Quarterly NEWS Letter

Spring 2026

BeST
Beryllium Science and Technology Association

Dear Readers,

We welcome you to the **Spring edition 2026 of the BeST Quarterly Newsletter!**

In this edition, you will read about SCRREEN project, how beryllium is recycled, worker safety, the REACH revision, and our BeST events on raw materials in defense.

Wishing you a very pleasant read.

Kind regards,

Peter Mählmann
BeST Board Member

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Beryllium Product Stewardship

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Beryllium's Strategic Role Returns in EU Raw Materials Review

As the European Union steps up efforts to strengthen industrial resilience and reduce strategic dependencies, beryllium is again gaining attention in discussions on Europe's future raw materials policy. These discussions are taking place within the framework of SCRREEN 3, an EU-supported initiative that coordinates an expert network advising policymakers on critical raw materials (CRMs) and their value chains. For lovers of EU abbreviations, SCRREEN stands for Solutions for CRitical Raw Materials – a European Expert Network.

Building on earlier editions, the project collects and analyses data of over 70 elements to support the European Commission's assessment of supply, demand, innovation potential, and technological vulnerabilities across Europe's industrial ecosystem. A key focus of the current work is the upcoming revision of the EU Critical Raw Materials list, offering stakeholders an important opportunity to reaffirm the strategic importance of beryllium, which is already recognised by the EU as a CRM.

Already recognised as a CRM by the EU, beryllium remains essential for high-performance applications in aerospace, defense, telecommunications, medical technologies, semiconductors, and advanced electronics due to its unique combination of lightweight properties, thermal stability, strength, and conductivity.

Global beryllium production remains highly concentrated, with primary extraction largely taking place outside Europe, notably in the United States. The EU therefore, depends heavily on imports and global value chains for both raw materials and processed beryllium products. At the same time, European industry plays an important role in downstream processing, alloy manufacturing, recycling, and specialised high-tech applications. This strategic dependency explains why supply chain resilience, diversification, and recycling capacity are becoming increasingly central to EU industrial and raw materials policy discussions.

Beryllium is commonly processed into alloys, particularly beryllium copper, which is widely used in demanding environments requiring high reliability and precision. The material's properties make it critical for sectors supporting both the green and digital transitions. For example, we can find beryllium-copper alloys in solar panels, more particularly in electrical components.

At the same time, BeST continues to place strong emphasis on health and safety standards. The safe handling of beryllium is already governed by comprehensive EU occupational safety and health regulations, including workplace exposure requirements. BeST and the industry have invested significantly in risk management measures, worker protection, monitoring systems, and best practices to ensure the safe production and use of beryllium-containing materials across the value chain.

The ongoing SCRREEN work on the CRM list highlights the need for balanced policymaking that recognises both the strategic importance of beryllium and the importance of maintaining science-based, risk-based regulatory approaches. As the EU seeks to strengthen industrial resilience and strategic autonomy, ensuring secure access to CRMs such as beryllium will remain essential for Europe's competitiveness, innovation, and technological leadership.

SCRREEN is expected to finalise its data collection before the summer break. The data will then be analysed on the basis of specific criteria. This analysis will lead to a new list of EU's critical and strategic materials. We expect the list to be ready by the end of this year.

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BeST calls for Material-Specific Recycling Approach

The European Union increases its focus on circularity and strategic autonomy through the Critical Raw Materials Act and, later this year with the Circular Economy Act. With this Act the Commission aims to address recycling and secondary raw materials, stated as becoming increasingly important for the resilience of Europe's critical raw materials supply chains. For beryllium, the realities of recycling are often more complex than broader policy narratives suggest. BeST therefore calls for a material-specific approach that maximises recycling potential while taking into account the technical and economic realities of each material.

Beryllium recycling already plays an important role in the sector, particularly for high-value manufacturing scrap generated during industrial processing. Due to the material's high economic value and specialised applications, production scrap is collected by EU suppliers, shipped and recycled by producers to be reintroduced into the supply chain. This contributes to resource efficiency and reduces dependence on primary raw material extraction as well as energy consumption (70% energy less for recycling versus primary production).

