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**RUSSIA IS CONCERNED BY US, EU RARE EARTH ACTIVITY IN CENTRAL ASIA, MEDIA REPORTS**

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Reuters (20 May 2026)

*Russia is concerned by U.S. and European Union efforts to secure access to rare earths critical minerals in Central Asia, Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Galuzin told Izvestia newspaper.*

In an attempt to diversify from China, which dominates rare earths supply chains vital technologies such as electric vehicles, renewable and defence systems, the G7 nations, including U.S. and EU, have been exploring alternative and support tools to reduce their dependence on Beijing.

Russia the resource-rich Central Asian nations - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan - its sphere of interest at a time when has also been increasingly turning its attention to the region.

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