

RESourceEU Action Plan BeST Reaction

Mitigating geopolitical risks for critical raw materials requires the European Commission to act decisively. This response should not come at the expense of those value chains essential to Europe's security and industrial base, including for beryllium (Be). BeST therefore demands that EU institutions:

- **Exclude flows of copper-beryllium from export restrictions** to preserve beryllium recovery and recycling
- **Reject blanket substitution of beryllium in defence applications** since no viable alternatives exist
- **Apply a substance specific approach and ensure industry involvement** to avoid undesirable outcomes

For Be-containing materials, the European market remains too limited by volume to justify the substantial investment required for dedicated infrastructure.

Due to the specific nature of Be, the recycling of Be-containing production scrap necessitates highly specialized facilities. The required investment costs are not justified considering the low volumes. Therefore, recycling of beryllium-containing materials continues to rely on specialized facilities outside Europe, particularly in Japan and the United States.

Beryllium being mainly used as alloying element in copper, restrictions on all copper scrap exports risk undermining these established recycling routes towards trusted global partners, reducing effective recycling rates, and ultimately weakening the EU's circularity and supply security objectives.

Given its irreplaceability in critical defence systems, where no technically viable or performance-equivalent alternatives exist, subjecting Be to a generic substitution approach would directly degrade Europe's defence capabilities. Such an approach would misdirect investment, delay capability development, and undermine Europe's strategic autonomy at a time of heightened security challenges.

BeST calls for substance specific, rather than general approaches on policies affecting sourcing and value chains. BeST stands ready to provide expert input and engage closely with EU institutions to ensure that policy measures are informed by industrial realities for Beryllium and do not inadvertently damage Europe's strategic Be value chains.

About BeST

The Beryllium Science and Technology Association (BeST) represents the manufacturers, suppliers and users of beryllium metal, beryllium containing alloys and beryllium oxide ceramics in the EU market. BeST has the objective of promoting sound policies, regulations, science and actions related to the safe use of beryllium and to serve as an expert resource for the international community on the benefits and criticality of beryllium applications. It is also the objective of BeST to promote good practices in the workplace to protect workers handling beryllium containing materials.