However, large-scale end-of-life recycling of beryllium-containing alloys remains technically and economically challenging. Beryllium is used in very small quantities (not more than 2% of the alloy) in alloys within small-sized components. In many cases, the material is integrated into complex products where separation, identification, and recovery are difficult, costly, or not commercially viable with current technologies. Another limiting point is the frequent plating of these parts, which makes their recycling even more challenging.

It is also important to note that the volume of beryllium used in the EU remains very limited. Current volumes are insufficient to justify the establishment of a dedicated European beryllium scrap recycling facility. Such a facility would require substantial investment, particularly to meet the stringent worker health and safety requirements and specialised infrastructure necessary for the safe handling and processing of beryllium-containing materials.

While recycling and circularity should continue to be encouraged, secondary supply alone cannot fully meet Europe's future demand for beryllium in strategic technologies. Maintaining access to global supply chains, supporting innovation in recycling technologies, and recognising the technical limitations of end-of-life recovery will remain essential to ensuring a secure and resilient supply of beryllium for Europe's industrial base.

Important point to be considered: aluminium beryllium master alloys are used as additive in the production and recycling of magnesium and aluminium-magnesium alloys in the EU. Without the addition of as less than 5 ppm of beryllium to these alloys, their recycling is not possible. This enables to keep and recycle these energy intensive materials in the EU, and therefore, to meet the EU recycling targets.

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BeST Campaign for Worker Protection Model

BeST has launched a new campaign aimed at promoting the practical application of its Worker Protection Model across industries handling beryllium-containing materials. The initiative comes as recent workplace surveys and industry feedback which continue to show that more needs to be done to strengthen worker protection practices throughout industrial workflows. According to the association, the challenge is not the absence of legislation but ensuring that existing rules are effectively implemented in practice.

The campaign focuses on the application of BeST's long-standing Be Responsible Voluntary Product Stewardship Program (VPSP), which provides practical guidance for the safe handling, processing, recycling, and disposal of beryllium-containing materials. The program offers a comprehensive set of online tools, including safety guides tailored to specific industrial activities such as stamping, welding, grinding, machining etc.

Industry sectors regularly contact BeST seeking guidance on how to safely manage beryllium-containing materials and how to handle these products at the end of their life cycle. According to the association, the Worker Protection Model was specifically designed to address these practical operational questions while helping companies comply with existing EU occupational safety legislation.

Under EU law, companies must comply with strict Occupational Exposure Limits for airborne beryllium particles. Following a temporary transition period, the binding EU exposure limit will this year be fully fixed at 0.2 micrograms per cubic metre. While the limit is demanding, BeST maintains that compliance is fully achievable when proper risk management and workplace protection measures are applied consistently.

"The EU has established a clear and robust legal framework for the safe use of beryllium," said Dr. Andreas Köster, President of BeST. "Beryllium is a material with unique properties that modern technologies and strategic sectors depend on. But workers cannot pay a price for that. The exposure level for safe use has been set by the EU, and we are doing our part to ensure that this level can be met in practice."

BeST stresses that the primary responsibility for worker safety rests with both users and suppliers throughout the value chain. The association argues that additional legislation is not required, but rather a stronger focus on implementation, training, monitoring, and practical workplace solutions.

The campaign also reflects the growing strategic importance of beryllium in sectors such as aerospace, defense, telecommunications, semiconductors, renewable energy, and advanced electronics. As industrial demand for high-performance materials continues to grow, BeST says that maintaining high worker protection standards remains central to the sustainable use of beryllium across Europe's industrial ecosystem.

