Team Leader for the Green Agenda and Private sector involvement, DG ENEST

13:10 - 15:00 Networking lunch and a guided tour of Autoworld

Facilitator: Jeta Bejtullahu, Director, Strategic Narratives, Last Kind Words