

Appendix 7: Interview guides

Interview guide: P1

Introduction: Explain the purpose of the interview and obtain their consent

Briefly introduce me and the purpose of the interview/thesis.

1. Greeting and personal introduction
2. Purpose of the interview

The focus of my research is to analyze the EU's strategy regarding critical materials, specifically as outlined in the CRM Act. I'm particularly interested in understanding the social and environmental impacts of this legislation. Your extensive experience with a Waste management Company and as a member of the EU Commission's operational expert group makes your insights incredibly valuable to my study.

1. Objective

My goal is to engage with experts like yourself to explore diverse perspectives on this subject. Through this dialogue, I aim to uncover nuanced understandings that can contribute to recommendations for enhancing the legislation and addressing any potential adverse effects.

- Explain how the information will be used and ensure confidentiality.

I want to assure you that all the information shared during our conversation will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. It will be used solely for academic purposes and to enrich the findings of my thesis. I will anonymize any identifiable information in my final document to ensure privacy and confidentiality.

- **Obtain consent to record the interview.

With your permission, I would like to record our interview. This will help me capture our discussion accurately and focus on our conversation without the need for continuous note-taking. Do you consent to this recording, understanding its purpose and the confidentiality measures in place?

Questions specific to P1

Section 1: Understanding the Stakeholder's Perspective

- Can you introduce yourself, and then elaborate on your role at the Waste management Company and within the EU Commission's expert group in relation to critical raw materials?

- Given your unique position at the intersection of industry and policy-making, how do you leverage your expertise to shape the strategic direction and priorities of the European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials?

Section 2: Waste management Company (Waste & Circularity)

Operational Overview

- Could you provide a broad overview of the Waste management Company business model and strategy? I'm particularly interested in understanding the journey of waste materials through your system—from how they are acquired, processed, and ultimately, how they are integrated back into the economy.

- In light of the publication of the current CRM act, how have the elements of the company's business model and strategy been affected, and to what extent? What about the employees?

- In the realm of legislation, could you elaborate on any disparities between EU member countries? Additionally, how feasible is it to simultaneously comply with the regulations of individual countries and those of the EU?

- What do you think about the feasibility of the objectives of the CRM act

****Circularity and the CRM act***

- From your perspective, how effectively does the CRM initiative support the implementation and promotion of the principles of circularity, specifically the actions to Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Refurbish, Remanufacture, Repurpose, and Recycle? Please provide examples or areas for improvement if possible.

- How has the CRM Act influenced Waste management Company 's approach to recycling and sustainability? Are there particular aspects of the legislation that have either facilitated or hindered your recycling efforts?

- Do you know what kind of framework or theoretical model is used to assess the sustainability and environmental impact of these legislations under the CRM act

****Social Implications****

- Community Engagement and Awareness: What social impacts, both positive and negative, have you observed from the CRM Act's implementation in waste management and recycling?

- Positive and Negative Social Impacts: Can you discuss the social dimensions of your work, particularly how the CRM Act has affected community engagement and awareness around the recycling of critical raw materials?

****Challenges and Opportunities****

- Advancing Circular Economy: Looking at the broader picture, what do you see as the key opportunities and challenges for recycling and recovering critical materials to advance a more circular economy under the CRM Act?

- Policy Effectiveness and Improvement Areas: "From your perspective, how effective are current EU policies in supporting recycling and waste management activities related to critical raw materials? Where do you see potential for improvement?"

- What are the primary challenges you face in recycling critical raw materials within the EU, especially from an environmental and social perspective? Have there been any notable changes or developments since the implementation of the CRM Act?

Section 3 : Commission for the European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials

****Implementation Challenges****

- Identifying Challenges: Could you share your insights on the primary challenges faced in implementing the EU's Strategy for Critical Materials, particularly in achieving its social and environmental objectives?

- Observations on Negative Impacts: Have you observed any negative impacts following the implementation of the CRM Act? If so, could you elaborate on these observations and their implications?

- Role of Stakeholders in Implementation: What role do you see for different stakeholders, such as industry players, NGOs, and local communities, in the successful implementation and continuous improvement of the CRM Act

****Monitoring and Evaluation****

- Assessment Mechanisms: What mechanisms are currently in place within the EIP framework to monitor and evaluate the impact of the CRM strategy on social and environmental outcomes? How do these mechanisms inform policy adjustments or improvements?

****Stakeholder Engagement and Dynamics****

- Stakeholder Reactions: Based on your interactions, what has been the overall reaction of various stakeholders, including industry, NGOs, and local communities, to the new legislation? Are there any notable trends or concerns that have emerged?

- Collaboration and Compromise: Given the diverse backgrounds and perspectives within the expert groups, how are compromises reached? How do these collaborative processes influence the development and refinement of CRM strategies?

****Social and Environmental Considerations****

- Strategic Incorporation: How does the EIP systematically incorporate social and environmental considerations into its strategic recommendations for critical material management?

Global question

****Compliance and Standards****

- Adherence to Standards: Can you elaborate on the mechanisms the CRM Act employs to ensure that strategic projects, both within the EU and in third countries, meet high environmental and social standards?

****International Partnerships****

- Protecting Vulnerable Economies: What safeguards are in place within the CRM Act to ensure that international partnerships do not exploit or worsen the vulnerabilities of developing economies

****Negative Externalities****

- Simplification Concerns: Does the simplification in the time required to develop strategic projects under the CRM Act lead to any negative externalities? If so, what are they and how can they be mitigated?

****Certification and Sustainability****

- Certification Schemes: What are the primary sustainability aspects covered by the certification schemes recognized under the CRM Act? How are these certifications monitored and enforced to ensure ongoing compliance?

****Strategic Stockpiles****

- Stockpile Challenges**:** What are the potential challenges associated with maintaining strategic stockpiles of critical raw materials, especially in terms of supply chain stability and market dynamics

Social Risks and Challenges

- Labor and Community Well-being**:** From your perspective, are there any significant social risks or challenges anticipated as a result of the CRM Act, particularly concerning labor rights, local communities' well-being, and equity issues? How can these risks be addressed?

Future Directions and Recommendations

Amendments for Enhanced Effectiveness

- Optimizing the CRM Act**:** Given the dynamic nature of recycling technologies and market demands, what specific amendments or enhancements do you believe are necessary to ensure the CRM Act remains effective and responsive to the evolving challenges and opportunities in recycling?

Strategic Recommendations for Policymakers

- Guidance for Enhanced Impact: Drawing from your vast experience, could you offer targeted recommendations for policymakers to optimize the social and environmental outcomes of the CRM Act, especially within the recycling sector? How can these recommendations be practically implemented to achieve maximum impact?

Evolving EU Strategies

- Historical Perspective and Evolution: Reflecting on your journey, how have you seen the EU's strategy toward critical raw materials evolve, especially with regard to environmental and social sustainability? What lessons from past strategies could inform future amendments to the CRM Act

Closing Questions

- Based on your experience, what advice would you give to policymakers or researchers focusing on CRMs?

- Are there any other insights or considerations you think are crucial for my thesis on the EU's CRM strategy?

- Is there anything else you would like to add that we haven't covered?

- Who else would you recommend I speak with to gain further perspectives on this topic?

Interview guide P2

Introduction: Explain the purpose of the interview and obtain their consent

- **Briefly introduce me and the purpose of the interview/thesis.**

1. **Greeting and personal introduction**

2. **Purpose of the interview**

The focus of my research is to analyze the EU's strategy regarding critical materials, specifically as outlined in the CRM Act. I'm particularly interested in understanding the social and environmental impacts of this legislation. Your extensive experience makes your insights incredibly valuable to my study.

1. **Objective**

My goal is to engage with experts like yourself to explore diverse perspectives on this subject. Through this dialogue, I aim to uncover nuanced understandings that can contribute to recommendations for enhancing the legislation and addressing any potential adverse effects.

- **Explain how the information will be used and ensure confidentiality.**

I want to assure you that all the information shared during our conversation will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. It will be used solely for academic purposes and to enrich the findings of my thesis. I will anonymize any identifiable information in my final document to ensure privacy and confidentiality.

- **Obtain consent to record the interview.**

With your permission, I would like to record our interview. This will help me capture our discussion accurately and focus on our conversation without the need for continuous note-taking. Do you consent to this recording, understanding its purpose and the confidentiality measures in place?

Section 1: Understanding the Stakeholder's Background

The goal of this section is to capture the interviewee's personal and professional journey within the context of EU public affairs and advocacy, leading to their leadership role at the Company that promotes the metals and minerals mining industry & EU Institution. It aims to understand their unique perspective on the evolution of the mining and metals sector in the EU, especially regarding sustainability and environmental policies, based on their extensive experience and observations.

Professional Journey and Role at Company that promotes the metals and minerals mining industry & EU Institution:

- **"Could you start by introducing yourself and sharing a brief overview of your professional journey in EU public affairs and advocacy? What key experiences led you to your current role as the Director General of Company that promotes the metals and minerals mining industry & EU Institution?"**

Observations on Industry Evolution:

- "Reflecting on your extensive experience, how have you seen the EU's mining and metals sector evolve, particularly in terms of sustainability and environmental policies? Are there any pivotal changes or trends that have stood out to you during your career?"

Section 2: Company that promotes the metals and minerals mining industry & EU Institution' Engagement with the CRM Act: Strategy, Implementation, and Sector-Wide Impacts

The goal of this section is to explore Company that promotes the metals and minerals mining industry & EU Institution' strategic engagement with the CRM Act, assess its implementation challenges within the mining sector, and understand the broader impacts and opportunities it presents. This includes discussing how the Act influences mining practices, sustainability efforts, and international cooperation in the context of critical raw materials.

Company that promotes the metals and minerals mining industry & EU Institution' Role and Strategic Alignment:

- **"How does the Company that promotes the metals and minerals mining industry & EU Institution actively participate in the development and implementation of the CRM Act, and what strategic adjustments have you made to align with its objectives, particularly regarding sustainability and responsible mining?"**

Implementation Challenges Across the Value Chain

- **"Could you describe the specific challenges Company that promotes the metals and minerals mining industry & EU Institution has observed with the implementation of the CRM Act, particularly noting how these challenges vary across different stages of the mining value chain, from exploration through to recycling?"**

Comprehensive Industry Challenges and Opportunities:

- **"In the broader context of the CRM Act's impact on the mining industry, what are the key challenges and opportunities that have emerged?"**

CRM Act's Impact on Third-Party Countries:

- **"What potential impacts do you foresee the CRM Act having on third-party countries, particularly those involved in the mining and supply of critical raw materials? How can the Act ensure that its objectives positively influence global mining practices and international relations?"**

Fostering International Cooperation and Setting Global Standards:

- **"How does the CRM Act contribute to promoting international cooperation and setting global standards for sustainable and responsible mining practices? Is there a framework for aligning international mining operations with the CRM Act's objectives?"**

Global Standards and Compliance Mechanisms:

- **"Can you detail the mechanisms and standards the CRM Act establishes for ensuring that mining projects, both within the EU and globally, adhere to high environmental and social criteria? How are these standards enforced across international operations?"**

Certification Schemes and Sustainability Oversight:

- **"What key sustainability factors are encompassed by the certification schemes recognized under the CRM Act, and how is compliance with these standards monitored and maintained across the mining industry?"**

Addressing Negative Externalities and Simplification Concerns

- "Has the CRM Act's streamlined process for developing strategic mining projects led to any unintended negative consequences, particularly in environmental or social domains? How are such externalities identified and addressed?"

****Circular Economy**:**

- ****"How does the Company that promotes the metals and minerals mining industry & EU Institution perceive the role of the circular economy and recycling within the CRM Act framework? "****

- ****"From your perspective, how effectively does the CRM initiative support the implementation and promotion of the principles of circularity, specifically the actions to Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Refurbish, Remanufacture, Repurpose, and Recycle? Please provide examples or areas for improvement if possible."****

Section 3: Social implication

The goal of this section is to assess the social implications of the CRM Act within the mining sector, exploring both the direct and indirect social impacts arising from its implementation.

****Comprehensive Social Externalities**:**

- "Could you discuss the range of social externalities, both positive and negative, that arise throughout the critical materials value chain, with a particular focus on the mining sector? How do these externalities manifest in community relations and workforce dynamics?"

****Social Impact of the CRM Act**:**

- ****"Could you elaborate on the social impact of the CRM Act**?**

****Adoption of Best Practices for Social Responsibility**:**

- ****"What best practices has the CRM Act encouraged within the mining industry to mitigate negative social externalities and promote positive community engagement? How are these practices being implemented and monitored for effectiveness?"****

****Strategies for Inclusive Stakeholder Engagement**:**

- "Under the CRM Act framework, what strategies have proven effective for engaging with local communities, indigenous groups, and other stakeholders to address social concerns in mining? How do these engagement practices contribute to sustainable mining development?"

****Stakeholder Awareness and Engagement****

- "How well-informed are local communities and relevant stakeholders about mining practices, their environmental and social consequences, and the opportunities for adopting circular economy principles? What initiatives are in place to enhance understanding and participation in sustainable mining solutions?"

****CRM Act's Influence on Workforce Skills and Development**:**

- "How has the CRM Act shaped the skill requirements and development strategies within the mining industry? What changes or initiatives have been introduced to align the workforce with the Act's social and environmental standards?"

****Recommendations to Policymakers for Social Impact Mitigation****

- ****"Based on your experience, what recommendations would you offer to policymakers to minimize the negative social impacts that may arise from the implementation of the CRM Act, especially in mining communities within and outside the EU?"****

Section 4: Environmental Impact

The goal of this section is to explore the environmental dimensions of the CRM Act's impact on the mining sector. It aims to understand the range of environmental externalities along the critical materials value chain, assess the observed environmental effects since the Act's implementation, and examine the industry's adoption of sustainable practices in response. This section also seeks to discuss the measures taken to protect biodiversity and ecosystems in mining areas and to gather expert recommendations on minimizing the environmental footprint of mining activities under the CRM Act framework.

****Environmental Externalities Across the Value Chain**:**

- ****"Could you detail the primary environmental externalities, both negative and positive, that emerge across the value chain of critical materials, with a particular focus on the mining sector? How has the CRM Act influenced the identification and management of these externalities?"****

****Environmental Impact of the CRM Act:****

- ****"Could you elaborate on the Environmental impact of the CRM Act?"****

Environmental Impact Observations and Community Response:

- **"What significant environmental impacts, both beneficial and detrimental, have been observed in mining activities since the implementation of the CRM Act? How have these observations influenced community engagement and awareness initiatives?"**

****Adoption of Sustainable Mining Practices****

- **"In light of the CRM Act's emphasis on sustainability, what specific environmental strategies have been adopted by the mining industry to align with the Act's requirements? Can you provide examples of innovative practices or technologies that have been effective in reducing the environmental footprint of mining activities?"**

****Protection of Biodiversity and Ecosystems**:**

- **"Considering the ecological challenges posed by mining, particularly in biodiverse and sensitive ecosystems, what measures are being taken to mitigate these impacts in compliance with the CRM Act? How do these measures contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and the integrity of ecosystems?"**

****Recommendations for Environmental Impact Reduction:****

- ****"What advice would you give to policymakers to reduce potential environmental impacts associated with the CRM Act's directives, ensuring that mining practices remain sustainable and ecosystems are preserved?"****

Section 5: Global

The goal of this section is to examine the global implications of the CRM Act, I will probably not ask them.

****International Partnerships****

- How do the strategic partnerships outlined in the CRM Act ensure mutual benefits for both the EU and third-party countries, particularly in terms of social and environmental sustainability

****International Partnerships and Mutual Benefits:****

- ****"How does the CRM Act facilitate strategic partnerships that ensure mutual benefits in terms of social and environmental sustainability between the EU and third-party countries involved in the supply of critical materials?"****

****Challenges in Managing Strategic Material Stockpiles:****

- "What are the primary challenges in establishing and maintaining strategic stockpiles of critical materials, considering supply chain dynamics and market stability? How does the CRM Act address these challenges?"

****Focus on CRMs and Potential Overshadowing Effects:****

- ****"In emphasizing critical raw materials, is there a risk that the CRM Act might inadvertently overshadow the importance of other essential or conflict materials, potentially leading to unintended negative impacts?"****

****Legislative Interplay and CRM Act Impact:****

- ****"How do other existing EU legislations interact with the CRM Act, and in what ways do these interactions enhance or diminish the Act's effectiveness in achieving its objectives for the mining sector?"****

****Act's Efficiency Across Diverse EU Landscapes:****

- ****"Considering the varying resource endowments and economic landscapes of EU member states, like the comparison between Bulgaria and more developed countries, how does the CRM Act account for these differences to ensure equitable impacts and opportunities?"****

****Monitoring and Policy Feedback:****

- " Could you detail the mechanisms employed to monitor the effectiveness of the CRM Act? How are these findings used to inform policy recommendations and industry practices

Future directions

****Optimizing Social and Environmental Outcomes:****

- "Based on your extensive experience, what specific recommendations would you give to policymakers to enhance the social and environmental effectiveness of the CRM Act within the mining sector? Can you provide examples of how these recommendations could be implemented to maximize their impact?"

****Improving the CRM Act for Community and Environmental Welfare:****

- "In what ways do you think the CRM Act could be amended or expanded to offer greater protection and advantages to local communities and ecosystems in areas abundant with critical materials? How would these improvements align with the Act's existing framework and objectives?"

Closing Questions

- Based on your experience, what advice would you give to policymakers or researchers focusing on CRMs?

- Are there any other insights or considerations you think are crucial for my thesis on the EU's CRM strategy?
- **Is there anything else you would like to add that we haven't covered?**
- **Who else would you recommend I speak with to gain further perspectives on this topic?**

Interview P3

Introduction: Explain the purpose of the interview and obtain their consent

- **Briefly introduce me and the purpose of the interview/thesis.**

1. **Greeting and personal introduction**

2. **Purpose of the interview**

The focus of my research is to analyze the EU's strategy regarding critical materials, specifically as outlined in the CRM Act. I'm particularly interested in understanding the social and environmental impacts of this legislation. Your extensive experience makes your insights incredibly valuable to my study.

1. **Objective**

My goal is to engage with experts like yourself to explore diverse perspectives on this subject. Through this dialogue, I aim to uncover nuanced understandings that can contribute to recommendations for enhancing the legislation and addressing any potential adverse effects.

- **Explain how the information will be used and ensure confidentiality.**

I want to assure you that all the information shared during our conversation will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. It will be used solely for academic purposes and to enrich the findings of my thesis. I will anonymize any identifiable information in my final document to ensure privacy and confidentiality.

- **Obtain consent to record the interview.**

With your permission, I would like to record our interview. This will help me capture our discussion accurately and focus on our conversation without the need for continuous note-taking. Do you consent to this recording, understanding its purpose and the confidentiality measures in place?

Understanding P3' Professional Journey

- **Introduction and Career Path:** "Could you introduce yourself and describe your journey to becoming a recognized expert in Critical Raw Materials (CRM) and strategic growth? What pivotal experiences shaped your career?"

- How do you see the role of the EU in global critical materials markets evolving with the implementation of this strategy

"Analysis of the EU Strategy for CRM as Defined in the CRM Act"

Understanding Implementation Challenges

- How does the CRM Act intersect with existing regulations, and what are the implications of these interactions for the critical raw materials strategy and its impact?

- Regarding the CRM Act, could you identify areas where additional detail or more precise definitions might have enhanced clarity and implementation effectiveness? How do you foresee these potential gaps in detail or definition impacting the Act's long-term application and its goals for sustainability?

- **Main Challenges**: What are the primary obstacles encountered in implementing the CRM Act's strategies, particularly regarding securing CRM supply chains and achieving sustainability goals?
- **Stakeholder Synergy**: How do you see the role of diverse stakeholder dynamics, including international cooperation, influencing the CRM Act's effectiveness?
- **Regulatory Compliance**: What challenges are faced in ensuring compliance with the CRM Act across different EU member states and in international contexts? (partnerships, club, different objectives & mentality)

Evaluating Alignment with Initial Intentions

- **Strategic Alignment**: From your strategic advisory perspective, how closely do you believe the actual outcomes of the CRM Act align with its strategic intentions, particularly in securing CRMs and fostering sustainable practices?
- **Unforeseen Impacts**: Have you observed any unintended impacts, particularly in the sectors you directly engage with, that could inform a recalibration of the CRM Act?

"Focus on the Social Aspects of the CRM Act + Impact it Could Generate"

Social Impact Analysis

- **Labor and Community**: What impacts, both positive and negative, has the CRM Act had on labor rights, worker safety, and local communities in CRM-rich regions?
- **Equitable Development**: How does the Act contribute to equitable economic development and address social disparities within and between EU member states?

Gap Identification and Recommendations

- Considering the objectives and provisions of the CRM Act, could you discuss the positive impacts it has had or is anticipated to have, particularly in terms of advancing social responsibility?
- **Social Responsibility**: With your deep involvement in ESG and CSR, what are the critical gaps you perceive in the CRM Act's approach towards social responsibility within the CRM value chain?
- **Improvement Strategies**: What recommendations would you suggest to address these social gaps and enhance the positive social impact of the CRM Act?

"Focus on the Environmental Aspects of the CRM Act + Impact it Could Generate"

Environmental Impact Analysis

- **Sustainability Practices**: What has been the environmental impact of the CRM Act in terms of promoting sustainable extraction, processing, and recycling of CRMs?
- **Biodiversity and Ecosystems**: How does the Act address environmental preservation and biodiversity protection in areas affected by CRM activities?
- Considering the environmental focus of the CRM Act, how effectively do you think the Act facilitates the adoption of circular economy principles, particularly in the context of reducing, reusing, and recycling critical raw materials?

