

Peter Tom Jones, Director KU Leuven Institute for Sustainable Metals and Minerals (SIM<sup>2</sup>)

#### 23 October 2023

SIM2

FRDO/CFDD - Sustainable mines in my backyard? Analysis and debate on a controversial topic

## A wake-up call





"Make no mistake. The tsunami of cheap, subsidised Chinese Electric Vehicles is coming. And Europe seems to have been sleepwalking into an abyss.

Luckily, Europe is slowly waking up. What we really need, is an industrial strategy that prevents **decarbonisation** going hand with **deindustrialisation**. We need to go for a cleantechbased **re-industrialisation**. Made-in-Europe. From mine to EV."





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#### <u>Why</u> are we (and myself) even discussing this topic? Earth is well outside of the *safe operating space* for humanity





## Without energy-transition (critical/strategic) metals, there is no transition to climate neutrality



Mineral demand for clean energy technologies by scenario



Growth in the SDS, 2040 relative to 2020

Source: IEA, The Role of Critical Minerals in Clean Energy Transitions, 2021.





## No metals, no green transition

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Source: Metals for Clean Energy, 2022

## "The times they are changing" – e.g. press attention for SIM<sup>2</sup> KU Leuven's message on mining & refining of CRMs





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Terzake | Donderdag 23/03 | 31 min

ERR BRÜSSELIS: MIKS EI SUUDA EL ÜLE SAADA TÄHTSATE MAAVARADE SÕLTUVUSEST?







Metals for Clean Energy

'De Europese autosector geloofde te lang dat het niet zo'n vaart zou lopen'

door als in China, dat uit het niets is opgeklom

Pathways to solving Europe's raw materials chall

#### 2030 IS NU KRITIEKE GRONDSTOFFEN - CONCLUSIES

#### De race naar grondstoffen wordt lang en hobbelig

Ook een groene economie teert op kostbare grondstoffen, zoals metalen en mineralen. De vraag schiet de hoogte in, maar de bevoorrading knelt. Als Europa onafhankelijker wil worden, wachten een lange weg en enkele ongemakkelijke waarheden.

Annelien De Greef, Dominique Minten, Korneel Delbeke, Koen Vidal Zaterdag 3 juli 2021 om 3.25 uur



#### Staan klimaat- en milieuactivist straks tegenover elkaar?

Klimaat en milieu zijn twee zijden van dezelfde munt. Maar inmiddels wordt duidelijk dat ze elkaar ook flink in de weg kunnen zitten. Wat krijgt voorrang?



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SIM2 KU Leuven's Anouk Borst was asked about her opinion about the exciting LKAB announcement concerning its discovery of a new **#rareearths** deposit in the North of Sweden, just next to the renowned Kiruna iron mine. Anouk v ...see more



Na de vondst van zeldzame aardmetalen in Zweden: 'Dit is een opsteker voor Europa'

demorgen.be • 3 min read

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# How will we secure the CRMs needed for the climate transition?

In the world *in general* & in Europe *in particular* 

## How will we secure the CRMs needed for the climate transition?



#### Solution 1: Demand-side management (to reduce the critical metal demand)



## How will we secure the CRMs needed for the climate transition?





Source: McKinsey, Battery recycling takes the driver's seat, 2023



## How will we secure the CRMs needed for the climate transition?



#### **Solution 2: More recycling**

Ç.

IEA: "By 2040, recycled quantities of copper, lithium, nickel and cobalt from spent batteries could reduce combined primary supply requirements for these minerals by around 10%" The global supply of EV batteries for recycling is steadily increasing, driven primarily by production scrap before 2030 and end-of-life batteries after 2030.



Source: McKinsey, Battery recycling takes the driver's seat, 2023



## Although helpful, "Solutions" 1 & 2 do not *solve* the CRM supply problem *today* (and not even *tomorrow*)

So what are the other options?

### Venture into the deep blue sea



#### **Solution 3: Deep-sea mining**



Source images: GSR (DEME)



The three main types of mineral deposits on the seabed

Polymetallic nodules Cobalt-rich crusts Seafloor massive sulphides
 Concentrated on or at: Abyssal plains Seamounts Hydrothermal vents



Source: Frontiers in Marine Science

Clarion-Clipperton Zone, the most significant known concentration of polymetallic nodules Source: The Financial Times

#### Mining ( + Add to myFT )

### 'Playing with fire': the countdown to mining the deep seas for critical minerals

UN-backed regulator at centre of wrangle over future of Pacific Ocean's depths as July deadline looms



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## Venture into the deep blue sea



#### **Solution 3: Deep-sea mining**



Source images: GSR (DEME)

The three main types of mineral dep Polymetallic nodules Concentrated on or at: Abyssal plains





Business as usual: Europe imports raw materials from the global South and exports environmental/social damage