However, BeST remains vigilant in protecting the industry from excessive precautionary principles that are impractical in an industrial setting and could hinder the competitiveness of European industries. It is important to point out that the European limit value is already well below those of other jurisdictions.

www.berylliumsafety.eu

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Targeted REACH Changes Must Provide Certainty for Strategic Materials

The European Commission's decision to move away from a full structural overhaul of the REACH Regulation in favour of targeted "simplification and modernisation" measures is being closely watched by Europe's critical raw materials sectors, including the beryllium industry. While the approach may offer greater short-term predictability and avoid years of politically divisive negotiations, industry stakeholders warn that important safeguards must remain in place to preserve democratic scrutiny, legal certainty, and investment stability.

Speaking in April 2026, Environment Commissioner Jessika Roswall indicated that a complete reopening of REACH would "not be helpful", with the Commission instead preferring more limited amendments through implementing measures, delegated acts, and changes to technical annexes. For industry, this shift may reduce the risk of broad structural reforms, but it also raises concerns about how far such secondary legislation could go without proper involvement of the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers.

BeST, supports pragmatic regulatory adjustments and simplification efforts, particularly where they improve implementation and coherence. However, the association warns that substantial policy shifts should not be introduced through delegated acts or implementing measures that bypass full legislative scrutiny.

According to BeST, allowing major policy concepts to emerge through fast-track technical procedures could create significant legal uncertainty for companies operating in strategic industrial sectors. Unlike ordinary legislative procedures, delegated acts and implementing measures are often adopted within relatively short timelines, providing limited opportunities for parliamentary debate, stakeholder consultation, or industrial adaptation.

One of the clearest examples is the possible introduction of the Essential Use Concept into REACH implementation. BeST argues that such a concept would represent a major policy shift with potentially far-reaching consequences for investment decisions, industrial planning, and supply chain security.

Beryllium itself illustrates the concern. The material is lightweight, chemically stable, highly conductive, and resistant to extreme temperatures, making it essential for advanced applications in aerospace, defense, telecommunications, medical imaging, semiconductors, and advanced electronics. The EU already recognises beryllium as a Critical Raw Material due to its economic importance and supply risks.

While beryllium is classified as a hazardous substance, it is not a Substance of Very High Concern (SVHC). According to current EU regulatory assessments, the primary risk relates to occupational exposure by inhalation in the workplace and not to consumer use. This risk is already managed through a comprehensive EU occupational safety framework, including binding exposure limits and workplace protection measures.

For industry, this distinction between hazard and risk is crucial. Companies are willing to invest in beryllium applications because the regulatory framework currently provides predictability: safe use is possible when exposure is properly controlled. Introducing an Essential Use Concept that could potentially classify certain applications as "non-essential" would fundamentally alter this balance and risk undermining confidence in long-term investments.

BeST therefore continues to advocate for a science-based, risk-based regulatory approach that respects existing risk management measures and recognises the strategic role of critical materials in Europe's technological and industrial development. The association also warns that repeated regulatory targeting of substances already subject to effective controls could weaken Europe's competitiveness, resilience, and strategic autonomy objectives.

As discussions on REACH implementation continue, the debate is increasingly shifting from whether Europe needs stronger regulation to how regulatory changes can be introduced without creating uncertainty for industries that are central to Europe's defense, digital, and green transition ambitions.

The EU–US Critical Minerals Agreement as a Catalyst

In the Joint Statement of 10 March 2023, the EU and the US announced plans to negotiate a Critical Minerals Agreement (CMA) to strengthen transatlantic supply chains for critical raw materials used in electric vehicle batteries and expand EU industrial production capacity. It represents a first step toward an EU-US cooperation on critical minerals.

In parallel to this agreement, the United States has also launched two other important initiatives. On 4 February 2026, the Trump government convened the 2026 Critical Minerals Ministerial, bringing together representatives from 54 countries and the European Commission. The US highlighted the strategic importance of critical minerals and rare earths amid increasing supply chain disruption and political coercion. The initiative aims to develop new supply sources, strengthen transport and logistics networks, and create a secure, diversified, and resilient global market.