Gap Identification and Recommendations

- Considering the objectives and provisions of the CRM Act, could you discuss the positive impacts it has had or is anticipated to have, particularly in terms of advancing environmental sustainability?
- From your perspective, how effectively does the CRM initiative support the implementation and promotion of the principles of circularity, specifically the actions to Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Refurbish, Remanufacture, Repurpose, and Recycle? Please provide examples or areas for improvement if possible.
- ****Environmental Gaps****: What are the main environmental challenges or gaps in the CRM Act's current framework, and how do these affect its environmental sustainability goals?
- ****Enhancement Approaches****: Based on the identified environmental gaps, what recommendations could be made to strengthen the environmental sustainability aspects of the CRM Act?
- "In your view, what academic models or frameworks could be most effective in assessing the impact of the CRM strategy and guiding improvements?"

Closing Questions

- Based on your experience, what advice would you give to policymakers or researchers focusing on CRMs?
- Are there any other insights or considerations you think are crucial for my thesis on the EU's CRM strategy?
- Is there anything else you would like to add that we haven't covered?
- Who else would you recommend I speak with to gain further perspectives on this topic?

How does the CRM Act's certification scheme ensure transparency and reliability in the sustainability claims of critical raw materials placed on the EU market?

How does the CRM Act ensure that Strategic Projects, both within the EU and in third countries, adhere to high environmental and social standards?

How do the strategic partnerships outlined in the CRM Act ensure mutual benefits for both the EU and third-party countries, particularly in terms of social and environmental sustainability?

Interview guide P4

Introduction: Explain the purpose of the interview and obtain their consent

- **Briefly introduce me and the purpose of the interview/thesis.**

1. **Greeting and personal introduction**

2. **Purpose of the interview**

The focus of my research is to analyze the EU's strategy regarding critical materials, specifically as outlined in the CRM Act. I am particularly interested in understanding the social and environmental impacts of this legislation. Your extensive experience makes your insights incredibly valuable to my study.

1. **Objective**

My goal is to engage with experts like yourself to explore diverse perspectives on this subject. Through this dialogue, I aim to uncover nuanced understandings that can contribute to recommendations for enhancing the legislation and addressing any potential adverse effects.

- **Explain how the information will be used and ensure confidentiality.**

I want to assure you that all the information shared during our conversation will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. It will be used solely for academic purposes and to enrich the findings of my thesis. I will anonymize any identifiable information in my final document to ensure privacy and confidentiality.

- **Obtain consent to record the interview.**

With your permission, I would like to record our interview. This will help me capture our discussion accurately and focus on our conversation without the need for continuous note-taking. Do you consent to this recording, understanding its purpose and the confidentiality measures in place?

Introduction and Background

This section aims to establish the interviewee's background and their specific contributions to the CRM Act. By understanding their role and involvement, the discussion can be better framed within the context of their expertise and experiences, providing a solid foundation for deeper exploration into the Act's development and impact.

Introduction of the Interviewee: Could you please introduce yourself and describe your current role and responsibilities within the EU institution, especially regarding critical materials and the CRM Act?

Involvement in CRM Act Development: Could you outline your specific involvement in the development and shaping of the CRM Act?

Legislative Process and Considerations

This section delves into the influences and debates that shaped the CRM Act, exploring the perspectives and priorities considered during its development.

Could you elaborate on any underlying assumptions or perspectives that may have influenced the framing of the CRM Act, and how might these influence its long-term effectiveness and reception?

****Stakeholder Dynamics and Influence**:** How did you navigate the diverse stakeholder landscape, including EU member states, industries, and NGOs, to incorporate their views into the CRM Act? Were there any instances of significant alignment or conflict and how will it impact the CRM act impact

****EU institution Debates and Sustainability Topics**:** Can you highlight any sustainability-related debates within the EU Institution that significantly influenced the CRM Act's formulation? How were these debates resolved or integrated into the final legislation?

****Drafting Considerations**:** In drafting the CRM Act, how were environmental and social priorities weighed against economic and industrial considerations to achieve a balanced approach?

****Strategic Alignment**:** From your perspective, how closely do you believe the actual outcomes of the CRM Act align with its strategic intentions, particularly in securing CRMs and fostering sustainable practices

Implementation and Challenges

This section seeks to evaluate the CRM Act's implementation process, identifying potential challenges and areas lacking clarity that might affect its effectiveness. It aims to understand the alignment between the Act's strategic intentions and actual outcomes, exploring the impact of regulatory compliance, political risks, and international collaborations on achieving sustainability goals

****Areas Requiring More Detail**:**Regarding the CRM Act, could you identify areas where additional detail or more precise definitions might have enhanced clarity and implementation effectiveness? How do you foresee these potential gaps in detail or definition impacting the Act's long-term application and its goals for sustainability?

****Observed Positive Outcomes**:**Amidst the implementation process of the CRM Act, can you highlight any positive outcomes or successes that have been observed, particularly those contributing to its strategic goals related to sustainability and social responsibility?

****Implementation**:** What are the main challenges/opportunities faced in implementing the strategies outlined in the CRM Act, and what potential impacts might arise as a result?

****Regulatory Compliance**:** What challenges are faced in ensuring compliance with the CRM Act across different EU member states and in international contexts

****Addressing Geopolitical Risks**:**Considering the global landscape, what political or geopolitical risks associated with the CRM Act could potentially influence its effectiveness, particularly concerning its sustainability objectives?

****allenges in Collaborative Efforts**:** In relation to the CRM Act's collaborative initiatives such as the Club of CRM or partnerships with other countries, what challenges do you anticipate could emerge, and what impacts might result from them?

In light of the CRM Act's objectives and scope, could you shed light on any significant challenges/opportunities that have emerged or might arise in the future? Moreover, where do you see potential gaps within the Act, and what solutions or approaches would you recommend to effectively address these issues

Social and Environmental Focus

This section of the interview guide focuses on assessing the CRM Act's integration with existing laws and its impact on social and environmental objectives. It aims to identify any shortcomings in addressing social responsibility and environmental sustainability, encouraging discussion on potential improvements to enhance the Act's effectiveness in these critical areas.

****Harmonization with Existing Legislation****: How does the CRM Act align or conflict with existing EU legislation in terms of environmental and social goals? How could it affect the impact of the CRM Act?

Considering the objectives and provisions of the CRM Act, could you discuss the positive impacts it has had or is anticipated to have, particularly in terms of advancing social responsibility and environmental sustainability?

****Social Responsibility****: In your perspective, what are the critical gaps you perceive in the CRM Act's approach toward social responsibility within the CRM value chain?

****Improvement Strategies****: What recommendations would you suggest to address these social gaps and enhance the positive social impact of the CRM Act?

****Environmental Gaps****: What are the main environmental challenges or gaps in the CRM Act's current framework, and how do these affect its environmental sustainability goals?

****Enhancement Approaches****: Based on the identified environmental gaps, what recommendations could be made to strengthen the environmental sustainability aspects of the CRM Act?

Future Directions and Policy Evolution

This section aims to explore potential developments in the EU's approach to critical materials, considering emerging social and environmental challenges. It seeks to understand the envisioned advancements and the metrics proposed for assessing the strategy's future success in adapting to and addressing these evolving issues.

What key performance indicators (KPIs) and monitoring mechanisms are being considered to evaluate the future effectiveness of the EU's critical materials strategy, especially in addressing evolving social and environmental objectives?

Based on your experience with the CRM Act, what key lessons or best practices have emerged that could inform future EU policies related to critical materials or broader sustainability initiatives?

Evolving Strategies: Are there ongoing discussions or plans to further evolve the EU's strategy on critical materials, especially in light of new social and environmental challenges?

Closing Question

- Based on your experience, what advice would you offer to policymakers or researchers focusing on CRMs?

- Are there any additional insights or considerations you believe are crucial for my thesis on the EU's CRM strategy?

- Is there anything else you would like to add that we haven't addressed?

- Whom else would you recommend I speak with to gain further perspectives on this topic?

****Funding and Investment Dynamics**:** "Could you elaborate on the financing mechanisms established or proposed within the CRM Act framework? How do these mechanisms aim to stimulate investments in critical raw materials, and what challenges do they face in aligning financial incentives with the Act's strategic objectives?"

****Legislation vs. Real-World Application**:** "In your experience, where do you see the most significant gaps between the intentions of the CRM Act and its practical implementation in the real world? How can these gaps be bridged to enhance the effectiveness of the legislation?"

****Public Awareness and Support**:** "How do you assess the current public perception and awareness of the CRM Act and its objectives? What strategies could be employed to improve public understanding and garner stronger support for the Act's sustainability and strategic goals?"

****Role of Strategic Initiatives**:** "Can you discuss a specific strategic project initiated under the CRM Act that exemplifies the Act's goals? What makes this project strategic, and what lessons have been learned from its implementation that could inform future initiatives?" And also on the certification schemes related to it?

****Advancing Circular Economy Principles**:** "How does the CRM Act address the principles of circularity and sustainability within the critical raw materials sector? What are the main challenges in promoting a more circular economy, and what initiatives have shown promise in overcoming these hurdles?"

Interview guide P5

Introduction: Explain the purpose of the interview and obtain their consent

- **Briefly introduce me and the purpose of the interview/thesis.**

1. **Greeting and personal introduction**

2. **Purpose of the interview**

The focus of my research is to analyze the EU's strategy regarding critical materials, specifically as outlined in the CRM Act. I'm particularly interested in understanding the social and environmental impacts of this legislation. Your extensive experience makes your insights incredibly valuable to my study

1. **Objective**

My goal is to engage with experts like yourself to explore diverse perspectives on this subject. Through this dialogue, I aim to uncover nuanced understandings that can contribute to recommendations for enhancing the legislation and addressing any potential adverse effects.

- **Explain how the information will be used and ensure confidentiality.**

I want to assure you that all the information shared during our conversation will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. It will be used solely for academic purposes and to enrich the findings of my thesis. I will anonymize any identifiable information in my final document to ensure privacy and confidentiality.

- **Obtain consent to record the interview.**

With your permission, I would like to record our interview. This will help me capture our discussion accurately and focus on our conversation without the need for continuous note-taking. Do you consent to this recording, understanding its purpose and the confidentiality measures in place

Understanding P5' Professional Journe

- **Introduction and Career Path**: "Could you quickly introduce yourself and describe your journey to becoming a recognized expert in your field? And also your link with CRM

"Analysis of the EU Strategy for CRM as Defined in the CRM Act"

From your perspective, how closely do you believe the actual outcomes of the CRM Act align with its strategic intentions, particularly in securing CRMs and fostering sustainable practices?

Regarding the CRM Act, could you identify areas where additional detail or more precise definitions might have enhanced clarity and implementation effectiveness? What will be the impact that will result from it?

What are the main challenges/opportunities that could be faced in implementing the strategies outlined in the CRM Act, and what potential impacts might arise as a result

What are the key disparities between the CRM Act's theoretical framework and its practical application, and how might these be addressed to improve real-world outcomes?

What challenges are faced in ensuring compliance with the CRM Act across different EU member states and in international contexts? (partnerships, club, different objectives & mentality)

What role does public awareness play in the success of the CRM Act, and how can increased understanding and support be fostered among the general population?

In light of the CRM Act's objectives and scope, could you shed light on any significant challenges/opportunities that have emerged or might arise in the future? Moreover, where do you see potential gaps within the Act, and what solutions or approaches would you recommend to effectively address these issues?

"Focus on the Environmental Aspects of the CRM Act + Impact it Could Generate"

How does the CRM Act align or conflict with existing EU legislation in terms of environmental and social goals? How could it affect the impact of the CRM Act?

Considering the objectives and provisions of the CRM Act, could you discuss the positive impacts it has had or is anticipated to have, particularly in terms of advancing environmental sustainability?

What are the main environmental challenges or gaps in the CRM Act's current framework, and how do these affect its environmental sustainability goals?

Based on the identified environmental gaps, what recommendations could be made to strengthen the environmental sustainability aspects of the CRM Act?

From your perspective, how effectively does the CRM initiative support the implementation and promotion of the principles of circularity, specifically the actions to Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Refurbish, Remanufacture, Repurpose, and Recycle?

How do the CRM Act's strategic project endorsements and certification schemes impact sustainability standards and what improvements could enhance their effectiveness?

How might the diverse economic and sustainability strategies of EU member states affect the implementation of the CRM Act's circularity goals, and what challenges or opportunities could this diversity present?

Considering the EU's CRM Act promotes circular economy practices within the critical raw materials sector, how might these initiatives indirectly influence sustainability and economic practices in third-party countries, particularly those involved in the supply chain? Could there be unintended consequences or opportunities for these nations to adopt similar circular approaches?

"Focus on the Social Aspects of the CRM Act + Impact it Could Generate"

Considering the objectives and provisions of the CRM Act, could you discuss the positive impacts it has had or is anticipated to have, particularly in terms of advancing social responsibility?

What are the critical gaps you perceive in the CRM Act's approach towards social responsibility within the CRM value chain?

What recommendations would you suggest to address these social gaps and enhance the positive social impact of the CRM Act?

Closing Questions

- Based on your experience, what advice would you give to policymakers or researchers focusing on CRMs?

- Are there any other insights or considerations you think are crucial for my thesis on the EU's CRM strategy?

- Is there anything else you would like to add that we haven't covered?

- Who else would you recommend I speak with to gain further perspectives on this topic?

How does the CRM Act's certification scheme ensure transparency and reliability in the sustainability claims of critical raw materials placed on the EU market?

How does the CRM Act ensure that Strategic Projects, both within the EU and in third countries, adhere to high environmental and social standards?

How do the strategic partnerships outlined in the CRM Act ensure mutual benefits for both the EU and third-party countries, particularly in terms of social and environmental sustainability?

Legislation vs. Real-World Application: "In your experience, where do you see the most significant gaps between the intentions of the CRM Act and its practical implementation in the real world? How can these gaps be bridged to enhance the effectiveness of the legislation?"

Public Awareness and Support: "How do you assess the current public perception and awareness of the CRM Act and its objectives? What strategies could be employed to improve public understanding and garner stronger support for the Act's sustainability and strategic goals?"

How does the CRM Act address the lifecycle impact of critical raw materials, from extraction to end-of-life?

Given the ambitious goals outlined in the CRM Act, particularly in enhancing recycling and reducing dependency on external sources, how do you assess the feasibility of these objectives within the current EU infrastructure and policy framework? Are there specific challenges or opportunities that could significantly influence their realization?

"What are the most significant barriers to adopting circular economy practices in the context of CRMs, and how can these be effectively addressed at the policy and operational levels?"

Interview Guide P6

Introduction: Explain the purpose of the interview and obtain their consent

- **Briefly introduce me and the purpose of the interview/thesis.**

1. **Greeting and personal introduction**

2. **Purpose of the interview**

The focus of my research is to analyze the EU's strategy regarding critical materials, specifically as outlined in the CRM Act. I'm particularly interested in understanding the social and environmental impacts of this legislation. Your extensive experience makes your insights incredibly valuable to my study.

1. **Objective**

My goal is to engage with experts like yourself to explore diverse perspectives on this subject. Through this dialogue, I aim to uncover nuanced understandings that can contribute to recommendations for enhancing the legislation and addressing any potential adverse effects.

- **Explain how the information will be used and ensure confidentiality.**

I want to assure you that all the information shared during our conversation will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. It will be used solely for academic purposes and to enrich the findings of my thesis. I will anonymize any identifiable information in my final document to ensure privacy and confidentiality

- **Obtain consent to record the interview.**

With your permission, I would like to record our interview. This will help me capture our discussion accurately and focus on our conversation without the need for continuous note-taking. Do you consent to this recording, understanding its purpose and the confidentiality measures in place?

Understanding P6's Professional Journey

- **Introduction and Career Path**: Could you briefly introduce yourself and explain your involvement with Critical Raw Materials and the CRM Act?

"Evaluating the Impact and Adaptation to the CRM Act within the Wind Energy Sector"

Pre-Act Challenges and Advocacy Efforts

- **Pre-Act Challenges**: Can you describe the primary challenges at the "Company that Represents the Wind Industry" member companies faced regarding critical raw materials before the CRM Act was implemented?

- **Influence on CRM Act Development**: How has the Company that Represents the Wind Industry contributed to shaping the CRM Act, and what were the main concerns or goals you advocated for?

- **Unrealized Advocacies**: Were there specific recommendations made by the Company that Represents the Wind Industry that didn't make it into the final version of the CRM Act? How is the Company that Represents the Wind Industry addressing these unmet needs? Are you satisfied with this legislation?

- **Member Country Perceptions and Recommendations**: Given the diverse membership of the Company that Represents the Wind Industry, how uniform or varied are the perceptions and recommendations regarding the CRM Act across different member countries? Are there common themes in their feedback or distinct national perspectives?

Impact and Implementation of the CRM Act

- **Alignment with Strategic Intentions**: To what extent do the actual outcomes of the CRM Act align with its intended strategic goals, particularly in terms of securing CRMs and enhancing sustainable practices? What are your thoughts on the feasibility of these objectives?

- **Operational Impact**: What have been or will be the most significant impacts of the CRM Act on the operational, strategic, and compliance aspects of the Company that Represents the Wind Industry?

- What criteria do the Company that Represents the Wind Industry member companies prioritize when sourcing Critical Raw Materials for their operations?

- **CRM Pricing and the CRM Act**: Considering the CRM Act, how significant do you find the impact of CRM pricing volatility on the wind energy sector, and does the Act adequately address these concerns?

- **Trade Challenges and CRM Act Compliance**: What trade-related challenges do the Company that Represents the Wind Industry member companies will face in complying with the CRM Act?

- **Challenges and Opportunities**: What are the primary risks, challenges and opportunities that the Company that Represents the Wind Industry member companies might encounter in implementing the CRM Act's strategies, and what potential impacts do you foresee?

- **Addressing European Solution Gaps**: Considering the risks, challenges and opportunities you've outlined, if there are gaps in the current European strategy for managing critical raw materials as per the CRM Act, how would you recommend solving these gaps to ensure a more resilient and sustainable wind energy sector?

Theoretical vs. Practical Disparities

- **Disparities in Application**: What are the notable discrepancies between the theoretical framework of the CRM Act and its practical application within the wind energy sector, and how can these be addressed for improved outcomes?

Global Perspectives and Future Outlook

- **International Lessons**: Can you draw any parallels or lessons from CRM management strategies in regions outside the EU that could inform or enhance the EU's approach?

"Exploring Environmental Sustainability and Circularity in Response to the CRM Act"

Environmental Sustainability and the CRM Act

- **Positive outcome**: Considering the objectives and provisions of the CRM Act, could you discuss the positive impacts it has had or is anticipated to have, particularly in terms of advancing environmental sustainability?

- **Environmental Challenges**: Could you elaborate on the primary environmental challenges or shortcomings present in the CRM Act's framework? How do these challenges hinder the Act's sustainability goals?

- **Recommendations for Improvement**: Given the environmental challenges identified, what specific amendments or enhancements would you recommend strengthening the CRM Act's focus on environmental sustainability?

Circularity and Sustainable Practices

- **Significance of Circularity**: From your perspective, how effectively does the CRM initiative support the implementation and promotion of the principles of circularity, specifically the actions to Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Refurbish, Remanufacture, Repurpose, and Recycle?

- **Sourcing Practices**: How do Company that Represents the Wind Industry member companies approach the sourcing of CRMs? Is there a strategic shift towards incorporating more secondary (recycled/reused,..) CRMs in response to the CRM Act?

- **Innovative Design and Substitutes**: How do you perceive the potential for innovative design and the adoption of substitutes within the technologies relevant to the Company that Represents the Wind Industrysector? Do current policies, including the CRM Act, sufficiently incentivize these approaches?

"Assessing the Social Dimensions and Responsibility under the CRM Act"

Social Responsibility and the CRM Act

- **Positive outcome**: Considering the objectives and provisions of the CRM Act, could you discuss the positive impacts it has had or is anticipated to have, particularly in terms of advancing social responsibility?

- **Identifying Social Responsibility Gaps**: In your view, what are the most significant social responsibility gaps within the CRM Act's framework?

- **Strategies for Social Enhancement**: Based on the gaps identified, what specific strategies or amendments would you recommend strengthening the social responsibility elements of the CRM Act?

- **Monitoring and Reporting**: How does the CRM Act propose to enhance transparency and accountability in monitoring the social impacts of CRM sourcing and utilization in the wind energy sector, and are there additional mechanisms you believe should be implemented?

Closing Questions

- Are there any other insights or considerations you think are crucial for my thesis on the EU's CRM strategy?

- Is there anything else you would like to add that we haven't covered?

- Who else would you recommend I speak with to gain further perspectives on this topic?

Interview Guide P7

Introduction: Explain the purpose of the interview and obtain their consent

- **Briefly introduce me and the purpose of the interview/thesis.**

1. **Greeting and personal introduction**

2. **Purpose of the interview**

The focus of my research is to analyze the EU's strategy regarding critical materials, specifically as outlined in the CRM Act. I'm particularly interested in understanding the social and environmental impacts of this legislation. Your extensive experience makes your insights incredibly valuable to my study.

1. **Objective**

My goal is to engage with experts like yourself to explore diverse perspectives on this subject. Through this dialogue, I aim to uncover nuanced understandings that can contribute to recommendations for enhancing the legislation and addressing any potential adverse effects.

