

Kirjallisesti vastattava kysymys

komissiolle

työjärjestyksen 144 artikla

Maria Ohisalo (Verts/ALE), Ville Niinistö (Verts/ALE)

Aihe: Compliance of the Sokli mining project with EU environmental law in the context of potential strategic project status under the Critical Raw Materials Act

The Sokli mining project in Finland has applied for recognition as a strategic project under the Critical Raw Materials Act¹. The project previously faced the rejection of environmental and water permits by the Finnish Supreme Administrative Court in 2022 due to significant environmental risks.

Recent developments indicate that the project promoter intends to proceed with test mining activities without a full environmental impact assessment (EIA), and has signalled the possibility of applying for derogations if permits are not granted.

- 1 Can the Commission confirm that prior to any designation of a strategic project, it will verify full compliance with the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive, in particular with regard to assessing projects as a whole and preventing circumvention of the Directive through artificial splitting of projects²?
- 2 How does the Commission assess the compatibility of the project with the Water Framework Directive³, given the potential impacts on sensitive river systems?
- 3 Can the Commission confirm whether projects that previously failed to obtain environmental permits due to significant risks can qualify as “strategic projects” under the CRMA?

¹ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L_202401252

² Article 2(1) and Annex III point 1. (c) on cumulation <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02011L0092-20140515>

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02000L0060-20141120>