

## HOLGER BINGMANN

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Ladies and gentlemen, Excellencies, dear friends, it is my absolute pleasure to welcome you here today in Abu Dhabi for this panel. We have our sophisticated experts, and we will discuss a topic that has become such an essential value and necessity in our lives, even though we sometimes do not notice it. I am especially happy that we can meet in-person again, something that we would have taken for granted all our lives or at least two years ago and that was something we expected to continue all our lives. This brings me to the topic of this session, and part of our lifestyle may be the access and the ongoing supply of critical raw materials. They are omnipresent in our daily lives, in the planes that brought us to Abu Dhabi, the cars that drove us to this beautiful venue, the phones that helped us schedule the meeting and that we hold in our hands most of the day and the food we will have later. None of these things would probably exist without critical raw materials and our ongoing access to them. They help us to create the society of today and they are the key to the society we live in and without them, the society of tomorrow in particular, will be impossible to create.

This society of tomorrow that we aspire to live in is a society of climate neutrality, sustainability, ongoing technological achievements in health, mobility, communications, etc., is constantly driven by critical raw materials. As we aim to achieve the climate target goals of the Paris Agreement, we need critical raw materials, like vanadium, for renewable energies, for battery technologies. The European Green Deal will be the guiding principle of European politics for decades to come.

Green parties and parties with a strong focus on climate change, have become a dominant force. Being a German and having had an election last week, I know what I am talking about. Climate focused politics are here to stay in Europe, so the economy and the industry need a constant and secure supply of necessary resources in order to comply with the Green Deal. Beyond energy, an ever-growing global population demands access to the critical raw materials required for the production of fertilizers like phosphate. Advances in communications and mobility demand critical raw materials, as do artificial intelligence, digitalization and whatever; it is always critical raw materials.

This brings us to the question of demand and supply. As global demand is already high and at some point, will skyrocket throughout the coming decades, the question of supply and accessibility arises more than ever. It will be and is already a geopolitical question for the future. The projected increase in demand will likewise increase the dependence on China and other countries beyond the Western hemisphere, sometimes geographically and sometimes politically. The geopolitical relevance behind the topic we are going to discuss today, becomes



very clear. How will the Europeans, the United States and other countries and regions handle the existing and future question of these global supply materials? What political answers are possible? Which new players could potentially completely shift this landscape? What are the risks from a security or economic standpoint associated with US and European efforts to build their own value chains and form the strategic partnerships we need for the future?

To give an answer on these and maybe other questions, I am delighted to introduce three prime experts on this topic. Joining me today is first, Ingvil Smines Tybring-Gjedde, who has served as Norway's Oil and Energy Minister, Minister of Public Security and Minister of Justice and Public Security, who is now a Board member in the Anglo-Norwegian company, Norge Mining. Ingvil will show us how Norway could completely shift the balance of global supply of critical raw materials. Peter Handley, Head of the Energy-Intensive Industries and Raw Materials and Hydrogen in the European Commission will highlight the efforts the European Union is making to respond to the question of supply. David Wurmser, Founder and Executive member of the Delphi Analysis Group and former Senior Advisor to US Vice President Cheney on the Middle East, will present answers the United States could potentially give to the geopolitical dimensions of our topic.