- **Explain how the information will be used and ensure confidentiality.**

I want to assure you that all the information shared during our conversation will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. It will be used solely for academic purposes and to enrich the findings of my thesis. I will anonymize any identifiable information in my final document to ensure privacy and confidentiality.

- **Obtain consent to record the interview.**

With your permission, I would like to record our interview. This will help me capture our discussion accurately and focus on our conversation without the need for continuous note-taking. Do you consent to this recording, understanding its purpose and the confidentiality measures in place?

Understanding P7's Professional Journey

- **Introduction and Career Path**: Could you briefly introduce yourself and explain your involvement with Critical Raw Materials and the CRM Act

"Analysis of the EU Strategy for CRM as Defined in the CRM Act"

Alignment with Strategic Goals

1. **Assessing Outcomes vs. Objectives**: To what extent do the actual outcomes of the CRM Act align with its intended strategic goals, particularly in securing CRMs and enhancing sustainable practices? Are you satisfied with it and can you comment on the feasibility of these objectives?

Theoretical Framework vs. Practical Application

1. **Disparities and Clarity**: What are the key disparities between the CRM Act's theoretical framework and its practical application, and how might these be addressed to improve real-world outcomes?

2. **Clarity and Detail Enhancement**: "Are there sections within the CRM Act that would benefit from more detailed definitions or clarity to improve implementation and effectiveness?"

3. **Implementation Challenges**: "What potential challenges might arise during the CRM Act's implementation?"

Compliance and Impact

1. **Compliance Challenges**: What challenges are faced in ensuring compliance with the CRM Act across different EU member states? How can these challenges be overcome?
2. **Broader Impact on Materials**: Given the current focus on CRMs, do you believe there could be an indirect impact on other materials not classified as CRMs?

Certification Scheme and Strategic Partnerships

1. How do you evaluate the current definitions and procedures for strategic projects within the CRM Act? Are there specific areas you believe require enhancement or refinement for better effectiveness?
2. **Certification scheme**: What do you think about the system put in place (certification scheme) to ensure that a strategic project has limited social and environmental impact? Could you discuss any specific challenges, opportunities, or risks that this scheme presents, and suggest potential improvements?
3. **Mutual Benefits of Strategic Partnerships**: "How do the strategic partnerships in the CRM Act ensure mutual benefits for the EU and third-party countries, especially in terms of social and environmental sustainability?"

Governance Framework

- **Effectiveness of the Governance Framework**: "What are your thoughts on the CRM Act's governance framework, particularly the role of the European Critical Raw Materials Board in guiding the Act's objectives? Are there areas within the governance structure that need strengthening or adjustment?"

Challenges, Opportunities, and Future Outlook

1. **Emerging Dynamics**: Considering the CRM Act's objectives and scope, could you discuss any significant challenges or opportunities that have emerged or are anticipated in the future?
2. **Identifying Gaps**: Where do you see potential gaps within the Act, and what solutions or approaches would you recommend to effectively address these issues

"Focus on the Environmental Aspects of the CRM Act + Impact it Could Generate"

- Considering the objectives and provisions of the CRM Act, could you discuss the positive impacts it has had or is anticipated to have, particularly in terms of advancing environmental sustainability?

- From your perspective, how effectively does the CRM initiative support the implementation and promotion of the principles of circularity, specifically the actions to Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Refurbish, Remanufacture, Repurpose, and Recycle? Please provide examples or areas for improvement if possible. Why is there no mention of rethink, refuse,...

- How does the CRM Act ensure that Strategic Projects, both within the EU and in third countries, adhere to high environmental and social standards?

- **Environmental Gaps**: What are the main environmental challenges or gaps in the CRM Act's current framework, and how do these affect its environmental sustainability goals?
- **Enhancement Approaches**: Based on the identified environmental gaps, what recommendations could be made to strengthen the environmental sustainability aspects of the CRM Act?

"Focus on the Social Aspects of the CRM Act + Impact it Could Generate"

Gap Identification and Recommendations

- Considering the objectives and provisions of the CRM Act, could you discuss the positive impacts it has had or is anticipated to have, particularly in terms of advancing social responsibility?
- **Social Responsibility**: What are the critical gaps you perceive in the CRM Act's approach towards social responsibility within the CRM value chain?
- **Improvement Strategies**: What recommendations would you suggest to address these social gaps and enhance the positive social impact of the CRM Act?
- What would be the impact of the EU strategy for conflict materials?

Closing Questions

- Based on your experience, what advice would you give to policymakers or researchers focusing on CRMs?
- Are there any other insights or considerations you think are crucial for my thesis on the EU's CRM strategy?
- Is there anything else you would like to add that we haven't covered?
- Who else would you recommend I speak with to gain further perspectives on this topic?

Interview guide P8

Introduction: Explain the purpose of the interview and obtain their consent

- ****Briefly introduce me and the purpose of the interview/thesis.****

1. ****Greeting and personal introduction****

2. ****Purpose of the interview****

The focus of my research is to analyze the EU's strategy regarding critical materials, specifically as outlined in the CRM Act. I'm particularly interested in understanding the social and environmental impacts of this legislation. Your extensive experience makes your insights incredibly valuable to my study.

1. ****Objective****

My goal is to engage with experts like yourself to explore diverse perspectives on this subject. Through this dialogue, I aim to uncover nuanced understandings that can contribute to recommendations for enhancing the legislation and addressing any potential adverse effects.

- ****Explain how the information will be used and ensure confidentiality.****

I want to assure you that all the information shared during our conversation will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. It will be used solely for academic purposes and to enrich the findings of my thesis. I will anonymize any identifiable information in my final document to ensure privacy and confidentiality.

- ****Obtain consent to record the interview.****

With your permission, I would like to record our interview. This will help me capture our discussion accurately and focus on our conversation without the need for continuous note-taking. Do you consent to this recording, understanding its purpose and the confidentiality measures in place?

Understanding P8's Professional Journey

- ****Introduction and Career Path****: Could you briefly introduce yourself and explain your involvement with Critical Raw Materials and the CRM Act

****"Analysis of the EU Strategy for CRM as Defined in the CRM Act"*****

Alignment with Strategic Goals

1. ****Assessing Outcomes vs. Objectives****: To what extent do the actual outcomes of the CRM Act align with its intended strategic goals, particularly in securing CRMs and enhancing sustainable practices? Can you comment on the feasibility of these objectives?

Geoeconomic Risks and Mitigation

1. ****Addressing Challenges and Trends****: "What are the principal geoeconomic challenges and trends associated with the EU's CRM strategy, how can these be proactively addressed?"

International Impact

1. **Global Trade Dynamics**: "Considering global trade dynamics, how might the CRM Act influence international trade policies and relations with other nations?"
2. **Impact on CRM-rich Countries**: "What are the expected effects of the EU's CRM strategy on countries rich in CRMs, in terms of their economic and environmental policies?"
3. **Impact on countries with CRM strategies**: "What are the anticipated repercussions of the EU's CRM strategy on countries that have developed others CRM strategies?"
4. **Role of EU Member States**: What role do individual EU member states play within the CRM Act framework, and how might their national CRM strategies and positions impact the collective EU approach to securing critical raw materials?

Potential Structures and Collaboration

1. **Green OPEC for CRMs**: Considering the CRM Act, do you believe it could prompt the establishment of a Green OPEC for CRMs? If so, what potential impact might such a structure have on the European strategy?
2. **Formation of 'CRM Clubs'**: How might the formation of 'CRM Clubs' among like-minded countries enhance the EU's position in the global CRM landscape?
3. **Enhancing Collaborative Structures**: Considering the existing structure and outcomes of partnerships within the framework of the CRM Act, what gaps currently exist in this aspect of the legislation? Additionally, what enhancements would you suggest to strengthen these collaborations and better align them with the EU's CRM objectives?

BRICS Nations and Global Dynamics

1. **Influence of BRICS Nations**: "What role could the BRICS nations play in shaping the global CRM market, and how might this impact the effectiveness of the CRM Act?"
2. **Adapting to BRICS Dynamics**: "How should the EU adapt its CRM strategy to navigate the geopolitical and economic dynamics posed by the BRICS nations?"

Navigating Resource Nationalism

1. **Challenges of Resource Nationalism**: "In the context of the CRM Act, how can the EU effectively address challenges posed by resource nationalism, such as expropriation or investment screening, to ensure a stable supply of critical materials?"

Mitigating Export Restrictions

1. **Addressing Export Restrictions**: "Given the CRM Act's objectives, what measures could the EU take to mitigate the impact of export restrictions by other countries on the availability of critical raw materials within the Union?"

Countering Mineral Cartels

1. **Strategies Against Mineral Cartels**: "Considering the CRM Act, what strategies could the EU employ to counteract the potential formation of mineral cartels that might manipulate production and pricing, thereby affecting the EU's access to critical materials?"

Addressing Market Manipulation

1. **Safeguarding Against Manipulation**: "What mechanisms does the CRM Act provide, or could be enhanced, to safeguard against market manipulation tactics in the critical materials market that could disrupt the EU's material supply strategy?"

Political Instability and Supply Security

1. **Managing Political Risks**: "In light of the CRM Act, how does the EU plan to manage the risks posed by political instability in critical material supplying countries, such as labor strikes or violence, to maintain supply chain security?"

Governance Framework

- **Effectiveness of the Governance Framework**: "What are your thoughts on the CRM Act's governance framework, particularly the role of the European Critical Raw Materials Board in guiding the Act's objectives? Are there areas within the governance structure that need strengthening or adjustment?"

Additional questions

Geoeconomic Influence of the CRM List: "From a geoeconomic standpoint, how might the EU's CRM list influence global supply chain dynamics and trade negotiations?"

Strategic Stocks Implementation: "What challenges, opportunities, and risks do you foresee in the implementation and management of strategic stocks as envisioned by the CRM Act?"

EU Strategy for Conflict Materials: "What would be the impact of the EU strategy for conflict materials? Given the current focus on CRMs, do you believe there could be an indirect impact on other materials not classified as CRMs?"

"Focus on the Social Aspects of the CRM Act/Environmental + Impact it Could Generate"

From a geoeconomic perspective, what are the main environmental challenges, gaps or risks in the CRM Act's current framework and how to address it?

From a geoeconomic perspective, what are the main social challenges, gaps or risks in the CRM Act's current framework and how to address it?

Circular Economy and Geoeconomic Risks: "What do you think about the possibility to rely on the Circular economy principles in order to reduce geoeconomics risks?"

Comparative Analysis and Improvements

1. **Lessons from Global Players**: "Drawing from CRM strategies of other key players like the USA and China, what lessons could the EU learn to enhance its CRM strategy?"

2. **Integration of Successful Elements**: "What specific successful elements from other countries' CRM strategies could be integrated into the CRM Act to improve the EU's strategic positioning?"

3. **Adapting to Market and Geopolitical Changes**: "How could the CRM Act be refined to better address the evolving nature of CRM markets and geopolitical landscapes?"

Interview Guide P9

Introduction: Explain the purpose of the interview and obtain their consent

- **Briefly introduce me and the purpose of the interview/thesis.**

1. **Greeting and personal introduction**

2. **Purpose of the interview**

The focus of my research is to analyze the EU's strategy regarding critical materials, specifically as outlined in the CRM Act. I'm particularly interested in understanding the social and environmental impacts of this legislation. Your extensive experience makes your insights incredibly valuable to my study.

1. **Objective**

My goal is to engage with experts like yourself to explore diverse perspectives on this subject. Through this dialogue, I aim to uncover nuanced understandings that can contribute to recommendations for enhancing the legislation and addressing any potential adverse effects.

- **Explain how the information will be used and ensure confidentiality.**

I want to assure you that all the information shared during our conversation will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. It will be used solely for academic purposes and to enrich the findings of my thesis. I will anonymize any identifiable information in my final document to ensure privacy and confidentiality.

- **Obtain consent to record the interview.**

With your permission, I would like to record our interview. This will help me capture our discussion accurately and focus on our conversation without the need for continuous note-taking. Do you consent to this recording, understanding its purpose and the confidentiality measures in place?

Understanding P9's Professional Journey

- **Introduction and Career Path**: Could you briefly introduce yourself and explain your involvement with Critical Raw Materials and the CRM Act?

Alignment with Strategic Goals

1. **Assessing Outcomes vs. Objectives**: To what extent do the actual outcomes of the CRM Act align with its intended strategic goals, particularly in securing CRMs and enhancing sustainable practices? Are you satisfied with it and can you comment on the feasibility of these objectives?

2. **Role of Exploration in EU CRM Strategy**: What role does mineral exploration play in the European strategy for Critical Raw Materials, and in your opinion, has this role been adequately recognized and addressed in the strategy's formulation?

Industry Implications of CRM Act

1. **Exploration Process and CRM Act Impact**: Can you explain the current process of mineral exploration and what are the main risks, challenges and opportunities associated with the different steps for your industry?

2. **Act's Influence on Exploration Steps:** Could you tell me how the Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA) influences the different steps and could allow to de-risking the activity?
3. **Sector Bottlenecks and CRM Act's Role:** Where are the bottlenecks in the exploration sector and is the CRMA will help to reduce it?
4. **Disparities and Clarity:** What are the key disparities between the CRM Act's theoretical framework and its practical application, and how might these be addressed to improve real-world outcomes?
5. **Implementation Challenges:** "What potential challenges might arise during the CRM Act's implementation?"

Bottlenecks and Administrative Challenges

1. **Identifying Sector Bottlenecks:** "Where do you identify the most significant bottlenecks in the exploration sector, and do you anticipate the CRM Act will address these effectively?"
2. **Reducing Administrative Burdens:** "In your opinion, does the CRM Act adequately reduce administrative burdens for exploration initiatives?"

Influence on Private Sector Initiatives

1. **National Program Requirements Impact:** What do you think about the requirements for member states to create a national program for general exploration of minerals? What could be the impact, challenges and opportunities related to it? (Risks)
2. "How do you anticipate the mandatory development of national exploration programs affecting private sector exploration initiatives? Will it complement or compete with private efforts?"
3. **Effectiveness of the Governance Framework:** "What are your thoughts on the CRM Act's governance framework, particularly the role of the European Critical Raw Materials Board in guiding the Act's objectives and the role of the commission for exploration projects? Are there areas within the governance structure that need strengthening or adjustment?"

Regional and International Practices

1. **Comparative Exploration Procedures:** "Does the exploration process differ when targeting critical materials versus non-critical materials, and if so, how?"
2. **Exploration Approaches Across Regions:** "Do you approach exploration differently in Europe compared to other countries? Are there differences in how you operate in environmentally sensitive or protected areas like Natura 2000 sites?"
3. **Global Best Practices for Europe:** "Which best practices from international leaders like China or the USA could be beneficial if implemented in Europe's exploration sector?"
4. **Variability Across European Exploration:** "Given the diverse geological and regulatory environments across European countries, how do exploration strategies and operations vary from one country to another within the EU?"
5. **Impact of Collaborative Efforts:** What is your perspective about the impact and opportunities/challenges of the strategic partnerships, CRM club and other collaborative structures on the exploration industry?

Investment and Value Chain Collaboration

1. **Exploration Project Financing:** How are exploration projects for critical materials currently financed, and what challenges or gaps exist in this regard within the framework of the Critical Raw Materials Act? Additionally, could you share your recommendations for mitigating financial risks associated with these exploration initiatives?
2. How do you collaborate with companies further down the CRM value chain, and are your strategies aligned with the EU's CRM strategy?"

Exploration Specificities and Permitting

1. **Permitting:** "Are there any particularities in exploring deposits potentially containing critical materials? Has obtaining exploration permits been time-consuming, and do you anticipate the CRMA will impact the permitting process?"

Impact of CRM Listing & Conflict/Non CRM Materials

1. **Industry Effects of CRM Listing:** How does the list of CRMs as well as the critical status of materials impact your industry?
2. **Other materials:** Given the current focus on CRMs, do you believe there could be an indirect impact on other materials not classified as CRMs? What would be the impact of the EU strategy for conflict materials?

Challenges, Opportunities, and Future Outlook

1. **Emerging Dynamics:** Considering the CRM Act's objectives and scope, could you discuss any significant challenges or opportunities that have emerged or are anticipated in the future?
2. **Identifying Gaps:** Where do you see potential gaps within the Act, and what solutions or approaches would you recommend to effectively address these issues?

Social considerations

1. Can you identify the primary social impacts associated with the CRM exploration industry, and how can these impacts be effectively mitigated? Furthermore, based on these insights, what specific recommendations would you offer to enhance the CRM Act and the European Union's strategy on CRMs to address these social challenges?
2. Considering the objectives and provisions of the CRM Act, could you discuss the positive impacts it has had or is anticipated to have, particularly in terms of advancing social responsibility?
3. **Social Responsibility:** What are the critical gaps you perceive in the CRM Act's approach towards social responsibility within the CRM value chain?
4. **Improvement Strategies:** What recommendations would you suggest to address these social gaps and enhance the positive social impact of the CRM Act?
5. What role do you believe transparency, communication and public reporting play in enhancing environmental and social accountability in CRM exploration?
6. Could you elaborate on the importance of stakeholder engagement in the exploration phase and how it influences project development and acceptance?

7. In regions with complex social dynamics, how do you approach community relations to ensure that exploration activities are well-received and beneficial to local populations?

Environmental Considerations

1. Can you identify the primary environmental impacts associated with the CRM exploration industry, and how can these impacts be effectively mitigated? Furthermore, based on these insights, what specific recommendations would you offer to enhance the CRM Act and the European Union's strategy on CRMs to address these environmental challenges?

2. "How do you integrate environmental and social impact assessments into the early stages of CRM exploration?"

3. ****Environmental Gaps****: What are the main environmental challenges or gaps in the CRM Act's current framework, and how do these affect its environmental sustainability goals?

4. ****Enhancement Approaches****: Based on the identified environmental gaps, what recommendations could be made to strengthen the environmental sustainability aspects of the CRM Act?

Closing Questions

- Based on your experience, what advice would you give to policymakers or researchers focusing on CRMs?

- Are there any other insights or considerations you think are crucial for my thesis on the EU's CRM strategy?

- Is there anything else you would like to add that we haven't covered?

- Who else would you recommend I speak with to gain further perspectives on this topic?

Interview P10

Introduction: Explain the purpose of the interview and obtain their consent

- **Briefly introduce me and the purpose of the interview/thesis.**

1. **Greeting and personal introduction**

2. **Purpose of the interview**

The focus of my research is to analyze the EU's strategy regarding critical materials, specifically as outlined in the CRM Act. I'm particularly interested in understanding the social and environmental impacts of this legislation. Your extensive experience makes your insights incredibly valuable to my study.

1. **Objective**

My goal is to engage with experts like yourself to explore diverse perspectives on this subject. Through this dialogue, I aim to uncover nuanced understandings that can contribute to recommendations for enhancing the legislation and addressing any potential adverse effects.

- **Explain how the information will be used and ensure confidentiality.**

I want to assure you that all the information shared during our conversation will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. It will be used solely for academic purposes and to enrich the findings of my thesis. I will anonymize any identifiable information in my final document to ensure privacy and confidentiality.

- **Obtain consent to record the interview.**

With your permission, I would like to record our interview. This will help me capture our discussion accurately and focus on our conversation without the need for continuous note-taking. Do you consent to this recording, understanding its purpose and the confidentiality measures in place?

Understanding P10's Professional Journey

- **Introduction and Career Path**: Could you briefly introduce yourself and explain your involvement with Critical Raw Materials and the CRM Act?

"Analysis of the EU Strategy for CRM as Defined in the CRM Act"

Alignment with Strategic Goals

1. **Assessing Outcomes vs. Objectives**: To what extent do the actual outcomes of the CRM Act align with its intended strategic goals, particularly in securing CRMs and enhancing sustainable practices? Are you satisfied with it and can you comment on the feasibility of these objectives?

2. Were there specific recommendations made by Investment company that didn't make it into the final version of the CRM Act?

Theoretical Framework vs. Practical Application

1. **Clarity and Detail Enhancement**: "Are there sections within the CRM Act that would benefit from more detailed definitions or clarity to improve implementation and effectiveness?"

2. **Implementation Challenges**: "What potential challenges might arise during the CRM Act's implementation?"

3. **Disparities and Clarity**: What are the key disparities between the CRM Act's theoretical framework and its practical application, and how might these be addressed to improve real-world outcomes? (gap)

Strategic partnerships

1. **Identifying Gaps in Partnership Frameworks**: "From your perspective, are there notable gaps or shortcomings within the current framework for strategic partnerships under the CRM Act, and how might these gaps affect the realization of the Act's goals?"

2. **Identifying Gaps in Partnership Frameworks**: "Based on your experience, what key recommendations would you offer to strengthen the strategic partnership approach within the CRM Act, ensuring more effective collaboration and outcome realization?"

3. **Mutual Benefits of Strategic Partnerships**: "How do the strategic partnerships in the CRM Act ensure mutual benefits for the EU and third-party countries, especially in terms of social and environmental sustainability?"

4. **Implementation Challenges in Strategic Partnerships**: "Can you identify specific challenges that might arise during the implementation of strategic partnerships under the CRM Act, especially those that could hinder collaboration efficiency or goal alignment?"

Finance & Investment:

1. **Investment Criteria for CRM Projects**: What criteria does your Investment company consider essential when investing in CRM projects, and do you think that the CRM act does enough to de-risking those project, and make them more attractive, what are the gap in the European strategy?

