

ESPP workshops on phosphorus as a Critical Raw Material and on White Phosphorus (P₄)

Brussels – Wed. 19 – Thur. 20 November 2025

During the [EU Critical Raw Materials Week](#) (18-20 November 2025)

Draft programme and speakers TBC

Wednesday 19th November:

10h30 – 12h: ESPP General Assembly (members only)

14h -17h30: Phosphate – an EU Critical Raw Material, key to food security and agriculture resilience

17h30: Networking drinks – 20h informal dinner

Thursday 20th November:

9h – 12h30: P₄ (white phosphorus) a ‘Strategic’ Raw Material for Europe ?

P₄ and ‘Strategic’ technologies – P₄ supply projects in Europe.

Day 1 - Wednesday 19th November:

10h30 – 12h: ESPP General Assembly (members only)

- vote of 2026 budget, election of Board, etc
- definition of priority actions for 2026
- networking lunch

14h – 17h30: Nutrients as Critical Inputs for EU food security

Objectives:

This workshop will discuss the criticality of nutrients as agricultural inputs, essential for food production and agricultural sovereignty:

- Which nutrients are ‘Critical’ for EU agriculture, regarding quantitative needs, supply security (EU production, global supply, EU supply security, quality criteria) ?
- Links between farm nutrient use efficiency, nutrient recycling, supply security
- The EU Critical Raw Materials Act (2024/1252) centres on actions for “Strategic” industries: should the EU have a Critical Agricultural Inputs Act ?
- How should the next EU Common Agricultural Policy 2028-2034 address nutrient security ?

| Phosphate – an EU Critical Raw Material | |
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| 14h – 15h30 | Nutrients and food security worldwide and in Europe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overview of EU nutrient use, supply and losses (t/y of N, P, K for different uses, recycling today and potential for recycling), Wageningen University (tbc) - Nutrient security worldwide, FAO (tbc) - Farmers needs for nutrient supply security, Copa-Cogeca (tbc) - Action for global nutrient policies, UN Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (tbc) - Stewardship of and perspectives for the world’s most important phosphate rock reserves, OCP |
| 16h – 17h30 | EU phosphate supply and agriculture resilience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EU dependency on fertiliser imports, today and perspectives - Policy perspectives for nutrient inputs to EU agriculture versus nutrient losses, JRC (tbc) - Perspectives for EU phosphate supply security, Fertecon – S&P Global (tbc) - The future of the fertiliser industry in Europe and consequences for agriculture and consumers? Fertilizers Europe (tbc) - A major new phosphate source for Europe, NorgeMining, LKAB - Panel and discussion of possible policy proposals |
| 17h30 – 18h30 | Networking drinks |
| 19h30 – ... | Informal dinner |

9h – 12h30: P₄ – a ‘Strategic’ Raw Material for Europe ?

Objectives:

P₄ (white phosphorus) is included in the EU Critical Raw Materials List in the EU Critical Raw Materials Act 2024/1252 (under the term ‘Phosphorus’, separately from ‘Phosphate Rock’). But it is not included in the sub-list of ‘Strategic’ Raw Materials (that is: for “Strategic Technologies”, defined as green transition, in particular renewable energies, digital, defence and aerospace). This is despite P₄ being essential in e.g. fire safety (electronic and electrical systems, data cables, insulation, biobased materials, aerospace ...), batteries, semiconductors, photovoltaic panels, crude oil extraction, jet engine lubricants, metallurgy, chemicals ... And despite the EU and the world market being today dependent on only two suppliers: Vietnam and Kazakhstan.

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| 9h – 10h30 | P₄ and Strategic Technologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EU CRM Act – policies and actions for Critical and for Strategic Materials, DG GROW (tbc) For which ‘Strategic Technologies’ is P₄ essential ? where ? why ?, Willem Schipper (tbc) Why fire safety is essential for Strategic Technologies, and why P₄ is essential for fire safety, Clariant Phosphorus in batteries: different uses in batteries (P₄ or purified phosphoric acid ?), quantitative perspectives, phosphorus and battery recycling, Prayon Short presentations by user industry federations of their knowledge of and vision for P₄ in their sector: batteries, semiconductors, photovoltaic, chemicals, Cefic ... |
| 11h – 11h45 | P₄ projects in Europe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NorgeMining Spodofos Flashphos: Italmatch, University of Stuttgart (tbc) Tohoku University (tbc) |
| 11h45 – 13h00 | How to move forward? SCREEN3 reassessment of Critical and Strategic Raw Materials lists: policy objectives, data requirements for P ₄ , link to criticality assessment calculation parameters and methodology defined in CRM Act annexes – Roberta De Carolis, ENEA (tbc) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why is the ‘Critical Chemicals Alliance’ (see COM press release 7 6 25) relevant for the phosphorus (P₄, phosphates) industry in Europe ? – Cefic – Prayon – Clariant – Italmatch Panel conclusions and discussion |
| 13h00 – 14h00 | Networking lunch |