#### Figure 1: BNEF 2022 global lithium-ion battery supply chain ranking Industry Downstream Overall Battery Country Raw Materials ESG innovation and manufacturing demand ranking infrastructure China Canada 2 US Finland Norway 5 Germany 6 South Korea 6 Sweden 8 Japan 9 Australia 10 France 11 UK 12 Czechia 13 Poland 14 Hungary 26 15 Chile 16 Turkey 17 India 18 Vietnam 19 20 South Africa Brazil 21 22 Indonesia 23 Argentina 24 Slovakia Thailand 25 28 26 Philippines 27 Mexico Morocco 28 28 DRC 30 29 29 Bolivia 28 30

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#### Solution 4: Land-based mining outside of Europe



At a huge environmental, social (health), governance cost

Source: LEFT: Bloomberg New Energy Finance; RIGHT: https://elements.visualcapitalist.com/





ELEMENTS 🔿

## Fair/green metals versus dirty metals





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Compounded by the geopolitics of the (critical/strategic) raw materials conundrum – role of China



# "The Middle East has oil, China has rare earths."

Deng Xiaoping, Chinese leader, 1992

Source: Snapshot taken from Spiegel International



## Compounded by the geopolitics of the (critical/strategic) raw materials conundrum – role of China







Source: https://elements.visualcapitalist.com/



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# The geopolitics of the (critical/strategic) raw materials conundrum: beyond China



## Chile's president moves to bring lithium under state control

Leftwing leader Gabriel Boric also promises to impose stricter environmental rules



Chile is the world's second-largest producer of lithium, a key component in electric vehicle batteries © Rodrigo Abd/AP

#### Source: The Financial Times - & Mining.com



Indonesia considers Opec-style cartel for battery metals

World's largest nickel producer exploring governance structure similar to that used by oil group



#### Namibia bans export of unprocessed critical minerals

Reuters | June 8, 2023 | 10:53 am Battery Metals Intelligence Africa Lithium Rare Earth



SIGN UP FOR THE BATT METALS DIGEST

SIGN UP



DOWNLOAD THE FR GOLDEN TRIANG AREA PLAY MA The geopolitics of the (critical/strategic) raw materials conundrum: beyond China



# **The neoliberal order is** Left over. The era of protectionism and resource nationalism is upon us

## "The tsunami of Chinese EVs is coming, and Europe is sleepwalking into an abyss"



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## where are clean-energy technologies **MANUFACTURED?**

As the market for low-emission solutions expands

China dominates the production of clean-energy technologies and their components.				
Shares of man	ufactu	ring capacity by region, 2021	*Asia Pacific e: • •● <b>China's</b> average: 65%	cludes China Global Capacity
Offshore Wind	Tower	China 53% 6%	Europe 41%	18 GW
The nacelle houses •	Nacelle	73%	26%	26 GW
	Blade	84%	4% 12%	25 GW
Onshore Wind	Tower	55%	16% 11% 6%	88 GW
	Nacelle	62%	13% 10% 8% 7%	100 GW
	Blade	61%	6 18% 10% 5%	98 GW
Solar 📇	Wafers	96%	3%	367 GW
China hosts the world's top ten suppliers of solar PV manufacturing equipment.	Cells	85%	13%	409 GW
I	Modules	75%	18% 3%	461 GW
四 Electric Vehicles (	Cathode	68%	Asia Pacific 26%	1.4 Mt
Global demand for automotive lithium-ion batteries doubled in 2021 to 340 GWh.	Anode	86%	12%	0.8 Mt
	atteries	75%	11% 8% 6%	899 GWh
Electric Car		54%	27% 7%	7M Cars
Fuel Cell Trucks	Trucks	45% 14%	22% 19%	14K Trucks
Power system		48%	39% <mark>4%</mark> 8%	19 GW
Heat Pumps		39% 14% 16%	N. America 29%	120 GW
Electrolyzers		41%	26% 19%	11 GW
		5 1940 2940 3940 Role 3940 8840	10th 80th 90th 10th	6

Electrolyzers separate hydrogen gas from water molecules to be used for various industrial and commercial applications, including as energy for fuel cell cars and trucks.

So, if land-based mining in DRC, China... & deep-sea mining are rejected due to ESG, and demand-side management & recycling cannot solve the problem either, then what else can we muster?

## From NIMBY & BANANA to BIMBY (*Better In My Back Yard*)



#### Solution 5a: Responsible mining and refining in Europe



Source: Bloomberg New Energy Finance





Vodcast #1 "Responsible mining in Europe": Anders Sand (R&D Manager Bo... vimeo.com

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3 comments • 15 reposts

## Which is also the approach of the EC's Critical Raw **Materials Act**



**EXTERNAL SOURCES** 

Not more than 65%

of the EU's annual

consumption of each

at any relevant stage of processing from a single third country







## We need to open new CRM mines, responsibly!





For further information on Benchmark Mineral Intelligence products,

please contact info@benchmarkminerals.com

BENCHMARK

### More than 300 new mines required to meet battery demand by 2035



#### Source: Benchmark Minerals

## We need to open new CRM mines, also in Europe (e.g. Li)







Topic: responsible mining and refining of Li-hard-rock-ores in Europe





#### LITHIUM in the EU

#### **Operating Mines**

#### (lepidolite/petalite for ceramic market)

- 1. Gonçalo Alvarrões (Felmica SA)
- 2. Bajoca La Fregeneda (Felmica SA)
- 3. Gonçalo Castanho (Sociedad Miniera de Pegmatites Lda)