2. **Key Barriers to Investment in Europe**: What do you identify as the key barriers to investing in CRM projects within Europe, and how might these barriers be mitigated to foster a more conducive investment environment?

3. **Identifying Strategic Gaps**: From your perspective, what are the most significant gaps in the EU's current approach to financing and investing in CRM projects under the CRM Act, and how could these gaps impact the strategy's effectiveness?

4. **Europe**: Do you think that the act make it attractive to invest in European Project?

5. **Recommendations for Policy Enhancement**: Based on your experience, what recommendations would you offer to EU policymakers to enhance the financing and investment framework within the CRM Act to better support the CRM strategy?

6. **Risk Assessment of CRM Act Implementation**: How do you perceive the key risks or challenges associated with the CRM Act's implementation phase, especially in terms of finance and investment, and what impact might these have on the strategic decisions and investment plans of companies within the CRM sector, such as your Investment company

7. **Influence of National Regulatory Landscapes on EU CRM Strategy**: In light of the varied regulatory and economic environments across EU member states, how could these national discrepancies potentially challenge the cohesive execution of the CRM Act's finance and investment

guidelines, and could you provide examples where national policies or conditions might diverge from or negatively influence the EU's comprehensive CRM strategy?

8. **Public awareness & perception**: How do you take into account the public perception of those mining project when you invest in it?

9. **Pricing**: How significant is the inclusion of pricing in critical raw materials, and what gaps, if any, do you recognize concerning it within the CRM Act?

Compliance and Impact

1. **Compliance Challenges**: What challenges are faced in ensuring compliance with the CRM Act across different EU member states? How can these challenges be overcome?

2. **Broader Impact on Materials**: Given the current focus on CRMs, do you believe there could be an indirect impact on other materials not classified as CRMs?

Certification Scheme and Strategic Projects

1. How do you evaluate the current definitions and procedures for strategic projects within the CRM Act? Are there specific areas you believe require enhancement or refinement for better effectiveness?

2. What is the part to launch a project that take the most amount of time? And is the CRM act really is efficient in reducing the specific amount of time required by that step?

3. **Certification scheme**: What do you think about the system put in place (certification scheme) to ensure that a strategic project has limited social and environmental impact? Could you discuss any specific challenges, opportunities, or risks that this scheme presents, and suggest potential improvements?

Pour les entreprises minières quel est la partie qui prend le plus de temps pour un projet ? Car je ne suis pas certain que réduire le temps pour les autorisations permettent d'être plus efficace sachant quand plus elles doivent consulter plusieurs parties prenantes ce qui pourrait engendrer un changement de plans.

Governance Framework

- **Effectiveness of the Governance Framework**: "What are your thoughts on the CRM Act's governance framework, particularly the role of the European Critical Raw Materials Board in guiding the Act's objectives? Are there areas within the governance structure that need strengthening or adjustment?"

Challenges, Opportunities, and Future Outlook

1. **Emerging Dynamics**: Considering the CRM Act's objectives and scope, could you discuss any significant challenges or opportunities that have emerged or are anticipated in the future?

2. **Identifying Gaps**: Where do you see potential gaps within the Act, and what solutions or approaches would you recommend to effectively address these issues?

"Focus on the Environmental Aspects of the CRM Act + Impact it Could Generate"

- Considering the objectives and provisions of the CRM Act, could you discuss the positive impacts it has had or is anticipated to have, particularly in terms of advancing environmental sustainability?

- From your perspective, how effectively does the CRM initiative support the implementation and promotion of the principles of circularity, specifically the actions to Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair,

Refurbish, Remanufacture, Repurpose, and Recycle? Please provide examples or areas for improvement if possible. Why is there no mention of rethink, refuse,...

- How does the CRM Act ensure that Strategic Projects, both within the EU and in third countries, adhere to high environmental and social standards?

- **Environmental Gaps**: What are the main environmental challenges or gaps in the CRM Act's current framework, and how do these affect its environmental sustainability goals?

- **Enhancement Approaches**: Based on the identified environmental gaps, what recommendations could be made to strengthen the environmental sustainability aspects of the CRM Act?

- **Do you think that the CRM act will have positive environmental consequences for third party countries**? If so could you explain which ones?

"Focus on the Social Aspects of the CRM Act + Impact it Could Generate"

Gap Identification and Recommendations

- Considering the objectives and provisions of the CRM Act, could you discuss the positive impacts it has had or is anticipated to have, particularly in terms of advancing social responsibility?

- **Social Responsibility**: What are the critical gaps you perceive in the CRM Act's approach towards social responsibility within the CRM value chain?

- **Improvement Strategies**: What recommendations would you suggest to address these social gaps and enhance the positive social impact of the CRM Act?

- What would be the impact of the EU strategy for conflict materials?

Closing Questions

- Based on your experience, what advice would you give to policymakers or researchers focusing on CRMs?

- Are there any other insights or considerations you think are crucial for my thesis on the EU's CRM strategy?

- Is there anything else you would like to add that we haven't covered?

- Who else would you recommend I speak with to gain further perspectives on this topic?

Interview Guide P11

Introduction: Explain the purpose of the interview and obtain their consent

- **Briefly introduce me and the purpose of the interview/thesis.**

- Greeting and personal introduction**
- Purpose of the interview**

The focus of my research is to analyze the EU's strategy regarding critical materials, specifically as outlined in the CRM Act. I'm particularly interested in understanding the social and environmental impacts of this legislation. Your extensive experience makes your insights incredibly valuable to my study.

- Objective**

My goal is to engage with experts like yourself to explore diverse perspectives on this subject. Through this dialogue, I aim to uncover nuanced understandings that can contribute to recommendations for enhancing the legislation and addressing any potential adverse effects.

- **Explain how the information will be used and ensure confidentiality.**

I want to assure you that all the information shared during our conversation will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. It will be used solely for academic purposes and to enrich the findings of my thesis. I will anonymize any identifiable information in my final document to ensure privacy and confidentiality.

- **Obtain consent to record the interview.**

With your permission, I would like to record our interview. This will help me capture our discussion accurately and focus on our conversation without the need for continuous note-taking. Do you consent to this recording, understanding its purpose and the confidentiality measures in place?

Understanding P11's Professional Journey

- **Introduction and Career Path:** Could you briefly introduce yourself and explain your involvement with Critical Raw Materials and the CRM Act?

"Analysis of the EU Strategy for CRM as Defined in the CRM Act"

Alignment with Strategic Goals

1. **Assessing Outcomes vs. Objectives:** To what extent do the actual outcomes of the CRM Act align with its intended strategic goals, particularly in securing CRMs and enhancing sustainable practices? Are you satisfied with it and can you comment on the feasibility of these objectives?

Theoretical Framework vs. Practical Application

1. **Disparities and Clarity:** What are the key disparities between the CRM Act's theoretical framework and its practical application, and how might these be addressed to improve real-world outcomes?

2. **Clarity and Detail Enhancement:** "Are there sections within the CRM Act that would benefit from more detailed definitions or clarity to improve implementation and effectiveness?"

3. **Implementation Challenges**: "What potential challenges might arise during the CRM Act's implementation?"

Compliance and Impact

1. **Compliance Challenges**: What challenges are faced in ensuring compliance with the CRM Act across different EU member states? How can these challenges be overcome?

2. **Broader Impact on Materials**: Given the current focus on CRMs, do you believe there could be an indirect impact on other materials not classified as CRMs? What would be the impact of the EU strategy for conflict materials?

3. **Existing regulations**: How does the CRM Act intersect with existing regulations, and what are the implications of these interactions for the critical raw materials strategy and its impact?

Certification Scheme and Strategic Partnerships

1. How do you evaluate the current definitions and procedures for strategic projects within the CRM Act? Are there specific areas you believe require enhancement or refinement for better effectiveness?

2. **Certification scheme**: What do you think about the system put in place (certification scheme) to ensure that a strategic project has limited social and environmental impact? Could you discuss any specific challenges, opportunities, or risks that this scheme presents, and suggest potential improvements?

3. **Mutual Benefits of Strategic Partnerships**: "How do the strategic partnerships in the CRM Act ensure mutual benefits for the EU and third-party countries, especially in terms of social and environmental sustainability?"

Governance Framework

- **Effectiveness of the Governance Framework**: "What are your thoughts on the CRM Act's governance framework, particularly the role of the European Critical Raw Materials Board in guiding the Act's objectives? Are there areas within the governance structure that need strengthening or adjustment?"

Challenges, Opportunities, and Future Outlook

1. **Emerging Dynamics**: Considering the CRM Act's objectives and scope, could you discuss any significant challenges or opportunities that have emerged or are anticipated in the future?

2. **Identifying Gaps**: Where do you see potential gaps within the Act, and what solutions or approaches would you recommend to effectively address these issues?

3. **Strategic stocks**: In your opinion, what impact or potential consequences could the establishment of strategic reserves have?

Focus on the Environmental Aspects of the CRM Act + Impact it Could Generate

- Considering the objectives and provisions of the CRM Act, could you discuss the positive impacts it has had or is anticipated to have, particularly in terms of advancing environmental sustainability?

- From your perspective, how effectively does the CRM initiative support the implementation and promotion of the principles of circularity, specifically the actions to Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair,

Refurbish, Remanufacture, Repurpose, and Recycle? Please provide examples or areas for improvement if possible. Why is there no mention of rethink, refuse,...

- **Sustainable Practices and Circular Economy**: How can sustainable practices and the principles of the circular economy be integrated more effectively into the EU's CRM strategy to reduce environmental and social impacts?

- How does the CRM Act ensure that Strategic Projects, both within the EU and in third countries, adhere to high environmental and social standards?

- **Environmental Gaps**: What are the main environmental challenges or gaps in the CRM Act's current framework, and how do these affect its environmental sustainability goals?

- **Enhancement Approaches**: Based on the identified environmental gaps, what recommendations could be made to strengthen the environmental sustainability aspects of the CRM Act?

"Focus on the Social Aspects of the CRM Act + Impact it Could Generate"

Gap Identification and Recommendations

- Considering the objectives and provisions of the CRM Act, could you discuss the positive impacts it has had or is anticipated to have, particularly in terms of advancing social responsibility?

- **Social Responsibility**: What are the critical gaps you perceive in the CRM Act's approach towards social responsibility within the CRM value chain?

- **Improvement Strategies**: What recommendations would you suggest to address these social gaps and enhance the positive social impact of the CRM Act?

- **Enhancing Stakeholder Engagement**: What strategies would you suggest to improve stakeholder engagement, particularly with communities and indigenous populations, in the CRM strategy's formulation and implementation?

Closing Questions

- Based on your experience, what advice would you give to policymakers or researchers focusing on CRMs?

- Are there any other insights or considerations you think are crucial for my thesis on the EU's CRM strategy?

- Is there anything else you would like to add that we haven't covered?

- Who else would you recommend I speak with to gain further perspectives on this topic?

Interview Guide P12

Introduction: Explain the purpose of the interview and obtain their consent

- **Briefly introduce me and the purpose of the interview/thesis.**

- Greeting and personal introduction**
- Purpose of the interview**

The focus of my research is to analyze the EU's strategy regarding critical materials, specifically as outlined in the CRM Act. I'm particularly interested in understanding the social and environmental impacts of this legislation. Your extensive experience makes your insights incredibly valuable to my study.

- Objective**

My goal is to engage with experts like yourself to explore diverse perspectives on this subject. Through this dialogue, I aim to uncover nuanced understandings that can contribute to recommendations for enhancing the legislation and addressing any potential adverse effects.

- **Explain how the information will be used and ensure confidentiality.**

I want to assure you that all the information shared during our conversation will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. It will be used solely for academic purposes and to enrich the findings of my thesis. I will anonymize any identifiable information in my final document to ensure privacy and confidentiality.

- **Obtain consent to record the interview.**

With your permission, I would like to record our interview. This will help me capture our discussion accurately and focus on our conversation without the need for continuous note-taking. Do you consent to this recording, understanding its purpose and the confidentiality measures in place?

Understanding P12's Professional Journey

- **Introduction and Career Path:** Could you briefly introduce yourself and explain your involvement with Critical Raw Materials and the CRM Act?

"Analysis of the EU Strategy for CRM as Defined in the CRM Act"

Alignment with Strategic Goals

1. **Assessing Outcomes vs. Objectives:** To what extent do the actual outcomes of the CRM Act align with its intended strategic goals, particularly in securing CRMs and enhancing sustainable practices? Are you satisfied with it and can you comment on the feasibility of these objectives?

Theoretical Framework vs. Practical Application

1. **Disparities and Clarity:** What are the key disparities between the CRM Act's theoretical framework and its practical application, and how might these be addressed to improve real-world outcomes?

2. **Clarity and Detail Enhancement:** "Are there sections within the CRM Act that would benefit from more detailed definitions or clarity to improve implementation and effectiveness?"

3. **Implementation Challenges**: "What potential challenges might arise during the CRM Act's implementation?"

Compliance and Impact

1. **Compliance Challenges**: What challenges would be face in ensuring compliance with the CRM Act across different EU member states? How can these challenges be overcome?

2. **Broader Impact on Materials**: Given the current focus on CRMs, do you believe there could be an indirect impact on other materials not classified as CRMs?

3. **Non-Strategic Critical Materials**: While the CRM Act addresses all critical materials, the established benchmarks and criteria for mining, processing, recycling, and identifying strategic projects target 'strategic' materials. Could this emphasis potentially diminish the Act's implementation impact on critical raw materials that are not classified as strategic?

Establish a framework to secure a resilient and sustainable supply of critical raw materials, promoting efficiency and circularity.

the project would make a meaningful contribution to the security of the Union's supply of strategic raw materials

1. **Legislative Alignment with the CRM Act**: To ensure full alignment with the CRM Act, particularly in relation to its benchmarks, are there existing legislations that require amendments or modifications?

Financing & Cost

1. **Financing**: What strategies are being considered to overcome potential funding challenges for projects and initiatives under the CRM Act?

2. **Balancing Cost and Production**: Considering cost as a pivotal factor for companies, how do you plan to incentivize them to procure resources produced within Europe, especially when faced with potentially higher production costs?

Public Awareness

1. **Awareness and Perception**: In your view, how significant is the role of public awareness and perception in advancing the CRM Act, particularly in key European nations such as France, where public sentiment might present challenges to the Act's development and implementation?

Certification Scheme and Strategic Partnerships

1. How do you evaluate the current definitions and procedures for strategic projects within the CRM Act? Are there specific areas you believe require enhancement or refinement for better effectiveness?

2. **Certification scheme**: What do you think about the system put in place (certification scheme) to ensure that a strategic project has limited social and environmental impact? Could you discuss any specific challenges, opportunities, or risks that this scheme presents, and suggest potential improvements?

3. **Mutual Benefits of Strategic Partnerships**: "How do the strategic partnerships in the CRM Act ensure mutual benefits for the EU and third-party countries, especially in terms of social and environmental sustainability?"

4. Why, despite the existence of various partner countries with production capabilities, were companies not engaging with them more extensively in the past?"

Monitoring

"How does your DG intend to effectively monitor the implementation and impact of the CRM Act across the EU, ensuring the Act's objectives are met and identifying areas for improvement or adjustment?"

"How will DG's continuous monitoring and stress testing of supply risks for critical materials inform future updates to the Act and strategic materials lists?"

Governance Framework

- **Effectiveness of the Governance Framework**: "What are your thoughts on the CRM Act's governance framework, particularly the role of the European Critical Raw Materials Board in guiding the Act's objectives? Are there areas within the governance structure that need strengthening or adjustment?"

Exploration

- Do you think the current provisions of the CRM Act are adequately designed to support the exploration phase effectively?

Challenges, Opportunities, and Future Outlook

1. **Emerging Dynamics**: Considering the CRM Act's objectives and scope, could you discuss any significant challenges or opportunities that have emerged or are anticipated in the future?

2. **Identifying Gaps**: Where do you see potential gaps within the Act, and what solutions or approaches would you recommend to effectively address these issues?

"Focus on the Environmental Aspects of the CRM Act + Impact it Could Generate"

- Considering the objectives and provisions of the CRM Act, could you discuss the positive impacts it has had or is anticipated to have, particularly in terms of advancing environmental sustainability?

- From your perspective, how effectively does the CRM initiative support the implementation and promotion of the principles of circularity, specifically the actions to Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Refurbish, Remanufacture, Repurpose, and Recycle? Please provide examples or areas for improvement if possible. Why is there no mention of rethink, refuse,...

- How does the CRM Act ensure that Strategic Projects, both within the EU and in third countries, adhere to high environmental and social standards?

- **Environmental Gaps**: What are the main environmental challenges or gaps in the CRM Act's current framework, and how do these affect its environmental sustainability goals?

- **Enhancement Approaches**: Based on the identified environmental gaps, what recommendations could be made to strengthen the environmental sustainability aspects of the CRM Act?

"Focus on the Social Aspects of the CRM Act + Impact it Could Generate"

Gap Identification and Recommendations

- Considering the objectives and provisions of the CRM Act, could you discuss the positive impacts it has had or is anticipated to have, particularly in terms of advancing social responsibility?

- **Social Responsibility**: What are the critical gaps you perceive in the CRM Act's approach towards social responsibility within the CRM value chain?
- **Improvement Strategies**: What recommendations would you suggest to address these social gaps and enhance the positive social impact of the CRM Act?
- What would be the impact of the EU strategy for conflict materials?
- How would you ensure that the project realized in third countries, generally developing countries, respect the EU standards knowing that they have generally a lower level of governance?

Closing Questions

- Based on your experience, what advice would you give to policymakers or researchers focusing on CRMs?
- Are there any other insights or considerations you think are crucial for my thesis on the EU's CRM strategy?
- Is there anything else you would like to add that we haven't covered?
- Who else would you recommend I speak with to gain further perspectives on this topic?

Interview Guide P13

Introduction: Explain the purpose of the interview and obtain their consent

- **Briefly introduce me and the purpose of the interview/thesis.**

1. **Greeting and personal introduction**

2. **Purpose of the interview**

The focus of my research is to analyze the EU's strategy regarding critical materials, specifically as outlined in the CRM Act. I'm particularly interested in understanding the social and environmental impacts of this legislation. Your extensive experience makes your insights incredibly valuable to my study.

1. **Objective**

My goal is to engage with experts like yourself to explore diverse perspectives on this subject. Through this dialogue, I aim to uncover nuanced understandings that can contribute to recommendations for enhancing the legislation and addressing any potential adverse effects.

- **Explain how the information will be used and ensure confidentiality.**

I want to assure you that all the information shared during our conversation will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. It will be used solely for academic purposes and to enrich the findings of my thesis. I will anonymize any identifiable information in my final document to ensure privacy and confidentiality.

- **Obtain consent to record the interview.**

With your permission, I would like to record our interview. This will help me capture our discussion accurately and focus on our conversation without the need for continuous note-taking. Do you consent to this recording, understanding its purpose and the confidentiality measures in place?

Understanding P13's Professional Journey

- **Introduction and Career Path**: Could you briefly introduce yourself and explain your involvement with Critical Raw Materials and the CRM Act?

"Analysis of the EU Strategy for CRM as Defined in the CRM Act"

Alignment with Strategic Goals

1. **Assessing Outcomes vs. Objectives**: To what extent do the actual outcomes of the CRM Act align with its intended strategic goals, particularly in securing CRMs and enhancing sustainable practices? Are you satisfied with it and can you comment on the feasibility of these objectives?

2. **Chinese Diversification**: In light of China's extensive investments through the Belt and Road Initiative, does diversifying suppliers as per the CRM Act's guidelines merely equate to changing supplier names, or does it signify a deeper strategic shift in sourcing practices?

Theoretical Framework vs. Practical Application

1. **Disparities and Clarity**: What are the key disparities between the CRM Act's theoretical framework and its practical application, and how might these be addressed to improve real-world outcomes?

2. **Clarity and Detail Enhancement**: "Are there sections within the CRM Act that would benefit from more detailed definitions or clarity to improve implementation and effectiveness?"
3. **Implementation Challenges**: "What potential challenges might arise during the CRM Act's implementation?"

Strategic partnerships

1. **Mutual Benefits of Strategic Partnerships**: "How do the strategic partnerships in the CRM Act ensure mutual benefits for the EU and third-party countries, especially in terms of social and environmental sustainability?"
2. **Practices that aren't included in the CRMA**: "What are the responsible sustainable sourcing practices that aren't mentioned in the CRMA and also what are the weaknesses of the act for that specific part?"
3. **Enhancing EU-Africa Mineral Partnerships**: "What key strategies would you suggest to enhance the effectiveness of EU-Africa mineral partnerships in alignment with the CRM Act's objectives for mutual benefits and sustainable development?"
4. How do you envision the CRM Act influencing sustainable sourcing practices across the EU, and what specific provisions within the Act do you think are most impactful for promoting responsible mineral procurement?"
5. "From your perspective, what role does technological innovation play in advancing sustainable sourcing under the CRM Act, and are there specific technologies or approaches you believe should be prioritized to meet the Act's sustainability criteria?"
6. **CRM Club (Mineral Security Partnership)**: What is your perspective on the initiatives and objectives of the CRM Club, and how do you foresee its activities influencing the strategic landscape of Critical Raw Materials, particularly in the context of the CRM Act's implementation?"
7. **Monitoring**: Could you explain me how the monitoring system would be put in place and is there any issues related to it?"

Joint purchasing

1. **Joint** purchasing: How could joint purchasing mechanisms under the CRM Act shape the EU's aggregate demand and influence responsible sourcing practices internationally?"