The Ministerial reflects the growing elevation of critical minerals policy from a domestic industrial issue to a multilateral coordination priority. The US signed 11 bilateral critical minerals frameworks and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), announced government financing opportunities, and launched the Forum on Resource Geostrategic Engagement (FORGE). These initiatives are intended to address pricing challenges, accelerate project development, improve market fairness, close supply chain gaps, and expand access to financing.

This shift toward coordinated frameworks indicates a more interventionist policy environment, with governments playing a stronger stabilising role alongside private capital. Proposed public-private partnerships could support investments across mining, refining, processing, recycling, and end-use applications.

On 24 April 2026, the EU and the US formally signed the MoU and launched the EU–US Critical Minerals Action Plan to strengthen supply chain resilience and diversification. The non-binding partnership focuses on diversified supply through joint project development and investment support, while promoting fair, standards-based markets and addressing non-market practices. Cooperation will also cover export restrictions, accelerated permitting, and supply disruption mitigation measures, including stockpiling. Additional priorities include industrial integration, innovation in extraction and recycling, geological mapping, and coordinated engagement through forums such as the G7 and FORGE. The partners will meet regularly to review implementation progress.

Beryllium is considered a strategic material by the United States and a critical raw material by the European Union, making these recent developments highly relevant for the trade in beryllium, as well as for other critical minerals. The new initiatives aim to place critical raw materials trade within a predictable, rules-based framework designed to secure supply chains under free-market conditions. They also represent a response to the growing risk of critical minerals being used as geopolitical or trade leverage. The importance of this alternative approach should gradually diminish as cooperation among like-minded countries strengthens. Progress, however, will not occur at the same pace for all minerals, as some raw materials have already been more heavily affected by trade restrictions and geopolitical tensions than others. In the case of beryllium, the outlook remains comparatively positive, as the material continues to be traded under favourable conditions among partner countries participating in these new initiatives (US but also Japan and Kazakhstan).

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Omnibus Simplification needs coherence

Following the challenges faced by industry and companies in the Single Market, as highlighted in Draghi's report, the European Commission has moved to strengthen Europe's long-term competitiveness. A key part of this effort is reducing regulatory burdens through a simpler, more coherent framework, where EU rules are streamlined in the proposed Omnibus Simplification Package.

The Commission argues that policy coherence can ensure simplification without weakening environmental and social standards. An Omnibus should be used as an opportunity to transform the EU's legislative framework into an enabling toolbox for businesses transitioning toward competitive sustainability. Since February 2025, the Commission has presented 10 simplification proposals, also referred to as "omnibuses", and estimates to reduce recurrent administrative costs by €11.9 billion.

It reflects a broader policy recognition that the cumulative burden of EU regulation has become a concern for industry competitiveness, particularly in energy-intensive and strategically important sectors, such as critical raw materials, of which beryllium is one.

The Omnibus initiatives aim to address fragmentation across frameworks such as sustainability reporting, chemicals management, product compliance, and industrial permitting, with a view to increasing legal clarity and implementation efficiency.

For the industry, this simplification agenda presents an important opportunity to have regulatory coherence and predictability. However, there is also a need to ensure that simplification does not lead to regulatory uncertainty or unintended policy consequences between related legal instruments. In particular, consistency across chemicals legislation (including REACH), industrial policy tools, and sustainability frameworks will be essential to avoid duplications and contradictory obligations.

BeST welcomes the Omnibus approach, which reinforces the importance of a proportionate, science-based, and risk-based regulatory framework that supports both the safety of workers and industrial competitiveness. BeST will continue to advocate for a coherent regulatory environment that supports innovation, ensures high levels of protection, and strengthens Europe's strategic autonomy without imposing unnecessary administrative complexity on industry.

Industrial Accelerator Act offers opportunity for critical raw materials

On 4 March the European Commission published a legislative proposal to increase demand for low-carbon, European-made technologies and products, named the Industrial Accelerator Act (IAA). The IAA aims to boost manufacturing, grow businesses, and create jobs in the EU, while supporting industry's adoption of cleaner, future technologies.

