

## DEBATE

**Holger Bingmann, President of the German Section of the International Chamber of Commerce, Honorary Chairman of the German Emirati Joint Council for Industry and Commerce**

We have had the European angle, the American angle and the Norway angle. As an entrepreneur, please let me raise the question of how a European company can compete with a Chinese company in that sector? They will always put pressure on prices, and they use mining methods that we do not like and cannot even accept for the future. How can a company here act in this case?

**Ingvil Smines Tybring-Gjedde, Non-Executive Director at Norge Mining**

I see the Founder of the company in the front row here and I would really like him to elaborate a bit on that question because I think it is really important.

**Michael Wurmser, Founder and Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Norge Mining**

First of all, sitting on a reserve of this magnitude, we are talking about a phosphate rock which is the largest in the world, it bears a lot of responsibility. As it says, this is all about global governance, corporate governance, so the responsibility of a company lies quite heavy. That means not only looking into supply chains but also being mindful of green mining. We talk about pre-transition from fossil into renewable energy and that not only means taking stuff out of the ground that is instrumental in the change but also the way you do it. As a company, we think responsibly and following the ESG rules is in our DNA. Having said that, you must picture Europe, in its car industries, has said that by 2030 it will only product electric cars. The United States have said that by 2030 50% of the cars produced will be battery cars. Two weeks ago, in Japan, Toyota announced that they will invest USD 16 billion into developing batteries, etc. The whole world is turning to batteries, and you can produce billions of them but how do you fill them, with what kind of materials and where do the materials come from? Materials will be scarce, and it will be difficult to supply these huge quantities for these batteries that are going to be produced and this creates a lot of responsibility. If you are a company sitting on these kinds of critical raw materials, you must be extremely careful and mindful when you take them out of the ground. The ESG rules, the SDG rules, provide a very good framework for that.

Speaking about China and Europe, China is clearly dominant in the supply of critical raw materials, and nobody wants to be dependent on one supplier because this one supplier can play politics and whatever way it wants. For Europe, but also the Western world in general, that means we must try to be independent. I am not talking about going against China, which

is stupid, it is just as a competitor in this sector. As a reliable and mindful supplier, following the ESG rules, in the middle of Europe, I think we can play an important role in securing supplies of critical raw materials, but also being a player and influencer as a powerful force behind the change from fossil into renewable energy.

### **Holger Bingmann**

Thank you very much for these insights. I would love to continue discussing this but since I know that at least one of our guests has to continue to the next panel, would you each give us a 30-second conclusion.

### **Peter Handley, Head of the Energy-Intensive Industries and Raw Materials Unit in the European Commission's Directorate-General for Growth**

It is very much linked with the next subject, energy and climate and how you decarbonize industry and use hydrogen in a clean way, because all these technologies depend on raw materials. Even the whole digitalization, and we have heard a lot of panels about digital, at the end of the day it is machines, wires, satellites. It is stuff, so it is not dematerialized, and it is growing. There is a risk of competition between green and digital for access to the materials.

### **Ingvil Smines Tybring-Gjedde**

I just wanted to add that as a former politician and now in business with Norge Mining, I really want to mention the way everybody says, not in my backyard. We have a moral and ethical responsibility to do something about it and to do this together and see how we can progress the use of CRMs in the whole world. How we do that is really important and, in a way Norge Mining has stopped oil another time because this is really the new industrial importance of Norway, to continue to be a resource contributor to the world. However, we need help, and we need politicians who dare to say, yes, mining is a green solution for the energy transition and green batteries. Without CRMs we will not have the future we would really like. We need politicians who dare to go out and say this is something we want. We also need regulations and to take responsibility for what we are actually doing. About the situation in Norway, it is a beautiful area, and it is really devastating to think that we are going to dig a hole in it, but we need to do this for the greater good.

### **Holger Bingmann**

Please, let us keep that picture of dirty coalmining out of our heads, this is not the way we want mining to be.

### **David Wurmser, Founder and Executive member of the Delphi Global Analysis Group, former Senior Advisor to the US Vice President on Middle East**

When the documents I mentioned were formulated, they were not just a national strategy, they formed the basis of cooperation between the Executive branch in the United States and Congress to enact a whole series of legislations, including reorganize our Defense Department, etc. When you set up this national strategy and deal with these issues of critical raw materials and rare earth materials, etc., it unleashes a whole series of legislative efforts in the United States that can then govern the supply and purchase of raw materials globally, to



favor proper and responsible suppliers. In the United States, we are so obsessed with our sovereignty that it is very difficult to even raise the term global governance; you will usually get an allergic reaction. However, there are equivalent ways to establish the same thing inside the United States through regulations that come from these national strategic documents, which are ultimately based on values, which is why I raised the values. I think you start with that and you get the entire structure of the US government, including the legal and legislative structures in line and then really strangles business from doing improper and immoral things based on those values.

### **Holger Bingmann**

Thank you very much. I would love everyone to think in the next few days about where critical raw materials are part of their lives. You would not believe how frequently during the day you encounter them. Let us make them available as long as we want to have them and not let other people deprive us of them. Thank you very much.