Price

1. "How does the cost of responsibly sourced Critical Raw Materials compare to those from less stringent sourcing practices, and what implications does this have for the broader adoption of responsible sourcing under the CRM Act?"

Certification Scheme and Strategic Projects

1. How do you evaluate the current definitions and procedures for strategic projects within the CRM Act? Are there specific areas you believe require enhancement or refinement for better effectiveness?"
2. **Certification scheme**: What do you think about the system put in place (certification scheme) to ensure that a strategic project has limited social and environmental impact? Could you discuss any specific challenges, opportunities, or risks that this scheme presents, and suggest potential improvements?"

Compliance and Impact

1. **Compliance Challenges:** What challenges are faced in ensuring compliance with the CRM Act across different EU member states? How can these challenges be overcome?
2. **Broader Impact on Materials:** Given the current focus on CRMs, do you believe there could be an indirect impact on other materials not classified as CRMs?
3. **Non-Strategic Critical Materials:** While the CRM Act addresses all critical materials, the established benchmarks and criteria for mining, processing, recycling, and identifying strategic projects target 'strategic' materials. Could this emphasis potentially diminish the Act's implementation impact on critical raw materials that are not classified as strategic?

Governance Framework

- **Effectiveness of the Governance Framework:** "What are your thoughts on the CRM Act's governance framework, particularly the role of the European Critical Raw Materials Board in guiding the Act's objectives? Are there areas within the governance structure that need strengthening or adjustment?"

Challenges, Opportunities, and Future Outlook

1. **Emerging Dynamics:** Considering the CRM Act's objectives and scope, could you discuss any significant challenges or opportunities that have emerged or are anticipated in the future?
2. **Identifying Gaps:** Where do you see potential gaps within the Act, and what solutions or approaches would you recommend to effectively address these issues?

"Focus on the Environmental Aspects of the CRM Act + Impact it Could Generate"

- Considering the objectives and provisions of the CRM Act, could you discuss the positive impacts it has had or is anticipated to have, particularly in terms of advancing environmental sustainability?
- From your perspective, how effectively does the CRM initiative support the implementation and promotion of the principles of circularity, specifically the actions to Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Refurbish, Remanufacture, Repurpose, and Recycle? Please provide examples or areas for improvement if possible. Why is there no mention of rethink, refuse,...
- How does the CRM Act ensure that Strategic Projects, both within the EU and in third countries, adhere to high environmental and social standards?
- **Environmental Gaps:** What are the main environmental challenges or gaps in the CRM Act's current framework, and how do these affect its environmental sustainability goals?
- **Enhancement Approaches:** Based on the identified environmental gaps, what recommendations could be made to strengthen the environmental sustainability aspects of the CRM Act?

"Focus on the Social Aspects of the CRM Act + Impact it Could Generate"

Gap Identification and Recommendations

- Considering the objectives and provisions of the CRM Act, could you discuss the positive impacts it has had or is anticipated to have, particularly in terms of advancing social responsibility?
- **Social Responsibility:** What are the critical gaps you perceive in the CRM Act's approach towards social responsibility within the CRM value chain?

- ****Improvement Strategies****: What recommendations would you suggest to address these social gaps and enhance the positive social impact of the CRM Act?

- What would be the impact of the EU strategy for conflict materials?

Closing Questions

- Based on your experience, what advice would you give to policymakers or researchers focusing on CRMs?

- Are there any other insights or considerations you think are crucial for my thesis on the EU's CRM strategy?

- Is there anything else you would like to add that we haven't covered?

- Who else would you recommend I speak with to gain further perspectives on this topic?

Interview Guide P14

Introduction: Explain the purpose of the interview and obtain their consent

- **Briefly introduce me and the purpose of the interview/thesis.**

- Greeting and personal introduction**
- Purpose of the interview**

The focus of my research is to analyze the EU's strategy regarding critical materials, specifically as outlined in the CRM Act. I'm particularly interested in understanding the social and environmental impacts of this legislation. Your extensive experience makes your insights incredibly valuable to my study.

- Objective**

My goal is to engage with experts like yourself to explore diverse perspectives on this subject. Through this dialogue, I aim to uncover nuanced understandings that can contribute to recommendations for enhancing the legislation and addressing any potential adverse effects.

- **Explain how the information will be used and ensure confidentiality.**

I want to assure you that all the information shared during our conversation will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. It will be used solely for academic purposes and to enrich the findings of my thesis. I will anonymize any identifiable information in my final document to ensure privacy and confidentiality.

- **Obtain consent to record the interview.**

With your permission, I would like to record our interview. This will help me capture our discussion accurately and focus on our conversation without the need for continuous note-taking. Do you consent to this recording, understanding its purpose and the confidentiality measures in place?

Understanding P14's Professional Journey

- **Introduction and Career Path**: Could you briefly introduce yourself and explain your involvement with Critical Raw Materials and the CRM Act?

"Analysis of the EU Strategy for CRM as Defined in the CRM Act"

Alignment with Strategic Goals

- Assessing Outcomes vs. Objectives**: To what extent do the actual outcomes of the CRM Act align with its intended strategic goals, particularly in securing CRMs and enhancing sustainable practices? Are you satisfied with it and can you comment on the feasibility of these objectives?
- Why this act was so important for Sweden? During the negotiations of the CRMA, were there specific recommendations put forward by the Swedish team that were not incorporated into the final act? In your view, how might the absence of these recommendations in the CRMA create gaps or challenges for Sweden?

Sweden's Role and Contributions

- "What were some of the key contributions or perspectives that Sweden brought to the table during the CRM Act negotiations, and how do you see these reflected in the final Act?"

2. "Given Sweden's rich mineral resources and expertise in mining, how does the CRM Act align with or enhance Sweden's existing policies and initiatives in the mineral sector?" Are there any conflict or problem that could happens there?

Theoretical Framework vs. Practical Application

1. **Disparities and Clarity:** What are the key disparities between the CRM Act's theoretical framework and its practical application, and how might these be addressed to improve real-world outcomes?

2. **Clarity and Detail Enhancement:** "Are there sections within the CRM Act that would benefit from more detailed definitions or clarity to improve implementation and effectiveness?"

Implementation and Significance for Sweden

1. **Implementation Challenges:** "What potential challenges might arise during the CRM Act's implementation?"

2. "Why was the CRM Act particularly crucial for Sweden? What challenges or needs did it address that were not feasible to tackle without this legislative framework?"

3. "In what ways will the CRM Act change or enhance Sweden's approach to managing and securing critical raw materials, especially in terms of sustainability and technological advancements?"

Compliance and Impact

1. **Compliance Challenges:** What challenges are faced in ensuring compliance with the CRM Act across different EU member states? How can these challenges be overcome?

2. **Broader Impact on Materials:** Given the current focus on CRMs, do you believe there could be an indirect impact on other materials not classified as CRMs?

3. **Legislative Alignment with the CRM Act:** To ensure full alignment with the CRM Act, particularly in relation to its benchmarks, are there existing legislations that require amendments or modifications? In Sweden is there any issue related with the implementation of the CRMA with the law?

4. **Strategy vs Vision:** In your opinion do you think that the CRMA is well adapted to the real world what is it missing?

Financing & Cost

1. **Financing:** What strategies are being considered to overcome potential funding challenges for projects and initiatives under the CRM Act?

2. **Balancing Cost and Production:** Considering cost as a pivotal factor for companies, how do you plan to incentivize them to procure resources produced within Europe, especially when faced with potentially higher production costs?

3. "Do you believe the CRM Act will significantly reduce risks for investors looking into the critical raw materials sector in Sweden and the broader EU? If so, how?"

4. "How might the Act encourage or facilitate increased investment in critical raw materials projects, both domestically within Sweden and from international investors?"

Public Awareness

1. **Awareness and Perception**: In your view, how significant is the role of public awareness and perception in advancing the CRM Act, particularly in key European nations such as France, where public sentiment might present challenges to the Act's development and implementation?

Certification Scheme and Strategic Partnerships

1. How do you evaluate the current definitions and procedures for strategic projects within the CRM Act? Are there specific areas you believe require enhancement or refinement for better effectiveness?

2. **Certification scheme**: What do you think about the system put in place (certification scheme) to ensure that a strategic project has limited social and environmental impact? Could you discuss any specific challenges, opportunities, or risks that this scheme presents, and suggest potential improvements?

3. **Mutual Benefits of Strategic Partnerships**: "How do the strategic partnerships in the CRM Act ensure mutual benefits for the EU and third-party countries, especially in terms of social and environmental sustainability?"

Monitoring

"How does Sweden intend to effectively monitor the implementation and impact of the CRM Act across the country, ensuring the Act's objectives are met and identifying areas for improvement or adjustment?"

Governance Framework

- **Effectiveness of the Governance Framework**: "What are your thoughts on the CRM Act's governance framework, particularly the role of the European Critical Raw Materials Board in guiding the Act's objectives? Are there areas within the governance structure that need strengthening or adjustment?"

Challenges, Opportunities, and Future Outlook

1. **Emerging Dynamics**: Considering the CRM Act's objectives and scope, could you discuss any significant challenges or opportunities that have emerged or are anticipated in the future?

2. **Identifying Gaps**: Where do you see potential gaps within the Act, and what solutions or approaches would you recommend to effectively address these issues?

Exploration

- Do you think the current provisions of the CRM Act are adequately designed to support the exploration phase effectively?

- What do you think about the requirements for member states to create a national program for general exploration of minerals? What could be the impact, challenges and opportunities related to it? (Risks)

Focus on the Environmental Aspects of the CRM Act + Impact it Could Generate

- Considering the objectives and provisions of the CRM Act, could you discuss the positive impacts it has had or is anticipated to have, particularly in terms of advancing environmental sustainability?

- From your perspective, how effectively does the CRM initiative support the implementation and promotion of the principles of circularity, specifically the actions to Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Refurbish, Remanufacture, Repurpose, and Recycle? Please provide examples or areas for improvement if possible. Why is there no mention of rethink, refuse,...

- How does the CRM Act ensure that Strategic Projects, both within the EU and in third countries, adhere to high environmental and social standards?

- **Environmental Gaps**: What are the main environmental challenges or gaps in the CRM Act's current framework, and how do these affect its environmental sustainability goals?

- **Enhancement Approaches**: Based on the identified environmental gaps, what recommendations could be made to strengthen the environmental sustainability aspects of the CRM Act?

"Focus on the Social Aspects of the CRM Act + Impact it Could Generate"

Gap Identification and Recommendations

- Considering the objectives and provisions of the CRM Act, could you discuss the positive impacts it has had or is anticipated to have, particularly in terms of advancing social responsibility?

- **Social Responsibility**: What are the critical gaps you perceive in the CRM Act's approach towards social responsibility within the CRM value chain?

- **Improvement Strategies**: What recommendations would you suggest to address these social gaps and enhance the positive social impact of the CRM Act?

- What would be the impact of the EU strategy for conflict materials?

- How would you ensure that the project are realized in an ethical way and taking everything into consideration?

Closing Questions

- Based on your experience, what advice would you give to policymakers or researchers focusing on CRMs?

- Are there any other insights or considerations you think are crucial for my thesis on the EU's CRM strategy?

- Is there anything else you would like to add that we haven't covered?

- Who else would you recommend I speak with to gain further perspectives on this topic?

Interview Guide P15

Introduction: Explain the purpose of the interview and obtain their consent

- **Briefly introduce me and the purpose of the interview/thesis.**

1. **Greeting and personal introduction**

2. **Purpose of the interview**

The focus of my research is to analyze the EU's strategy regarding critical materials, specifically as outlined in the CRM Act. I'm particularly interested in understanding the social and environmental impacts of this legislation. Your extensive experience makes your insights incredibly valuable to my study.

1. **Objective**

My goal is to engage with experts like yourself to explore diverse perspectives on this subject. Through this dialogue, I aim to uncover nuanced understandings that can contribute to recommendations for enhancing the legislation and addressing any potential adverse effects.

- **Explain how the information will be used and ensure confidentiality.**

I want to assure you that all the information shared during our conversation will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. It will be used solely for academic purposes and to enrich the findings of my thesis. I will anonymize any identifiable information in my final document to ensure privacy and confidentiality.

- **Obtain consent to record the interview.**

With your permission, I would like to record our interview. This will help me capture our discussion accurately and focus on our conversation without the need for continuous note-taking. Do you consent to this recording, understanding its purpose and the confidentiality measures in place?

Understanding P15's Professional Journey

- **Introduction and Career Path**: Could you briefly introduce yourself and explain your involvement with Critical Raw Materials and the CRM Act?

- Can you outline Chile's current approach to managing its critical raw materials? How do you foresee this strategy adapting over time in response to evolving global economic and environmental pressures?

"Analysis of the EU Strategy for CRM as Defined in the CRM Act"

Alignment with Strategic Goals

1. **Assessing Outcomes vs. Objectives**: To what extent do the actual outcomes of the CRM Act align with its intended strategic goals, particularly in securing CRMs and enhancing sustainable practices? Can you comment on the feasibility of these objectives?

2. **Chile's View on the European CRM Strategy**: How does Chile perceive the European strategy on critical materials as outlined in the Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA)? What are the perceived benefits or concerns from Chile's perspective?

3. **Impact of the European CRM Strategy on Chile**: Considering Chile's wealth in natural resources, what impact could the European CRM strategy potentially have on Chile's economy and its mining sector?

4. **Challenges from EU Strategy for Chile and Third Countries**: What challenges do you foresee for Chile and other third countries arising from the implementation of the EU's new strategy? How should these countries prepare to address these challenges?

5. **Chile's Role in the Success of the CRM Act**: How significant is Chile's contribution to the success of the Critical Raw Materials Act? Could you elaborate on the specific impacts or influences that Chile has on this legislation?

Strategic Partnerships

Needs and Benefits of Strategic Partnerships for Resource-Rich Countries: In the context of strategic partnerships, what are the critical needs of resource-rich countries like Chile? Do you believe such partnerships can significantly contribute to Chile's development? (Joint venture)

Comparative International Offers: How does Chile perceive partnership offers from Europe compared to those from China and the USA? What factors influence Chile's preferences and decisions in international cooperation?

Evaluating EU Strategic Partnerships: What is your assessment of the strategic partnerships that have been established between Chile and the EU? What would it change for Chile? How have these partnerships impacted Chile's policy and economic landscape?

Assessing Mutual Benefits: Would you characterize the strategic partnerships under initiatives like the CRM Act as win-win situations for both the EU and resource-rich countries like Chile? Why or why not?

Refinement of Partnership Details: In your opinion, do the current strategic partnerships with the EU lack any critical details that could enhance their effectiveness? If yes, what specific elements or details would you suggest adding?

Implementation Challenges: "What potential challenges might arise during the strategic partnership's implementation?"

Impact of International Agreements on Local Industry: What has been the impact of international trade agreements and policies on Chile's local mining industry, particularly in terms of technology transfer, investment, and sustainability practices?

Governance Framework

Governance and Compliance Abroad: Considering the challenges of monitoring and enforcing environmental and social compliance in third countries, how effective do you think the EU's strategies are in this regard? What measures could improve oversight and adherence to these standards outside EU borders?"

Certification Scheme and Strategic Partnerships

1. How do you evaluate the current definitions and procedures for strategic projects within the CRM Act? Are there specific areas you believe require enhancement or refinement for better effectiveness?

2. **Certification scheme**: What do you think about the system put in place (certification scheme) to ensure that a strategic project has limited social and environmental impact? Could you discuss any

specific challenges, opportunities, or risks that this scheme presents, and suggest potential improvements?

Impact on non CRM

1. **Broader Impact on Materials:** Given the current focus on CRMs, do you believe there could be an indirect impact on other materials not classified as CRMs?

Potential of 'Green OPECs

1. What potential do you see in the concept of 'Green OPECs' for countries like Chile that are rich in critical raw materials? How could this influence global markets and environmental policies?

2. **Evaluating the Impact of the CRM Club Structure on Chile and the EU:** Could you share your insights on the structure of the CRM Club? How do you think this organization could affect both Chile's strategic interests and the broader objectives of the EU?

General

Comparing Sustainability Practices: Considering environmental, social, and governance factors, how would you compare Chile's sustainability practices to those in EU countries? Additionally, do you believe the EU's new sustainability strategy will influence Chile to place greater emphasis on these aspects?

EU's High ESG Standards: What are your thoughts on the EU's strategy of implementing very high Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards? Do you believe this approach could be counterproductive, or does it align with fostering sustainability in third countries like Chile?

Importance of SDG in Chile: How significant are social and environmental considerations in shaping policy and business practices in Chile and other Latin American countries compared to their importance in the EU? Do you believe these factors are prioritized differently in Latin America, and if so, how does this impact development strategies?

Environmental

Environmental Gaps and EU Strategy Impact: Can you identify any significant environmental gaps currently present in Chile? How might these gaps be influenced by Chile's partnerships and the strategic initiatives of the EU?

Social

Social Gaps and EU Strategy Impact: Are there any notable social gaps or issues in Chile that need addressing? In your opinion, will these issues potentially worsen or improve with the influence of EU strategic partnerships?

Circularity

From your perspective, how effectively does the CRM initiative support the implementation and promotion of the principles of circularity, specifically the actions to Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Refurbish, Remanufacture, Repurpose, and Recycle? Please provide examples or areas for improvement if possible. Why is there no mention of rethink, refuse,...

Strategic Vision for Chile's Natural Resources

Considering Chile's rich deposits of lithium and other critical minerals, what strategic approach would you recommend for maximizing their value sustainably and equitably?

Closing Questions

- Are there any other insights or considerations you think are crucial for my thesis on the EU's CRM strategy? Is there anything else you would like to add that we haven't covered?
- Who else would you recommend I speak with to gain further perspectives on this topic?

Interview Guide P16

Introduction: Explain the purpose of the interview and obtain their consent

- **Briefly introduce me and the purpose of the interview/thesis.**

- Greeting and personal introduction**
- Purpose of the interview**

The focus of my research is to analyze the EU's strategy regarding critical materials, specifically as outlined in the CRM Act. I'm particularly interested in understanding the social and environmental impacts of this legislation. Your extensive experience makes your insights incredibly valuable to my study.

- Objective**

My goal is to engage with experts like yourself to explore diverse perspectives on this subject. Through this dialogue, I aim to uncover nuanced understandings that can contribute to recommendations for enhancing the legislation and addressing any potential adverse effects.

- **Explain how the information will be used and ensure confidentiality.**

I want to assure you that all the information shared during our conversation will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. It will be used solely for academic purposes and to enrich the findings of my thesis. I will anonymize any identifiable information in my final document to ensure privacy and confidentiality.

- **Obtain consent to record the interview.**

With your permission, I would like to record our interview. This will help me capture our discussion accurately and focus on our conversation without the need for continuous note-taking. Do you consent to this recording, understanding its purpose and the confidentiality measures in place?

Understanding P16's Professional Journey

- **Introduction and Career Path**: Could you briefly introduce yourself and explain your involvement with Critical Raw Materials and the CRM Act?

"Analysis of the EU Strategy for CRM as Defined in the CRM Act"

Alignment with Strategic Goals

1. **Assessing Outcomes vs. Objectives**: To what extent do the actual outcomes of the CRM Act align with its intended strategic goals, particularly in securing CRMs and enhancing sustainable practices? Are you satisfied with it and can you comment on the feasibility of these objectives?

Theoretical Framework vs. Practical Application

1. **Disparities and Clarity**: What are the key disparities between the CRM Act's theoretical framework and its practical application, and how might these be addressed to improve real-world outcomes?

2. **Clarity and Detail Enhancement**: "Are there sections within the CRM Act that would benefit from more detailed definitions or clarity to improve implementation and effectiveness?"

3. **Implementation Challenges**: "What potential challenges might arise during the CRM Act's implementation?"

China related

Strategic Approaches of Chinese Companies to CRM: Could you describe the typical strategies that Chinese companies employ to manage and secure critical raw materials? How do these strategies differ from European approaches, and what advantages or disadvantages do they offer?

Regulatory Challenges for Chinese Companies in the EU: Based on your experience, how have EU regulations, particularly those related to critical raw materials, impacted Chinese companies operating within the EU like yours? What are the most significant challenges these companies face?

Comparing EU and China's Approach to Strategic Projects in Critical Materials: How do the strategies and efficiencies of project realization for critical materials differ between the EU and China, particularly regarding what the EU defines as 'strategic projects'? Do you believe the approaches like fast-tracking and having a single point of contact for permitting in these regions are effective?

Recommendations for Enhancing EU CRM Strategy: Reflecting on your experiences and the current landscape, what recommendations would you make for the EU to improve its strategy on critical raw materials? Are there specific practices from Chinese companies that the EU could benefit from incorporating?

Companies

Addressing Challenges with the CRM Act: What are the main challenges EU companies face regarding critical raw materials, and do you think the CRM Act effectively addresses these challenges?

Evaluating the Administrative Impact of Compliance Requirements: Do you believe the mandated risk preparedness requirements for companies using strategic raw materials impose a significant administrative burden, or are these measures insufficiently stringent to ensure effective risk management?

Solutions

Evaluating the EU's Proposed Joint Purchasing System: What is your perspective on the EU's initiative to implement a joint purchasing system for critical raw materials? How do you think this system could impact the market dynamics and supply chain security?

Assessing the Feasibility of an EU Internal Market: "What are your thoughts on the feasibility and potential benefits of establishing a dedicated internal market for critical raw materials within the EU?"

Compliance and Impact

1. **Broader Impact on Materials**: Given the current focus on CRMs, do you believe there could be an indirect impact on other materials not classified as CRMs?

