

Greening the European Economy at the Expense of the Global South? Insights from Raw Material Exporting Countries

Panel discussion

The green and digital transformation of the European economies strongly increases its demand for raw materials. While the EU is intensifying efforts to enhance domestic extraction, it remains heavily reliant on imports from third countries. Although the EU portrays its raw material trade with the Global South as 'mutually beneficial', a closer examination of policy documents reveals that the primary goal is to secure a cheap and sustainable supply. The Critical Raw Materials Act includes commitments to respect 'human rights, indigenous peoples' and labour rights', alongside requirements to 'monitor, prevent and minimise environmental impacts'. However, the reality of raw material extraction is still characterised by the destruction of livelihoods, displacement, exploitation, and environmental degradation. Far from being a historical issue, these characteristics persist until today, driven by a new scramble for resources in the face of escalating geopolitical competition and the securitization of resource policies. The energy and raw material chapters in recent EU free trade agreements threaten to lock in countries in the Global South in their role as raw material suppliers, severely limiting their space for independent policy-making and economic diversification.

To better understand these growing contradictions in European raw materials policy, it is crucial to analyse it from the perspective of communities, workers, and activists in raw material-producing countries.

Key questions are: What are the consequences of the EU's more strategic resource policy for exporting countries? How does the recent securitisation of resource policies shape resource exploitation and trade? What are possibilities and limitations of alternative strategies for resource extractivism in the Global South?

To register for this evening event (29/01/2025 – Centre for International Development):
registration@oefse.at



Greening the European Economy at the Expense of the Global South? Insights from Raw Material Exporting Countries

January 29, 2025; 6:00 to 8:00 pm

C3 – Centre for International Development
Sensengasse 3, 1090 Vienna

Speakers:

Kania Guzaimi is a doctoral researcher at FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg, specializing in business and human rights with a background in Political Science and International Relations. She has experience working with advocacy organizations and international NGOs. Her work focuses on human rights, corporate influence, and environmental policy in Indonesia and in this context, she also works on issues of nickel extraction and trade.

Johannes Knierzinger is a Senior Lecturer at the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Vienna and a board member of Mattersburg Circle for Development Policy. His research deals with raw material policy in Africa, currently with a focus on resource sovereignty and the growing resistance against investor-state dispute settlement.

Karin Küblböck is an Economist and Senior Researcher at ÖFSE, the Austrian Foundation for Development Research. Her research focusses on international raw material policies and stakeholder participation in research projects.

Glen Mpufane is the Director of Mining, Diamonds, Gems, Ornament and Jewelry Production (DGOJP) for IndustriALL Global Union. He has over 40 years of experience in the mining industry, including working in mines and for the National Union of Mineworkers in South Africa. Glen serves on various ESG standard development initiatives.

The discussion is the opening event of the conference:

Rohstoffpolitik gerecht gestalten on January 30 and 31, 2025.

To register for the conference on January 30/31

(ÖGB-Catamaran, Johann-Böhm-Platz 1, 1020 Vienna):

https://eveeno.com/conference_resourcepolicies_vienna

For more information please contact: rohstoffkonferenz2025@gmail.com

Programme:

Welcome:

Julia Eder, AK Wien

Theresa Kofler, Netzwerk anders handeln

Werner Raza, director of ÖFSE

Speakers:

- **Kania Guzaimi**
Doctoral researcher at FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg
- **Glen Mpufane**
IndustriALL Global Union, Geneva
- **Johannes Knierzinger**
Institute of Development Studies,
University of Vienna

Closure of the event – Refreshments

Facilitation: Karin Küblböck (ÖFSE)

By participating in this event you consent to the publication of photographs and film footage that are produced by the organizers during the event.

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