The act is intended to support and accelerate investment in strategic sectors, such as clean technologies, advanced manufacturing and critical raw materials. The IAA leverages the strengths of the Single Market by supporting lead markets for 'Made in EU' and low-carbon products, by simplifying permitting and boosting sustainable manufacturing. The IAA signals a stronger EU commitment to enabling industrial development and decarbonisation while supporting the 'EU Made' label. It will create demand for industrial trade partners aligned with the EU standard that can demonstrate reliability, sustainability and regulatory alignment.

Beryllium is recognised by the European Commission as a Critical Raw Material and will play a key role in supporting IAA objectives for low-carbon technologies and products. Due to its unique, lightweight, thermal, and high-performance properties, beryllium is likely to increase its importance within the EU industrial ecosystems with this proposal. Moreover, Copper Beryllium alloys increase the durability of any products that uses the material for electronic connectors.

The Act could increase the EU support for critical raw materials projects, with facilitated funding opportunities for innovation, circularity, and supply chain diversification. The IAA's objectives on accelerating investment, simplifying permitting, and strengthening EU value chains may create opportunities for beryllium-related activities, particularly in recycling, processing, advanced alloys, and high-tech manufacturing. Therefore, beryllium could enjoy a position as an enabling material for strategic applications.

At the same time, regulation should address the unique situation of each individual critical raw material. It should safeguard existing value chains of critical raw materials that efficiently provide the EU industry today. Encouraging European sourcing will not be beneficial for all of the critical raw materials. It may lead to market fragmentation, raising costs and reduced efficiency across global value chains. Given Europe's limited domestic beryllium production capacity and dependence on external suppliers, there is a risk of disturbing the current beryllium value chain, which has been efficient, effective and sufficient to meet the EU Demand for many decades.

From an industry perspective, the success of the IAA will depend on balancing industrial resilience with open and competitive trade. The IAA should prioritise maintaining access to global supply chains for critical materials, supporting circularity and recycling markets, avoiding protectionist distortions, and ensuring compatibility with international trade rules. The Commission proposal needs to be fully integrated into a coherent and operational framework to create a workable environment for industry to stay competitive.

BeST Event on Critical Raw Materials for Defense Capability

On the 13 October 2026, BeST will host an event titled “From Mine to Mission - Critical Raw Materials for Defense Capability”. The objective of this event is to raise awareness of the role of critical raw materials in defense capabilities and the need for regulatory coherence to safeguard supply security. The event will regroup policymakers, industry representatives and stakeholders engaged in critical raw materials and supply security.

The event will explore the need for access to high-performance critical raw materials, which underpin defense innovation, shapes research and developments, and determine Europe’s ability to develop next-generation defense capabilities.

It will also address the effect of a fragmented regulatory framework on the supply of critical raw materials for defense, and why greater regulatory coherence is essential to secure reliable access to materials such as beryllium, nickel and chromium.

Beryllium plays a strategic role in the defense sector due to its unique combination of lightweight properties, high strength, thermal stability, and resistance to extreme temperatures. These characteristics make it essential for advanced defense applications, including military aircraft, satellites, missile guidance systems, radar and communication equipment, optical systems, and surveillance technologies.

Beryllium is particularly valued in aerospace and defense electronics because it improves performance while reducing weight, which is critical for operational efficiency and precision. Its use in high-performance alloys and sensitive defense technologies also makes beryllium an important material for Europe’s security, technological sovereignty, and defense industrial resilience.

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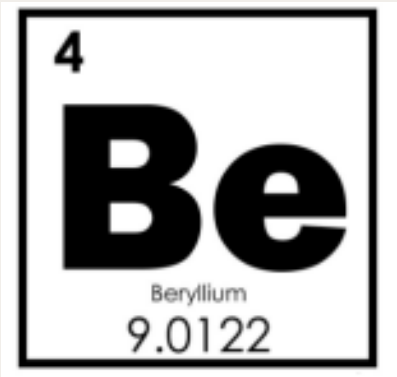
BeST Positions

BeST **Charter 2024-2029** expresses the expectations of the beryllium industry for the next five years.