Certification Scheme and Strategic Partnerships

1. How do you evaluate the current definitions and procedures for strategic projects within the CRM Act? Are there specific areas you believe require enhancement or refinement for better effectiveness?

2. **Certification scheme**: What do you think about the system put in place (certification scheme) to ensure that a strategic project has limited social and environmental impact? Could you discuss any

specific challenges, opportunities, or risks that this scheme presents, and suggest potential improvements?

3. **Mutual Benefits of Strategic Partnerships**: "How do the strategic partnerships in the CRM Act ensure mutual benefits for the EU and third-party countries, especially in terms of social and environmental sustainability?"

Governance Framework

- **Effectiveness of the Governance Framework**: "What are your thoughts on the CRM Act's governance framework, particularly the role of the European Critical Raw Materials Board in guiding the Act's objectives? Are there areas within the governance structure that need strengthening or adjustment?"

"Focus on the Environmental Aspects of the CRM Act + Impact it Could Generate"

- Considering the objectives and provisions of the CRM Act, could you discuss the positive impacts it has had or is anticipated to have, particularly in terms of advancing environmental sustainability?

- From your perspective, how effectively does the CRM initiative support the implementation and promotion of the principles of circularity, specifically the actions to Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Refurbish, Remanufacture, Repurpose, and Recycle? Please provide examples or areas for improvement if possible. Why is there no mention of rethink, refuse,...

- **Environmental Gaps**: What are the main environmental challenges or gaps in the CRM Act's current framework, and how do these affect its environmental sustainability goals?

- **Enhancement Approaches**: Based on the identified environmental gaps, what recommendations could be made to strengthen the environmental sustainability aspects of the CRM Act?

"Focus on the Social Aspects of the CRM Act + Impact it Could Generate"

Gap Identification and Recommendations

- Considering the objectives and provisions of the CRM Act, could you discuss the positive impacts it has had or is anticipated to have, particularly in terms of advancing social responsibility?

- **Social Responsibility**: What are the critical gaps you perceive in the CRM Act's approach towards social responsibility within the CRM value chain?

- **Improvement Strategies**: What recommendations would you suggest to address these social gaps and enhance the positive social impact of the CRM Act?

- What would be the impact of the EU strategy for conflict materials?

Closing Questions

- Based on your experience, what advice would you give to policymakers or researchers focusing on CRMs?

- Are there any other insights or considerations you think are crucial for my thesis on the EU's CRM strategy?

- Is there anything else you would like to add that we haven't covered?

- Who else would you recommend I speak with to gain further perspectives on this topic?

Interview Guide P17

Introduction: Explain the purpose of the interview and obtain their consent

- ****Briefly introduce me and the purpose of the interview/thesis.****

1. ****Greeting and personal introduction****

2. ****Purpose of the interview****

The focus of my research is to analyze the EU's strategy regarding critical materials, specifically as outlined in the CRM Act. I'm particularly interested in understanding the social and environmental impacts of this legislation. Your extensive experience makes your insights incredibly valuable to my study, especially with regard to certification schemes.

1. ****Objective****

My goal is to engage with experts like yourself to explore diverse perspectives on this subject. Through this dialogue, I aim to uncover nuanced understandings that can contribute to recommendations for enhancing the legislation and addressing any potential adverse effects.

- ****Explain how the information will be used and ensure confidentiality.****

I want to assure you that all the information shared during our conversation will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. It will be used solely for academic purposes and to enrich the findings of my thesis. I will anonymize any identifiable information in my final document to ensure privacy and confidentiality.

- ****Obtain consent to record the interview.****

With your permission, I would like to record our interview. This will help me capture our discussion accurately and focus on our conversation without the need for continuous note-taking. Do you consent to this recording, understanding its purpose and the confidentiality measures in place?

Understanding P17's Professional Journey

- ****Introduction and Career Path****: Could you briefly introduce yourself and explain your involvement with certification schemes and the CRM Act?

Evaluating Certification Standards and Criteria

****Assessing and Improving CRM Act Certification Criteria****: How do you evaluate the mandatory criteria for certification schemes outlined in the CRM Act? Are there any elements you would have included to strengthen these criteria? Additionally, what specific recommendations would you suggest to further enhance the effectiveness of the CRM Act's certification system?

****Key Characteristics and Multistakeholder Challenges in Certification Schemes****: What do you consider the most important characteristics of an effective certification scheme, and do you foresee any potential challenges with the multistakeholder approach commonly mentioned in the CRM Act and used by your company?

****Evaluating the CRM Act's Effectiveness and Reliance on Certification Schemes****: What is your assessment of the CRM Act's procedures and measures designed to mitigate social and environmental impacts? Do you believe there is an over-reliance on certification schemes within these regulations? If so, what improvements would you suggest?

Certification Compliance and Effectiveness

****Legal vs. Voluntary Standards**:** Do you believe that voluntary certification schemes are sufficient on their own to ensure due diligence in mining operations, or is there a need for more stringent, legally enforceable standards?

****Effects of Voluntary Certification on Environmental and Social Standards**:** Given that certification schemes under the CRM Act are voluntary, what are the potential environmental and social impacts if companies choose not to pursue certification but instead rely solely on compliance with relevant Union or national legislation, international standards, guidelines, and principles for their environmental and social impact assessments?

****Enhancing your company Certification Standards**:** What specific improvements do you think could be made to the company certification scheme to enhance its effectiveness?

****Evaluating Certification Scheme Standards Relative to company's Principles**:** Given that your company's key pillars include transparency, continuous improvement, and equal governance, do you believe that other certification schemes lacking in these areas could still be considered valid under the CRM Act?

Sustainability in Mining Practices

****Assessing the Sustainability of Modern Mining Practices**:** Some people I interviewed have praised the sustainability of current mining practices, claiming that mining can now be sustainable. What is your viewpoint on this assertion? Additionally, what are the most common issues you observe in mining companies' compliance with environmental and sustainability standards?

Specific Concerns and Regional Considerations

****Corruption and Certification Effectiveness**:** Are the current measures within certification schemes sufficient to prevent corruption, particularly in regions where this might be a significant risk?

****Regional Adaptation of Certification Schemes**:** Do you believe that certification schemes should be tailored to the specific regions or areas where projects are located? For example, should there be stricter criteria for projects situated in environmentally sensitive areas like Natura 2000 zones?

****Standardization of Certification Criteria**:** Would developing common standards at a European or international level be beneficial in reducing disparities in certification practices? What challenges/risks could arise from this?

Challenges in Implementation and Conflict of Interest

****Snapshot vs. Continuous Assessment**:** Do you believe that the snapshot approach of certification accurately reflects a company's operations, or are there inherent issues with this method not being a continuous assessment?

****Evaluating Certification Schemes and Multistakeholder Approaches**:** Given that audits are often conducted by external companies which may have existing relationships with mining firms, what are the potential issues related to conflicts of interest, and how can they be mitigated? For instance, I have read an article mentioning that this is the case for ERM CVS.

****Implementation Challenges and Capacity of Certification Providers under the CRM Act**:** What are the key challenges associated with implementing and monitoring the certification scheme component of the CRM Act? Additionally, given a potential surge in demand for certification schemes, do you believe

that the companies tasked with providing these certifications are equipped to handle the increased volume effectively?

****Addressing the Accessibility of Comprehensive Certification Criteria****: Given the comprehensive and wide-ranging criteria for certification schemes like yours, do you think the complexity of these requirements might deter smaller operators or new entrants from achieving compliance?

Closing Questions

- Are there any other insights or considerations you think are crucial for my thesis on the certification schemes? Is there anything else you would like to add that we haven't covered?
- Who else would you recommend I speak with to gain further perspectives on this topic?

Interview Guide P18

Introduction: Explain the purpose of the interview and obtain their consent

- **Briefly introduce me and the purpose of the interview/thesis.**

1. **Greeting and personal introduction**

2. **Purpose of the interview**

The focus of my research is to analyze the EU's strategy regarding critical materials, specifically as outlined in the CRM Act. I'm particularly interested in understanding the social and environmental impacts of this legislation. Your extensive experience makes your insights incredibly valuable to my study.

1. **Objective**

My goal is to engage with experts like yourself to explore diverse perspectives on this subject. Through this dialogue, I aim to uncover nuanced understandings that can contribute to recommendations for enhancing the legislation and addressing any potential adverse effects.

- **Explain how the information will be used and ensure confidentiality.**

I want to assure you that all the information shared during our conversation will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. It will be used solely for academic purposes and to enrich the findings of my thesis. I will anonymize any identifiable information in my final document to ensure privacy and confidentiality.

- **Obtain consent to record the interview.**

With your permission, I would like to record our interview. This will help me capture our discussion accurately and focus on our conversation without the need for continuous note-taking. Do you consent to this recording, understanding its purpose and the confidentiality measures in place?

Understanding P18's Professional Journey

- **Introduction and Career Path**: Could you briefly introduce yourself and explain your involvement with Critical Raw Materials and the CRM Act?

Project Overview and Challenges

Challenges and Risks in Project Implementation: "What were the main challenges and risks you encountered during the implementation of the lithium project?"

Regulatory Impact and Strategic Considerations

Impact of the CRM Act on Lithium Projects : How has/will the CRM Act influenced your lithium projects? particularly in terms of regulatory compliance, funding, and strategic planning within the broader energy transition landscape?

Evaluating the CRM Act's Effectiveness: What is your overall assessment of the CRM Act? Are there specific areas where you feel it falls short, especially concerning strategic projects like yours?

CRM Act's Role in Shaping Industry Dynamics : In what ways do you believe the CRM Act needs to evolve to better support critical projects like yours, especially in the context of accelerating the EU's energy transition goals?

****Risk Mitigation in Mining Development under the CRM Act**:** "What are the major risks associated with the development of mining projects, and in your opinion, does the CRM Act effectively address and mitigate these risks?"

****Evaluating the Strategic Project Application Process**:**"What is your assessment of the current procedure for applying for the status of strategic projects? Are there aspects that could be improved, and do you believe this process will effectively support the development of new projects?"

****Impact of CRM Act on Investment in High-Risk Projects**:**Given the high risks associated with certain projects and the occasional reluctance of banks to provide financing, do you believe that legislation like the CRM Act will encourage more investment in these types of projects?

Environmental and Social Impacts

****Social Impact Considerations**:** Considering projects like yours what are your thoughts on managing social impacts and addressing potential conflicts, such as those experienced in your region?

****Addressing Environmental Concerns in Mining Projects**:** What are your perspectives on the environmental impacts associated with mining projects? How does your approach mitigate these impacts effectively?

****Environmental and Social Monitoring Strategies**:** "What monitoring strategies did you put in place to ensure compliance with environmental and social requirements?"

Governance and Community Engagement

****Managing Public Awareness and Perception**:**"How did you manage public awareness and perception of the project? Do you have any best practices that could be applicable to other projects?"

****Integrating Mining Projects with Community and Environmental Standards**:**"How did you integrate the mining project with local community interests and environmental regulations?"

Policy and Global Trade

****Strategic Export Controls and Incentives**:** Given that strategic mining projects can reduce the EU's dependence on non-EU countries like China, are there any incentives or regulations in place to discourage the sale of critical materials to higher bidders outside the EU?"

****Strategic Project Incentives and Global Trade Dynamics**:** "While promoting strategic projects can reduce the EU's dependence on countries like China for critical materials, are there incentives in place to prevent selling these materials to higher bidders outside the EU, or is the market primarily driven by global demand and pricing dynamics?"

Lessons Learned and Policy Recommendations

****Key Lessons and Retrospective Changes**:**"Reflecting on your management of the project, what are the key lessons you've learned, and what would you have done differently?"

****Going Beyond Regulatory Requirements**:**"Did you implement any measures beyond the required regulations for environmental and social impact? Are there any practices you believe should be made mandatory for future projects?"

Closing Questions

- Based on your experience, what advice would you give to policymakers or researchers focusing on CRMs?
- Are there any other insights or considerations you think are crucial for my thesis on the EU's CRM strategy?
- Is there anything else you would like to add that we haven't covered?
- Who else would you recommend I speak with to gain further perspectives on this topic?

"Analysis of the EU Strategy for CRM as Defined in the CRM Act"

Alignment with Strategic Goals

1. **Assessing Outcomes vs. Objectives:** To what extent do the actual outcomes of the CRM Act align with its intended strategic goals, particularly in securing CRMs and enhancing sustainable practices? Are you satisfied with it and can you comment on the feasibility of these objectives?

Theoretical Framework vs. Practical Application

1. **Disparities and Clarity:** What are the key disparities between the CRM Act's theoretical framework and its practical application, and how might these be addressed to improve real-world outcomes?

2. **Clarity and Detail Enhancement:** "Are there sections within the CRM Act that would benefit from more detailed definitions or clarity to improve implementation and effectiveness?"

3. **Implementation Challenges:** "What potential challenges might arise during the CRM Act's implementation?"

Compliance and Impact

1. **Compliance Challenges:** What challenges are faced in ensuring compliance with the CRM Act across different EU member states? How can these challenges be overcome?

2. **Broader Impact on Materials:** Given the current focus on CRMs, do you believe there could be an indirect impact on other materials not classified as CRMs?

Certification Scheme and Strategic Partnerships

1. How do you evaluate the current definitions and procedures for strategic projects within the CRM Act? Are there specific areas you believe require enhancement or refinement for better effectiveness?

2. **Certification scheme:** What do you think about the system put in place (certification scheme) to ensure that a strategic project has limited social and environmental impact? Could you discuss any specific challenges, opportunities, or risks that this scheme presents, and suggest potential improvements?

3. **Mutual Benefits of Strategic Partnerships:** "How do the strategic partnerships in the CRM Act ensure mutual benefits for the EU and third-party countries, especially in terms of social and environmental sustainability?"

Governance Framework

- **Effectiveness of the Governance Framework:** "What are your thoughts on the CRM Act's governance framework, particularly the role of the European Critical Raw Materials Board in guiding

the Act's objectives? Are there areas within the governance structure that need strengthening or adjustment?

Interview Guide P19

Introduction: Explain the purpose of the interview and obtain their consent

- **Briefly introduce me and the purpose of the interview/thesis.**

1. **Greeting and personal introduction**

2. **Purpose of the interview**

The focus of my research is to analyze the EU's strategy regarding critical materials, specifically as outlined in the CRM Act. I'm particularly interested in understanding the social and environmental impacts of this legislation. Your extensive experience makes your insights incredibly valuable to my study.

El enfoque de mi investigación es analizar la estrategia de la Unión Europea con respecto a los materiales críticos, específicamente como se describe en la Ley de Materiales Críticos (CRM Act). Me interesa especialmente comprender los impactos sociales y ambientales de esta legislación. Su vasta experiencia hace que sus conocimientos sean increíblemente valiosos para mi estudio.

1. **Objective**

My goal is to engage with experts like yourself to explore diverse perspectives on this subject. Through this dialogue, I aim to uncover nuanced understandings that can contribute to recommendations for enhancing the legislation and addressing any potential adverse effects.

- **Explain how the information will be used and ensure confidentiality.**

I want to assure you that all the information shared during our conversation will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. It will be used solely for academic purposes and to enrich the findings of my thesis. I will anonymize any identifiable information in my final document to ensure privacy and confidentiality.

Quiero asegurarle que toda la información compartida durante nuestra conversación será tratada con la máxima confidencialidad. Será utilizada únicamente con fines académicos y para enriquecer los resultados de mi tesis. Anonimizaré cualquier información identificable en mi documento final para garantizar la privacidad y la confidencialidad.

- **Obtain consent to record the interview.**

With your permission, I would like to record our interview. This will help me capture our discussion accurately and focus on our conversation without the need for continuous note-taking. Do you consent to this recording, understanding its purpose and the confidentiality measures in place?

Con su permiso, me gustaría grabar nuestra entrevista. Esto me ayudará a capturar nuestra conversación con precisión y a concentrarme en nuestro diálogo sin la necesidad de tomar notas continuamente. ¿Consiente usted esta grabación, entendiendo su propósito y las medidas de confidencialidad que se han tomado?

Understanding P19's Professional Journey

- **Introduction and Career Path**: Could you briefly introduce yourself and explain your involvement with Critical Raw Materials? And do you have knowledge about the CRM Act?

Introducción y Trayectoria Profesional: ¿Podría presentarse brevemente y explicar su participación con los Materiales Críticos y la Ley de Materiales Críticos (CRM Act)?

Overview

- **Assessing Outcomes vs. Objectives**: To what extent do the actual outcomes of the CRM Act align with its intended strategic goals, particularly in securing CRMs and enhancing sustainable practices? Are you satisfied with it and can you comment on the feasibility of these objectives?

Evaluación de Resultados vs. Objetivos: ¿En qué medida los resultados reales de la Ley de Materiales Críticos (CRM Act) se alinean con sus objetivos estratégicos previstos, especialmente en lo que respecta a asegurar los materiales críticos y mejorar las prácticas sostenibles? ¿Está usted satisfecho con esto y puede comentar sobre la viabilidad de estos objetivos?

- **Disparities and Clarity**: What are the key disparities between the CRM Act's theoretical framework and its practical application, and how might these be addressed to improve real-world outcomes?

Disparidades y Claridad: ¿Cuáles son las principales disparidades entre el marco teórico de la Ley de Materiales Críticos y su aplicación práctica, y cómo podrían abordarse para mejorar los resultados en el mundo real?

- **Evaluating Mining Projects in Spain and Europe**: What is your perspective on the development of mining projects in Spain and across Europe? Do you believe these projects are beneficial for the region's concerned?

Evaluación de Proyectos Mineros en España y Europa: ¿Cuál es su perspectiva sobre el desarrollo de proyectos mineros en España y en toda Europa? ¿Cree que estos proyectos son beneficiosos para la región implicada?

- **Assessing Risks and Benefits of Mining Projects**: What are the key challenges and risks associated with mining projects, and in your opinion, do the benefits outweigh these disadvantages?

Evaluación de Riesgos y Beneficios de los Proyectos Mineros: ¿Cuáles son los principales desafíos y riesgos asociados con los proyectos mineros, y en su opinión, los beneficios superan estas desventajas?

Mining Practices and Sustainability

- **Evaluating Green/Sustainable Mining Practices**: "What is your opinion on green or sustainable mining practices, and do you believe they sufficiently mitigate environmental impacts?"

Evaluación de Prácticas Mineras Verdes/Sostenibles: "¿Cuál es su opinión sobre las prácticas mineras verdes o sostenibles, y cree que estas mitigan suficientemente los impactos ambientales?"

- **Assessing the CRM Act's Role in the Green Transition**: "How do you evaluate new legislation like the CRM Act in terms of its effectiveness in promoting environmentally friendly mining and strategic projects?"

Evaluación del Papel de la Ley de Materiales Críticos (CRM Act) en la Transición Verde: "¿Cómo evalúa usted nuevas legislaciones como la Ley de Materiales Críticos en términos de su efectividad para promover la minería ambientalmente amigable y proyectos estratégicos?"

- **Mining in Protected Areas**: What are your thoughts on the feasibility and ethics of conducting mining operations in protected areas like Natura 2000 sites?

Minería en Áreas Protegidas: ¿Cuáles son sus pensamientos sobre la viabilidad y la ética de realizar operaciones mineras en áreas protegidas como los sitios Natura 2000?

- **Comparing Environmental Impacts of Mining in the EU vs. Third Countries**: "Do you think that mining within the EU, despite potential environmental and social damages, has lesser impacts compared to similar activities in third countries?"

Comparación de los Impactos Ambientales de la Minería en la UE frente a Países Terceros: "¿Cree usted que la minería dentro de la Unión Europea, a pesar de los posibles daños ambientales y sociales, tiene menores impactos en comparación con actividades similares en países terceros?"

- **Environmental Gaps**: What are the main environmental challenges or gaps in the CRM Act's current framework, and how do these affect its environmental sustainability goals?

Brechas Ambientales: ¿Cuáles son los principales desafíos ambientales o brechas en el marco actual de la Ley de Materiales Críticos, y cómo afectan estos a sus objetivos de sostenibilidad ambiental?

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

- **Local Community Consultation in Mining**: "Do you believe mining companies sufficiently engage with local communities through social studies and consultations?"

Consulta con la Comunidad Local en la Minería: "¿Cree que las empresas mineras se comprometen lo suficiente con las comunidades locales a través de estudios sociales y consultas?"

- **Community Value Creation by Mining Companies**: "What value do you think mining projects create for local communities in terms of job opportunities and economic development?"

Creación de Valor para la Comunidad por Parte de las Empresas Mineras: "¿Qué valor cree usted que crean los proyectos mineros para las comunidades locales en términos de oportunidades laborales y desarrollo económico?"

- **Value Creation in Mining for Local Communities**: "Do you believe that mining projects genuinely create value for the communities, locals, and indigenous peoples involved?"

Creación de Valor en la Minería para las Comunidades Locales: "¿Cree usted que los proyectos mineros realmente crean valor para las comunidades, las personas locales y los pueblos indígenas involucrados?"

- **Social Responsibility**: What are the critical gaps you perceive in the CRM Act's approach towards social responsibility within the CRM value chain?

Responsabilidad Social: ¿Cuáles son las brechas críticas que usted percibe en el enfoque de la Ley de Materiales Críticos hacia la responsabilidad social dentro de la cadena de valor de los materiales críticos?

Impact Assessments and Regulatory Challenges

- **Assessing Environmental Impact Assessments**: "How thorough are the environmental impact assessments (EIA) for CRM projects under the CRM Act? Are there areas where EIAs could be improved?"