#### Projects in developement

#### (Feasibility study made) 4. Central Ostrobothnia (Keliber Oy) 5. Zienwald (Zienwald Lithium Die)

5. Zinnwald (Zinnwald Lithium Plc)

#### Feasibility-stage projects

#### (Prefeasibility/scoping studies made)

Cinovec (European Metals Holdings Ltd)
 Wolfsberg (European Lithium Ltd)
 Mina do Barroso (Savannah Resources Plc)
 Romano-Sepeda (Lusorecursos Lda)
 Argemela (PANNN Lda)
 San Jose (Infinity Lithium Corp Ltd)
 EMILI (Imerys SA)

#### Prefeasibility-stage projects

(CRIRSCO-compliant resources established) 13. Sadisdorf (Zinnwald Lithium Plc) 14. Presqueiras (Recursos Minerales de Galicia SA)

#### Advanced exploration projects

(surface and subsurface exploration data available)
15. Adagoi (Felmica SA)
16. Alijo (José Aldeia Lagoa & Filhos SA)
17. NW Leinster (Blackstairs Lithium Company Ltd)
18. Hirvikallio (Resource Mining Corp Ltd)
19. Kietyönmäki (United Lithium Corp)
20. Bergby (United Lithium Corp)
21. Varuträsk (Critical Metals Ltd)

## We need to open new CRM mines in Europe: e.g. REEs from Per Geijer - Kiruna







## **Responsible mining & refining in Europe**

Featured in new documentary "Made in Europe: From mine to electric vehicle"



Responsible Mining in Europe (Kiruna, Aitik, Sami perspective

Responsible Refining

Battery & EV manufacturing

SOLVOMET



# Responsible sourcing: working together with trustworthy countries



Solution 5b: Responsible sourcing of CRMs (as concentrates/intermediates...) through Raw Materials Partnerships with third countries





To conclude (I)

## There is no such thing as a free lunch... in the transition to climate neutrality

Free

Without compromises, Europe will not meet its climate targets, while risking to be left behind in the global cleantech revolution  $\rightarrow$  deindustrialisation?



IN HET NIEUWS

#### 'Wel Tesla's willen, maar geen mijnbouw: kan niet'

Terwijl mijnen bij ons tot de industriële archeologie leken te horen, wil de Europese Commissie weer naar kostbare grondstoffen gaan delven op eigen grond. Maar is iedereen het daar wel mee eens? 'Als we verantwoorde mijnbouw willen, doen we dat beter zelf: nærtnæ cruss.

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Aardmetalen in Europa

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To conclude (II)

## There is no such thing as a free lunch... in the transition to climate neutrality

Free

& our research agendas should be future-proofed, focusing not only on urban mining/recycling but also on scalable, industrially-realistic metallurgical solutions for (responsible) mining and refining of CRMs/SRMs (in Europe)



## 'Wel Tesla's willen, maar geen mijnbouw: kan niet'

hare grondstoffen gaan delven op eigen grond. Maar is jedereen het daar wel mee ei

Aardmetalen in Europa



IN HET NIEUWS



### Coming soon - new documentary

## Made in Europe: From mine to electric vehicle

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**KU LEUVEN** 

27 Oct': Launch trailer (LinkedIn) 13 Nov': Sneak Preview 1 (Leuven) 16 Nov': Sneak Preview 2 (Brussels) 17 Nov': Launch documentary (Vimeo SIM<sup>2</sup>)

Director Stijn van Baarle (Storyrunner) | Presenter Peter Tom Jones (SIM<sup>2</sup> KU Leuven) | Cameraman Michael Van de Velde | Sound technicians Casimir De Kimpe & Marius Acke |Graphic designer Jasper Vander Elst

> https://solvomet.eu & https://kuleuven.sim2.be/ Contact: Peter Tom Jones (LinkedIn profile)

### KU Leuven Institute for Sustainable Metals and Minerals (SIM<sup>2</sup>) – www.sim2.be



#### WELCOME TO SIM<sup>2</sup>

SIM<sup>2</sup> KU Leuven is the KU Leuven Institute for Sustainable Metals and Minerals, one of the flagship KU Leuven Institutes formally endorsed by the KU Leuven Academic Council.

Read More!

#### **OUR MISSION**

To develop, organise & implement problem-driven, sciencedeep research & future-oriented education, contributing to the environmentally friendly production & recycling of metals, minerals & engineered materials, supporting (...) a climatefriendly, circular-economy. <u>Read more ></u> For the University, the Leuven Institutes are a way to highlight certain focal points in research – a strategic instrument, in other words.

- Rector Luc Sels





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FOUR LEGS GOOD, TWO LEGS BAD.



SIM<sup>2</sup>'s journey during the past years: From "recycling good, mining bad" ... to "mining and recycling to co-exist"



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