READ HERE

BeST stresses the **importance of regulatory coherence for the defence industry**. BeST calls for consistency in policy making and regulation that promotes the use of beryllium.

READ HERE



BeST work with industry coalitions

BeST will continue to support the CRM Alliance in promoting beryllium as critical to the EU economy under the CRM Act, which advances processing, circularity, and trade. BeST supports ASMoR - t**he Alliance for Sustainable Management of Chemical Risk** - to ensure that **the safe uses of hazardous substances remain permitted under EU chemicals legislation.**

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Working Safely With Beryllium

BeST Easy Guides

BeST Easy Guides are a communication tool launched at the end of 2021 to complement the 12 Guides developed under the Be Responsible Voluntary Product Stewardship Program. Nine of these Easy Guides focus on the most frequent operations on beryllium-containing materials processes, with the most recent one dedicated to welding operations, completing the series of process-specific publications.

ACCESS ALL EASY GUIDES HERE

BeST is pleased to announce the renewal of its **Voluntary Product Stewardship Program** and its dedicated websites, now available in all 24 official languages of the European Union.

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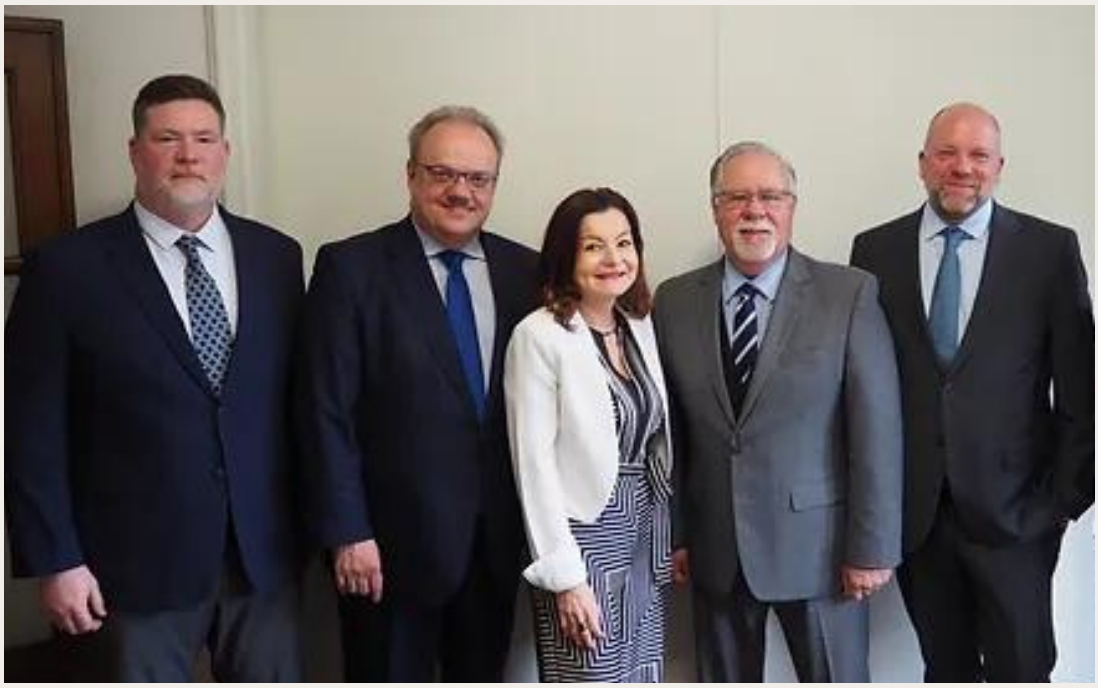
ACCESS OUR DEDICTATED WEBSITE HERE

Stay in Touch

The BeST website features a dedicated ‘Latest News’ section, keeping readers informed with updates and articles on beryllium. This section complements the site’s extensive resources on environment, health, and safety, ensuring stakeholders have access to the most recent developments. Stay up to date with the latest news from BeST online.

BeST ONLINE



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