Evaluación de Estudios de Impacto Ambiental: "¿Qué tan rigurosos son los estudios de impacto ambiental (EIA) para proyectos de materiales críticos (CRM) ¿Existen áreas donde los EIA podrían mejorarse?"

- **Discrepancies in Environmental Impact Assessments:** "Do you believe there are significant disparities between the environmental impact assessments and their actual implementation for mining projects?"

Discrepancias en Estudios de Impacto Ambiental: "¿Cree que existen discrepancias significativas entre los estudios de impacto ambiental y su implementación real en los proyectos mineros?"

- **Permitting Process Improvements:** "What do you think is missing from the current permitting process for mining projects?"

Mejoras en el Proceso de Permisos: "¿Qué cree que falta en el proceso actual de permisos para proyectos mineros?"

- **Impact of CRM Act on Environment and Society:** "What could be the potential consequences of the CRM Act for both the environment and society?"

Impacto de la Ley de Materiales Críticos en el Medio Ambiente y la Sociedad: "¿Cuáles podrían ser las posibles consecuencias de la Ley de Materiales Críticos tanto para el medio ambiente como para la sociedad?"

- **Underestimation of Mining Impact:** "Do you think the consequences and zone impacts of mining projects are often underestimated, suggesting a need to expand the definition of 'local communities'?"

Subestimación del Impacto de la Minería: "¿Cree usted que las consecuencias y el impacto de las zonas mineras suelen subestimarse, sugiriendo la necesidad de ampliar la definición de 'comunidades locales'?"

Certification and Compliance

- **Impact of Multi-Stakeholder Certification Schemes:** "What impact do multi-stakeholder certification schemes have on projects involving critical materials?"

Impacto de los Esquemas de Certificación Multiactor: "¿Qué impacto tienen los esquemas de certificación multiactor en proyectos que involucran materiales críticos?"

- **Monitoring and Compliance Enforcement:** "What steps can be taken to strengthen monitoring and enforcement of compliance with environmental regulations?"

Monitoreo y Aplicación del Cumplimiento: "¿Qué medidas se pueden tomar para fortalecer el monitoreo y la aplicación del cumplimiento con las regulaciones ambientales?"

Global Environmental Governance

- **Global Environmental Governance Improvements:** What key governance improvements are needed globally to ensure environmental permits adequately protect natural resources and prevent disasters? And to avoid what happened with Las Cruces and Guadalquivir River?

Mejoras en la Gobernanza Ambiental Global: "¿Qué mejoras clave en la gobernanza se necesitan a nivel mundial para garantizar que los permisos ambientales protejan adecuadamente los recursos naturales y prevengan desastres? ¿Y para evitar lo que sucedió con Las Cruces y el río Guadalquivir?"

- **Effectiveness of the Governance Framework:** "What are your thoughts on the CRM Act's governance framework, particularly the role of the European Critical Raw Materials Board in guiding the Act's objectives? Are there areas within the governance structure that need strengthening or adjustment?"

Efectividad del Marco de Gobernanza: "¿Cuáles son sus pensamientos sobre el marco de gobernanza de la Ley de Materiales Críticos, en particular el papel de la Junta Europea de Materiales Críticos en guiar los objetivos de la Ley? ¿Hay áreas dentro de la estructura de gobernanza que necesitan ser reforzadas o ajustadas?"

- **Recommendations for Reducing Environmental and Social Impacts:** "What recommendations would you give to mining or processing companies to minimize their environmental and social impacts?"

Recomendaciones para Reducir Impactos Ambientales y Sociales: "¿Qué recomendaciones daría a las empresas mineras o de procesamiento para minimizar sus impactos ambientales y sociales?"

Closing Questions

- Are there any other insights or considerations you think are crucial for my thesis on the EU's CRM strategy? Is there anything else you would like to add that we haven't covered?

¿Hay otros puntos de vista o consideraciones que crea cruciales para mi tesis sobre la estrategia de materiales críticos de la UE? ¿Hay algo más que le gustaría añadir que no hayamos cubierto?"

- Who else would you recommend I speak with to gain further perspectives on this topic?

"¿A quién más me recomendaría hablar para obtener perspectivas adicionales sobre este tema?"

Theoretical Framework vs. Practical Application

1. **Clarity and Detail Enhancement:** "Are there sections within the CRM Act that would benefit from more detailed definitions or clarity to improve implementation and effectiveness?"

2. **Implementation Challenges:** "What potential challenges might arise during the CRM Act's implementation?"

Certification Scheme and Strategic Partnerships

1. How do you evaluate the current definitions and procedures for strategic projects within the CRM Act? Are there specific areas you believe require enhancement or refinement for better effectiveness?

2. **Certification scheme:** What do you think about the system put in place (certification scheme) to ensure that a strategic project has limited social and environmental impact? Could you discuss any specific challenges, opportunities, or risks that this scheme presents, and suggest potential improvements?

3. **Mutual Benefits of Strategic Partnerships:** "How do the strategic partnerships in the CRM Act ensure mutual benefits for the EU and third-party countries, especially in terms of social and environmental sustainability?"

Interview Guide 20

Introduction: Explain the purpose of the interview and obtain their consent

- ****Briefly introduce me and the purpose of the interview/thesis.****

1. ****Greeting and personal introduction****

2. ****Purpose of the interview****

The focus of my research is to analyze the EU's strategy regarding critical materials, specifically as outlined in the CRM Act. I'm particularly interested in understanding the social and environmental impacts of this legislation. Your extensive experience makes your insights incredibly valuable to my study.

1. ****Objective****

My goal is to engage with experts like yourself to explore diverse perspectives on this subject. Through this dialogue, I aim to uncover nuanced understandings that can contribute to recommendations for enhancing the legislation and addressing any potential adverse effects.

- ****Explain how the information will be used and ensure confidentiality.****

I want to assure you that all the information shared during our conversation will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. It will be used solely for academic purposes and to enrich the findings of my thesis. I will anonymize any identifiable information in my final document to ensure privacy and confidentiality.

- ****Obtain consent to record the interview.****

With your permission, I would like to record our interview. This will help me capture our discussion accurately and focus on our conversation without the need for continuous note-taking. Do you consent to this recording, understanding its purpose and the confidentiality measures in place?

Understanding P20's Professional Journey

- ****Introduction and Career Path****: Could you briefly introduce yourself and explain your involvement with Critical Raw Materials and the CRM Act?

Objectives

****Assessing Outcomes vs. Objectives****: To what extent do the actual outcomes of the CRM Act align with its intended strategic goals, particularly in securing CRMs and enhancing sustainable practices? Are you satisfied with it and can you comment on the feasibility of these objectives?

****Issues with a Uniform Recycling Target****: What are the potential issues with applying a uniform recycling target of 25% across different materials?

****Effectiveness of Recycling Rate Objectives****: Considering the set target of a 25% recycling rate, do you think it would be more effective to have specific objectives for each material type instead?

Challenges related to recycling companies

****Challenges Faced by Recycling Companies****: What are the main challenges recycling companies currently face and for recycling in general?

Is there also issue with public acceptance?

****CRM Act's Effectiveness for Recycling Challenges****: Do you think the CRM Act adequately addresses the challenges faced by recycling companies?

****Impact of the CRM Act on Recycling Companies****: What changes will the CRM Act bring for recycling companies, and do you anticipate these impacts to be positive?

****Implementation Challenges of the CRM Act for Recycling Companies****: What are the main challenges recycling companies face in implementing the provisions of the CRM Act?

****Desired Provisions for Recycling in the CRM Act****: What additional provisions or changes would you have liked to see included for recycling in the CRM Act?

Other legislations and additional measures

****CRM Act's Integration with Other Recycling Legislation****: How does the CRM Act interact with other important legislations that impact recycling practices?

****Detail and Clarity in the CRM Act****: Would additional details have been beneficial in the CRM Act, considering the existing related legislation like WEEE or eco design?

****Enhancing Incentives for Recycling Beyond the CRM Act****: What additional incentives are necessary alongside the CRM Act to further promote recycling activities?

Recycling Processes and cost

****Logistics of Recycled Materials at your recycling company****: When your recycling company purchases materials from abroad for recycling, are you required to return the recycled products to the original supplier, or are you free to sell them as you see fit? Can you explain how this process is typically managed?

****Exporting Recycled Materials and EU Independence****: Are there any restrictions on selling materials recycled in the EU to countries outside the EU, and how does this impact the EU's goal of achieving resource independence?

****Specific Measures for Permanent Magnets****: How do you assess the current measures implemented for the recycling and management of permanent magnets? Why was it necessary to create an article only focusing on those?

****Cost-Effectiveness of Recycling Strategic Materials****: Are there any strategic materials for which recycling is not cost-effective? If so, which materials, and how could this be improved?

Circularity

From your perspective, how effectively does the CRM initiative support the implementation and promotion of the principles of circularity, specifically the actions to Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Refurbish, Remanufacture, Repurpose, and Recycle?

****National Programs for Circularity and Waste Prevention****: What is your opinion on the requirement for Member States to implement national programs to enhance circularity and prevent waste? Would it be effective?

****Substitution Possibilities for Critical Materials****: What are your thoughts on the potential for substituting critical and strategic materials to reduce dependency?

****Use of Secondary Materials Across Sectors**:** Are there any sectors where secondary materials cannot be utilized, or can they be used in all applications?

Environmental and social

****Environmental and Social Impacts of Recycling**:** What could be the potential negative environmental and social effects associated with recycling activities?

****Negative Impacts of Recycling in Specific Regions**:** Are there any countries within Europe or outside where recycling practices have significant negative impacts? If so, which countries and what are these impacts?

****Certification Schemes for Recycling Companies**:** Does recycling companies participate in any certification schemes to ensure the quality and sustainability of its recycling processes? If so, how do you evaluate the measures related to certification schemes in the CRM act, are there any gaps?

Others

****Impact of Strategic Partnerships on Recycling**:** How will strategic partnerships under the CRM Act affect recycling companies?

****Sourcing Recycled Materials for Non-EU Production**:** If your company uses recycled materials from the EU in production processes outside the EU, are these products considered to originate from the EU?

****EU Leadership in Recycling**:** Do you think the EU maintains its leadership role in recycling, given the substantial investments in recycling technologies by other countries?

****Importance of Labeling for Recycled Products**:** How important is labeling for products made from recycled materials?

Closing Questions

- Are there any other insights or considerations you think are crucial for my thesis on the EU's CRM strategy? Is there anything else you would like to add that we haven't covered?

- Who else would you recommend I speak with to gain further perspectives on this topic?

Interview Guide P21

Introduction: Explain the purpose of the interview and obtain their consent

- **Briefly introduce me and the purpose of the interview/thesis.**

1. **Greeting and personal introduction**

2. **Purpose of the interview**

The focus of my research is to analyze the EU's strategy regarding critical materials, specifically as outlined in the CRM Act. I'm particularly interested in understanding the social and environmental impacts of this legislation. Your extensive experience makes your insights incredibly valuable to my study.

1. **Objective**

My goal is to engage with experts like yourself to explore diverse perspectives on this subject. Through this dialogue, I aim to uncover nuanced understandings that can contribute to recommendations for enhancing the legislation and addressing any potential adverse effects.

- **Explain how the information will be used and ensure confidentiality.**

I want to assure you that all the information shared during our conversation will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. It will be used solely for academic purposes and to enrich the findings of my thesis. I will anonymize any identifiable information in my final document to ensure privacy and confidentiality.

- **Obtain consent to record the interview.**

With your permission, I would like to record our interview. This will help me capture our discussion accurately and focus on our conversation without the need for continuous note-taking. Do you consent to this recording, understanding its purpose and the confidentiality measures in place?

Understanding P21's Professional Journey

- **Introduction and Career Path**: Could you briefly introduce yourself and explain your involvement with Critical Raw Materials and the CRM Act?

Overview and Strategic Impact of the CRM Act

Assessing Outcomes vs. Objectives: To what extent do the actual outcomes of the CRM Act align with its intended strategic goals, particularly in securing CRMs and enhancing sustainable practices? Are you satisfied with it and can you comment on the feasibility of these objectives?

Unaccepted Recommendations by TRADE union representative: "What recommendations you're your company proposed that were not accepted, and why were these considered important yet ultimately rejected?"

Naming the CRM Act as 'EU Raw Materials Act': I have seen in a joint statement that your company did that you wanted to name the CRMA : "EU Raw Materials Act", what would be the effect for companies of that focus only on strategic raw materials?

Theoretical Framework vs. Practical Application

****Disparities and Clarity:**** What are the key disparities between the CRM Act's theoretical framework and its practical application, and how might these be addressed to improve real-world outcomes?

****Clarity and Detail Enhancement**:** "Are there sections within the CRM Act that would benefit from more detailed definitions or clarity to improve implementation and effectiveness?"

****Implementation Challenges**:** "What potential challenges might arise during the CRM Act's implementation?"

Social dimension

Considering the objectives and provisions of the CRM Act, could you discuss the positive impacts it has had or is anticipated to have, particularly in terms of advancing social responsibility?

****Social Responsibility**:** What are the critical gaps you perceive in the CRM Act's approach towards social responsibility within the CRM value chain?

Worker Impact and Social Considerations

****Challenges for Workers in Critical Raw Materials Industries**:** "What are the main challenges faced by workers in industries related to critical raw materials, and do you believe the CRM Act will address these challenges?"

****Trade union representative European Union on the CRM Act**:** "What is the general opinion of the workers and syndicates within your trade union representative European Union regarding the CRM Act?"

****Impact of the CRM Act on Workers**:** "What impact do you foresee the CRM Act having on workers related to mining, processing, and companies using critical materials? Will this impact be positive, negative, or neutral?"

****CRM Act's Role in Reducing Worker Inequality**:** "Do you think the CRM Act will help reduce inequalities among workers, such as in terms of gender or salary?"

****CRMA Impact on Different Worker Conditions in Mining, Processing, and Recycling**:** "Considering the diverse conditions in mining, processing, and recycling, which area will the CRMA impact the most in terms of working conditions?"

****Job Creation Impact of the CRM Act**:** "Do you believe the CRM Act will have a positive impact on job creation within the sectors it covers?"

****Addressing Skills Gaps with CRMA**:** "Does the CRMA address the skills gaps in the sector, and will it facilitate the recruitment or training of skilled workers necessary to meet its objectives?"

****CRMA's Impact on Material Costs and Worker Wages**:** "If I understood well, for companies prices of critical raw materials could be an issue and can also impact the wages of workers. Do you think that the CRMA would help to reduce that volatility or price issue and if not what would be the solutions that you propose?"

****Global Impact of EU Strategy on Workers**:** "While focused on the EU, how do you anticipate the EU's strategy impacting workers in other countries?"

The CRM Act/EU RMA must effectively secure decent work and good working conditions, protect workers' rights, support effective social dialogue on the sector and company level, and involve all social partners in the development of the sector. The social dimension must also cover the need for improving

skills, education, and training, including the support or creation of appropriate training courses and making these professions more attractive by ensuring good working conditions. Protecting workers in the extractive industries and recycling activities will require a solid commitment to occupational health and safety (identification of new H&S risks linked to CRM/RM will be needed urgently). A strong gender equality perspective will have to drive these issues.

Local communities

****Impact of the CRM Act on Local Communities**:** "What impact do you think the CRM Act has on local communities, particularly in terms of economic and social outcomes?"

****Balancing Industrialization with Local Economies**:** "How do you assess the impact of mining, processing, and recycling activities on local economies, especially concerning the potential displacement or destruction of other economic sectors?"

Economic and Market Dynamics

****Establishing an EU Market for Critical Raw Materials**:** "Would creating an EU market for critical raw materials be beneficial, and what characteristics should this market have to ensure success?"

****Competitive Disadvantages for the EU in Critical Materials Sector**:** "What are the competitive disadvantages faced by the EU compared to other regions in the critical materials sector?"

****Demand Reduction Scenario Analysis**:** "What are your thoughts on the demand reduction scenario assumed by the CRMA, which is based on constant demand growth?"

****CRMA's Influence on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)**:** "Will the CRMA help to increase foreign direct investment in the EU for industries dealing with critical raw materials?"

Industrial and Operational Challenges

****Current State of EU Industries Handling Critical Raw Materials**:** "What is your assessment of the current state of industries in the EU related to critical raw materials?"

****Impact of CRMA on EU Industrialization**:** "Do you believe the CRMA will boost industrialization and generate value for the EU?"

****Challenges for EU Companies in the CRM Value Chain**:** "What challenges do EU companies face related to the critical raw materials value chain, and will the CRM Act help resolve these challenges?"

****Strategic Partnerships and EU Industry Risk**:** "What would be the impact of strategic partnerships on industries, and do you see a risk in qualifying projects in third-party countries with less stringent ESG criteria and cheaper labor for EU industry?"

****Cost Premium for CRM Production in the EU**:** "Would producing, processing, or recycling critical raw materials in the EU incur a cost premium compared to other nations, and are your trade union representative member companies prepared to pay this premium?"

****Reducing Premium Costs for CRM**:** "What solutions do you foresee to reduce the premium costs associated with the production, processing, or recycling of critical raw materials within the EU?"

Others

****Importance of Successful Business Cases in CRMA Strategy**:** "Why is it important to have successful business cases within the framework of the CRMA?"

****Managing Energy Prices in the EU:**** "How are companies overcoming high energy prices in the EU, and what incentives might be proposed to alleviate these costs?"

EU countries

****Compliance Challenges:**** What challenges are faced in ensuring compliance with the CRM Act across different EU member states? How can these challenges be overcome?

Strategic projects

How do you evaluate the current definitions and procedures for strategic projects within the CRM Act? Are there specific areas you believe require enhancement or refinement for better effectiveness?

Governance

****Effectiveness of the Governance Framework**:** "What are your thoughts on the CRM Act's governance framework, particularly the role of the European Critical Raw Materials Board in guiding the Act's objectives? Are there areas within the governance structure that need strengthening or adjustment?"

Environmental dimension

Considering the objectives and provisions of the CRM Act, could you discuss the positive impacts it has had or is anticipated to have, particularly in terms of advancing environmental sustainability?

From your perspective, how effectively does the CRM initiative support the implementation and promotion of the principles of circularity, specifically the actions to Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Refurbish, Remanufacture, Repurpose, and Recycle? Please provide examples or areas for improvement if possible. Why is there no mention of rethink, refuse,...

****Environmental Gaps**:** What are the main environmental challenges or gaps in the CRM Act's current framework, and how do these affect its environmental sustainability goals?

Closing Questions

- Are there any other insights or considerations you think are crucial for my thesis on the EU's CRM strategy? Is there anything else you would like to add that we haven't covered?
- Who else would you recommend I speak with to gain further perspectives on this topic?

Interview Guide P22

Introduction: Explain the purpose of the interview and obtain their consent

- **Briefly introduce me and the purpose of the interview/thesis.**

- Greeting and personal introduction**
- Purpose of the interview**

The focus of my research is to analyze the EU's strategy regarding critical materials, specifically as outlined in the CRM Act. I'm particularly interested in understanding the social and environmental impacts of this legislation. Your extensive experience makes your insights incredibly valuable to my study.

- Objective**

My goal is to engage with experts like yourself to explore diverse perspectives on this subject. Through this dialogue, I aim to uncover nuanced understandings that can contribute to recommendations for enhancing the legislation and addressing any potential adverse effects.

- **Explain how the information will be used and ensure confidentiality.**

I want to assure you that all the information shared during our conversation will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. It will be used solely for academic purposes and to enrich the findings of my thesis. I will anonymize any identifiable information in my final document to ensure privacy and confidentiality.

- **Obtain consent to record the interview.**

With your permission, I would like to record our interview. This will help me capture our discussion accurately and focus on our conversation without the need for continuous note-taking. Do you consent to this recording, understanding its purpose and the confidentiality measures in place?

Understanding P22's Professional Journey

- **Introduction and Career Path**: Could you briefly introduce yourself and explain your involvement with Critical Raw Materials and the CRM Act?

Alignment with Strategic Goals

- Assessing Outcomes vs. Objectives**: To what extent do the actual outcomes of the CRM Act align with its intended strategic goals, particularly in securing CRMs and enhancing sustainable practices? Are you satisfied with it and can you comment on the feasibility of these objectives?
- "How do Indigenous communities perceive their role and the necessity of their participation in the energy transition? What insights can you share about their views on the impact of these changes?"
- Expectations and Compensation for Indigenous People**: "What do indigenous people expect from these projects, and do you think they are fairly and adequately compensated for the impacts they experience from critical raw materials projects and the energy transition in general?"
- Differences Between Indigenous and Local Communities**: "What are the main elements to consider that differentiate indigenous communities from local communities in the context of the CRMA?"

FPIC

You advocate for the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples' rights in the EU's energy transition. How effective has the EU been in integrating these rights into the CRMA?

****Importance of Explicitly Mentioning FPIC****: "Why would it have been important to explicitly mention Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) if the CRMA already references the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which includes FPIC? What could be the consequences of not explicitly mentioning FPIC?"

****Gap Identification and Recommendations****

- ****Positive Impacts of CRMA on Indigenous Populations****: "How do you think the CRMA and the EU strategy for critical raw materials could benefit indigenous populations?"

- ****Negative Impacts of CRMA on Indigenous Populations****: "How do you think the CRMA and the EU strategy for critical raw materials could negatively impact indigenous populations?"

- ****Gaps****: What are the critical gaps you perceive in the CRM Act's approach towards social responsibility more specifically concerning indigenous people within the CRM value chain?

- ****Disparities and Clarity****: What are the key disparities between the CRM Act's theoretical framework and its practical application, and how might these be addressed to improve real-world outcomes?

- ****Implementation Challenges****: "What potential challenges might arise during the CRM Act's implementation?"

- ****CRMA Criteria for Socially Responsible Practices****: "The CRMA includes criteria for ensuring socially responsible practices, including respect for human rights and labor rights, as well as the community life of indigenous peoples. Do you think these criteria are adequately detailed, or are they too broad?" "requirements for ensuring socially responsible practices, including respect for human rights and labour rights including the community life of indigenous peoples "

Consultation

****Consultation with Indigenous Communities****: "How would you evaluate the current level of consultation with indigenous communities when implementing projects that could impact them? Do you think the CRMA could help improve this process?" I think they were mentioning the term meaningful consultation

****Knowledge and Skills in Consultation Processes****: "Could the level of knowledge or skills regarding mining and processing projects be an issue during the consultation with indigenous communities?"

****Post-Project Monitoring and Consultation****: "Are there issues related to monitoring and continued consultation with indigenous communities once a project is completed and after authorizations are granted?"

****Compliance Challenges****: What challenges are faced in ensuring compliance with the CRM Act across different EU member states? How can these challenges be overcome?

****Member States' Responsibility for Indigenous Rights****: "If the responsibility for upholding the rights of indigenous peoples lies with member states rather than companies, the Critical Raw Materials Board, or the Commission, could this be problematic?"

Terminology

****Impact of 'Overriding Public Interest' on Indigenous Communities**:** "The CRMA mentions 'overriding public interest.' How do you think this could affect indigenous communities?"

****Need for Terminological Precision**:** "Are there any other terms within the CRMA that you think require more precision to avoid potential issues, similar to 'overriding public interest'?"

****Clarity and Detail Enhancement**:** "Are there sections within the CRM Act that would benefit from more detailed definitions or clarity to improve implementation and effectiveness?"

****Certification Scheme****

1. ****Certification scheme**:** What do you think about the system put in place (certification scheme) to ensure that a strategic project has limited social and environmental impact? Could you discuss any specific challenges, opportunities, or risks that this scheme presents, and suggest potential improvements?

2. ****Effectiveness of Certification Schemes**:** "What do you think about certification schemes to ensure high social standards and consideration of social dimensions in projects?"

****Strategic projects****

How do you evaluate the current definitions and procedures for strategic projects within the CRM Act? Are there specific areas you believe require enhancement or refinement for better effectiveness?

****Social License to Operate in the CRMA**:** "In the procedure for strategic projects, there is a lot of emphasis on the environmental impact assessment, but not much on the Social License to Operate. Could you describe how the concept of the Social License to Operate is integrated into the CRMA and strategic projects frameworks?"

Strategic partnerships

1. ****Mutual Benefits of Strategic Partnerships**:** "How do the strategic partnerships in the CRM Act ensure mutual benefits for the EU and third-party countries, especially in terms of social and environmental sustainability?"

2. ****Impact of EU Strategic Partnerships on Resource-Rich Countries**:** "How do you foresee the impact of the strategic partnerships proposed by the EU for resource-rich countries? Do you think these partnerships will have a particular impact on indigenous communities?"

3. "Given the EU's strategic projects that require partnerships with countries outside its borders, how confident are you in the EU's ability to uphold social and ethical standards in these collaborations, considering the varying levels of control and oversight? Additionally, could you discuss the main differences in how these standards are applied and enforced within the EU compared to abroad?"

Governance Framework

- ****Effectiveness of the Governance Framework**:** "What are your thoughts on the CRM Act's governance framework, particularly the role of the European Critical Raw Materials Board in guiding the Act's objectives? Are there areas within the governance structure that need strengthening or adjustment?"

- ****Impact on Local Economies**:**

- "How does the CRM Act influence local economies, particularly those within Indigenous and rural communities? What are the potential economic benefits or downsides these communities might face?"

- ****Impact on Local Economies****:

- "How does the CRM Act influence local economies, particularly those within Indigenous and rural communities? What are the potential economic benefits or downsides these communities might face?"

- ****Transparency and Accountability****:

- "Can you discuss the mechanisms for transparency and accountability in the CRM Act? How are these mechanisms expected to work in practice, especially in projects involving multiple countries?"

****"Focus on the Environmental Aspects of the CRM Act + Impact it Could Generate"****

- Considering the objectives and provisions of the CRM Act, could you discuss the positive impacts it has had or is anticipated to have, particularly in terms of advancing environmental sustainability?

- From your perspective, how effectively does the CRM initiative support the implementation and promotion of the principles of circularity, specifically the actions to Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Refurbish, Remanufacture, Repurpose, and Recycle? Please provide examples or areas for improvement if possible. Why is there no mention of rethink, refuse,...

- ****Sustainable Practices and Circular Economy****: How can sustainable practices and the principles of the circular economy be integrated more effectively into the EU's CRM strategy to reduce environmental and social impacts?

- How does the CRM Act ensure that Strategic Projects, both within the EU and in third countries, adhere to high environmental and social standards?

- ****Environmental Gaps****: What are the main environmental challenges or gaps in the CRM Act's current framework, and how do these affect its environmental sustainability goals?

- ****Enhancement Approaches****: Based on the identified environmental gaps, what recommendations could be made to strengthen the environmental sustainability aspects of the CRM Act?

Closing Questions

- Based on your experience, what advice would you give to policymakers or researchers focusing on CRMs?

- Are there any other insights or considerations you think are crucial for my thesis on the EU's CRM strategy?

- Is there anything else you would like to add that we haven't covered?

- Who else would you recommend I speak with to gain further perspectives on this topic?

Interview Guide P23

Introduction: Explain the purpose of the interview and obtain their consent

- **Briefly introduce me and the purpose of the interview/thesis.**

1. **Greeting and personal introduction**

2. **Purpose of the interview**

The focus of my research is to analyze the EU's strategy regarding critical materials, specifically as outlined in the CRM Act. I'm particularly interested in understanding the social and environmental impacts of this legislation. Your extensive experience makes your insights incredibly valuable to my study.

1. **Objective**

My goal is to engage with experts like yourself to explore diverse perspectives on this subject. Through this dialogue, I aim to uncover nuanced understandings that can contribute to recommendations for enhancing the legislation and addressing any potential adverse effects.

- **Explain how the information will be used and ensure confidentiality.**

I want to assure you that all the information shared during our conversation will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. It will be used solely for academic purposes and to enrich the findings of my thesis. I will anonymize any identifiable information in my final document to ensure privacy and confidentiality.

- **Obtain consent to record the interview.**

With your permission, I would like to record our interview. This will help me capture our discussion accurately and focus on our conversation without the need for continuous note-taking. Do you consent to this recording, understanding its purpose and the confidentiality measures in place?

Understanding P23's Professional Journey

- **Introduction and Career Path**: Could you briefly introduce yourself, explain your involvement with Critical Raw Materials and the CRM Act?

- **Using African countries's Resources for Development**: "How can African countries countries leverage its critical raw materials to foster its own development?"

- **Challenges in Developing the Critical Materials Value Chain**: "What are the main challenges in developing the value chain for critical raw materials in Africa?"

- **Development of Processing and Recycling in Africa**: **"What are your thoughts on the potential for developing processing and recycling industries in Africa? What are the issues related to it?"**

"Analysis of the EU Strategy for CRM as Defined in the CRM Act"

Alignment with Strategic Goals

1. **Assessing Outcomes vs. Objectives**: To what extent do the actual outcomes of the CRM Act align with its intended strategic goals, particularly in securing CRMs and enhancing sustainable practices? Can you comment on the feasibility of these objectives?

2. **African countries's View on the European CRM Strategy**: How does African countries perceive the European strategy on critical materials as outlined in the Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA)? What are the perceived benefits or concerns from African countries's perspective?
3. **Impact of the European CRM Strategy on African countries**: Considering African countries's wealth in natural resources, what impact could the European CRM strategy potentially have on African countries's economy and its mining sector?
4. **EU Support for Africa's Agenda 2063**: "I noticed that one of the flagship projects of Agenda 2063 focuses on commodities. How can the EU's strategy help achieve the goals of Africa's Agenda 2063?"
5. **Challenges from EU Strategy for African countries and Third Countries**: What challenges do you foresee for African countries and other third countries arising from the implementation of the EU's new strategy? How should these countries prepare to address these challenges?
6. **African countries's Role in the Success of the CRM Act**: How significant is African countries's contribution to the success of the Critical Raw Materials Act? Could you elaborate on the specific impacts or influences that African countries has on this legislation?
7. **Risks of Foreign Companies in the Critical Raw Materials Sector**: "What are the potential risks associated with foreign mining and processing companies operating in African countries?"

Strategic Partnerships

Needs and Benefits of Strategic Partnerships for Resource-Rich Countries: In the context of strategic partnerships, what are the critical needs of resource-rich countries? Do you believe such partnerships can significantly contribute to African countries's development? (Joint venture)

Evaluating EU Strategic Partnerships: What is your assessment of the strategic partnerships that have been established between African countries and the EU? What would it change for African countries? How have these partnerships impacted African countries's policy and economic landscape?

Comparative International Offers: How does African countries perceive partnership offers from Europe compared to those from China and the USA? What factors influence African countries's preferences and decisions in international cooperation?

Assessing Mutual Benefits: Would you characterize the strategic partnerships under initiatives like the CRM Act as win-win situations for both the EU and resource-rich countries? Why or why not?

EU's Contributions to the African Continent: "What specific value can the EU bring to the African continent in terms of development, sustainability, and economic growth?"

Refinement of Partnership Details: In your opinion, do the current strategic partnerships with the EU lack any critical details that could enhance their effectiveness? If yes, what specific elements or details would you suggest adding?

Implementation Challenges: "What potential challenges might arise during the strategic partnership's implementation?"

Impact of International Agreements on Local Industry: What has been the impact of international trade agreements and policies on African countries's local mining industry, particularly in terms of technology transfer, investment, and sustainability practices?

Governance Framework

****Governance Risks in Africa****: "What are your perceptions of governance risks in Africa, particularly regarding corruption? For instance, Namibia performs well, but the Congo is one of the lowest ranked."

****Certification Scheme and Strategic Partnerships****

1. How do you evaluate the current definitions and procedures for strategic projects within the CRM Act? Are there specific areas you believe require enhancement or refinement for better effectiveness?

2. ****Certification scheme****: What do you think about the system put in place (certification scheme) to ensure that a strategic project has limited social and environmental impact? Could you discuss any specific challenges, opportunities, or risks that this scheme presents, and suggest potential improvements?

General

****Comparing Sustainability Practices****: Considering environmental, social, and governance factors, how would you compare African countries's sustainability practices to those in EU countries? Additionally, do you believe the EU's new sustainability strategy will influence African countries to place greater emphasis on these aspects?

****EU's High ESG Standards****: What are your thoughts on the EU's strategy of implementing very high Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards? Do you believe this approach could be counterproductive, or does it align with fostering sustainability in third countries like African countries?

****Importance of SDG in African countries**** : How significant are social and environmental considerations in shaping policy and business practices in African countries and other Latin American countries compared to their importance in the EU? Do you believe these factors are prioritized differently in Latin America, and if so, how does this impact development strategies?

Environmental

****Environmental Gaps and EU Strategy Impact****: Can you identify any significant environmental gaps currently present in African countries? How might these gaps be influenced by African countries's partnerships and the strategic initiatives of the EU?

****Valuing Sustainability in EU-Africa Agreements****: "The EU's competitive advantage often lies in the sustainability aspects of its agreements with other countries. Do you think these sustainability commitments are valued by African countries, and do companies operating within these countries adhere to the agreed-upon environmental and social standards?"

****Governance and Compliance Abroad****: Considering the challenges of monitoring and enforcing environmental and social compliance do you think that the EU could help in that regards?

****European Companies' Environmental and Social Impact in Africa****: "How are European companies ensuring they minimize their environmental and societal impacts in Africa? Is it sufficient?"

****Role of the EU in Africa's Sustainable Development****: "How do you view the role of the EU in promoting sustainable development in Africa?"

****Importance of Environmental and Social Dimensions in the Critical Raw Materials Value Chain****: "In the context of developing the critical raw materials value chain, how important are the environmental and social dimensions compared to economic development, which often seems to be the primary focus?"

Social

****Social Gaps and EU Strategy Impact:**** Are there any notable social gaps or issues in African countries that need addressing? In your opinion, will these issues potentially worsen or improve with the influence of EU strategic partnerships?

****Advantages and Disadvantages of Jobs in Critical Materials Sector:**** "What are the benefits and drawbacks of jobs in the critical materials sector for workers and young people in Africa?"

****Critical Raw Materials and Youthful Populations:**** "African countries have some of the youngest populations, with Ethiopia having 48.7% of its population under 18 years old, yet many of these countries also face high poverty rates. How can critical raw materials contribute to alleviating poverty and supporting these young populations?"

Perceptions of Mining, Processing, and Recycling Projects:

****Perceptions of Mining, Processing, and Recycling Projects:**** "How do local communities in African countries perceive mining, processing, and recycling projects? Do you think these perceptions differ from those in EU countries?"

****Perceptions of Indigenous Populations and Local Tribes:**** "How do indigenous populations and local tribes in African countries view mining, processing, and recycling projects? Are their perceptions different from those of communities in the EU?"

****Perceptions of Workers:**** "What are the perceptions of workers in African countries regarding mining, processing, and recycling projects? How do these perceptions compare to those of workers in the EU?"

Circularity

From your perspective, how effectively does the CRM initiative support the implementation and promotion of the principles of circularity, specifically the actions to Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Refurbish, Remanufacture, Repurpose, and Recycle? Please provide examples or areas for improvement if possible. Why is there no mention of rethink, refuse,...

Strategic Vision for African countries's Natural Resources

Considering African countries's rich deposits, what strategic approach would you recommend for maximizing their value sustainably and equitably?

Closing Questions

- Are there any other insights or considerations you think are crucial for my thesis on the EU's CRM strategy? Is there anything else you would like to add that we haven't covered?

- Who else would you recommend I speak with to gain further perspectives on this topic?

Interview guide P24

Introduction: Explain the purpose of the interview and obtain their consent

- **Briefly introduce me and the purpose of the interview/thesis.**

1. **Greeting and personal introduction**

2. **Purpose of the interview**

The focus of my research is to analyze the EU's strategy regarding critical materials, specifically as outlined in the CRM Act. I'm particularly interested in understanding the social and environmental impacts of this legislation. Your extensive experience makes your insights incredibly valuable to my study.

1. **Objective**

My goal is to engage with experts like yourself to explore diverse perspectives on this subject. Through this dialogue, I aim to uncover nuanced understandings that can contribute to recommendations for enhancing the legislation and addressing any potential adverse effects.

- **Explain how the information will be used and ensure confidentiality.**

I want to assure you that all the information shared during our conversation will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. It will be used solely for academic purposes and to enrich the findings of my thesis. I will anonymize any identifiable information in my final document to ensure privacy and confidentiality.

- **Obtain consent to record the interview.**

With your permission, I would like to record our interview. This will help me capture our discussion accurately and focus on our conversation without the need for continuous note-taking. Do you consent to this recording, understanding its purpose and the confidentiality measures in place?

Understanding P24's Professional Journey

- **Introduction and Career Path**: Could you briefly introduce yourself and explain your involvement with Critical Raw Materials and the CRM Act?

"Analysis of the EU Strategy for CRM as Defined in the CRM Act"

Alignment with Strategic Goals

1. **Assessing Outcomes vs. Objectives**: To what extent do the actual outcomes of the CRM Act align with its intended strategic goals, particularly in securing CRMs and enhancing sustainable practices? Are you satisfied with it and can you comment on the feasibility of these objectives?

2. **Are you satisfied with the CRMA and how would you evaluate its effectiveness in term of financing and investment?**

3. **Role of the European Bank in Relation to the CRMA**: **"How do you see the role of the European bank in relation to the CRMA?"**

4. **Assessment of Financing in the CRMA**: **"What do you think about the financing aspects within the CRMA? Would you have liked to see more detailed provisions?"**

5. How do the European bank's initiatives in governance modernization align with the objectives of the CRMA?

6. **Key Issues with CRMA Financing:** "What are the main issues, risks, and challenges related to financing and investment under the CRMA?"

Risks and De-Risk

Main Risks Associated with Strategic Projects: "A lot of people talk about de-risking, but in your opinion, what are the main risks associated with strategic projects in the value chain?"

De-Risking Projects for Financiers: "Do you think enough is being done to de-risk these projects, or will financiers need to change their approach when evaluating investments?"

Key Steps to De-Risk Projects: "What are the key strategies to de-risk projects for investment in the critical raw materials sector?"

CRMA and Issue

Access to Funding Procedures: "How do you foresee the current system for accessing funding? Can you describe the procedure for project approval and subsequent financing?"

Sufficiency of Financial Resources: "Is there enough finance available to meet the needs of the CRMA? For instance, there is talk of needing a €400 billion investment. If the finances are sufficient, what are the issues—is it mainly access to finance?"

Issues with Access to Finance: "Do you see any particular issues related to accessing finance for critical raw materials projects?"

Impact of Lack of Financing on the CRMA: "What could be the impact on the CRMA if there is a lack of financing?"

EU Measures to Address Financing Issues: "The EU has recognized financing and investment as significant issues. Have they taken any effective measures to address these, and are you satisfied with the current efforts?"

Attracting Investors from Outside the EU: "Has the CRMA successfully attracted investors from outside the EU for strategic projects both inside and outside the EU?"

Implementation Challenges: "What potential challenges might arise during the CRM Act's implementation?"

Investment Instrument

Useful Financial Mechanisms for CRMA Goals: "What financial mechanisms do you think could be useful to help achieve the goals of the CRMA and support strategic projects?"

Role of Tax Credits in Strategic Projects: "What would be the role of a tax credits system for both strategic projects and investments? How do you see it working?"

Possibility of a Premium Market: "What do you think about the possibility of establishing a premium market for critical raw materials?"

Best Strategies for EU-Level Financing: "What is the best strategy for EU-level financing in your opinion—sovereignty funds, raw materials banks, state aid guidelines? Is the current system too complex?"

Governance

****Effectiveness of Proposed Sub-Groups**:** "What are your thoughts on the proposed sub-groups to discuss and coordinate financing for strategic projects? Do you think they will be useful, and what do they need to be effective?"

Randoms

****Social and Environmental Risks from Financing Challenges**:** "Do you think the challenges related to financing could lead to potential risks concerning the social and environmental dimensions associated with the CRMA and strategic projects?"

****Investment in Recycling Projects**:** "Do you also invest in recycling projects within the critical raw materials sector?"

****Investment Beyond Strategic Projects**:** "How do you see the role of investment in areas related to strategic projects, such as training programs for skilled workers?"

****Role of the Private Sector in Investment**:** "What is the role of the private sector in terms of investment, and do you think the CRMA provides enough incentives for them to invest? What are the main barriers?"

****Investment Focus on Future vs. Existing Activities**:** "Do you think there is too much focus on future projects at the expense of existing activities along the value chain? For instance, does the downstream industry also need support to cope with energy prices?"

****Public Investment in Strategic Projects**:** "What is the role of public investment in supporting strategic projects and the objectives of the CRMA?"

Strategic partnerships

****Challenges with Strategic Partnerships**:** "What are the issues with investing in strategic partnerships, especially given that China invests directly while the EU appears more cautious?"

Closing Questions

- Based on your experience, what advice would you give to policymakers or researchers focusing on CRMs?

- Are there any other insights or considerations you think are crucial for my thesis on the EU's CRM strategy?

- Is there anything else you would like to add that we haven't covered?

- Who else would you recommend I speak with to gain further perspectives on this topic?

Theoretical Framework vs. Practical Application

1. ****Disparities and Clarity**:** What are the key disparities between the CRM Act's theoretical framework and its practical application, and how might these be addressed to improve real-world outcomes?

2. ****Clarity and Detail Enhancement**:** "Are there sections within the CRM Act that would benefit from more detailed definitions or clarity to improve implementation and effectiveness?" ****Implementation Challenges**:** "What potential challenges might arise during the CRM Act's implementation?"

Compliance and Impact

1. **Compliance Challenges:** What challenges are faced in ensuring compliance with the CRM Act across different EU member states? How can these challenges be overcome?
2. **Broader Impact on Materials:** Given the current focus on CRMs, do you believe there could be an indirect impact on other materials not classified as CRMs?

Certification Scheme and Strategic Partnerships

1. How do you evaluate the current definitions and procedures for strategic projects within the CRM Act? Are there specific areas you believe require enhancement or refinement for better effectiveness?
2. **Mutual Benefits of Strategic Partnerships:** "How do the strategic partnerships in the CRM Act ensure mutual benefits for the EU and third-party countries, especially in terms of social and environmental sustainability?"

Governance Framework

- **Effectiveness of the Governance Framework:** "What are your thoughts on the CRM Act's governance framework, particularly the role of the European Critical Raw Materials Board in guiding the Act's objectives? Are there areas within the governance structure that need strengthening or adjustment?"

Challenges, Opportunities, and Future Outlook

1. **Emerging Dynamics:** Considering the CRM Act's objectives and scope, could you discuss any significant challenges or opportunities that have emerged or are anticipated in the future?
2. **Identifying Gaps:** Where do you see potential gaps within the Act, and what solutions or approaches would you recommend to effectively address these issues?