International Seabed Authority (ISA): towards exploitation - state of play and EU involvement

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The International Seabed Authority (ISA): towards exploitation – state of play and EU involvement

• What is the International Seabed Authority?
• What is the European involvement in deep-sea mining?
• In the ISA structure - what does the Legal and Technical Commission do?
• Transparency and the ISA
• Environmental issues and the development of draft exploitation regulations
European representation at the International Seabed Authority

**Council**
- Czech Republic
- France
- Germany
- Italy
- Poland
- Spain
- UK
- Norway

**Legal Tech Comm**
- France
- Germany
- Italy
- The Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Spain
- UK
- Norway
Number of Contractors to the ISA

Cumulative Number of contractors

1.2 million km² licensed for exploration
European Contractors to the ISA

- **Polymetallic nodules**
  - InterOceanMetal (IOM), France, Germany, Belgium,
  - UK 1 and 2, Singapore (with UK as minor stakeholder)

- **Polymetallic sulphides**
  - France, Germany

- **Cobalt-rich Crusts**
Actions of the ISA Legal and Technical Commission (LTC)

- Assessment of applications for exploration
- Review annual reports
- Recommendations for the guidance of contractors on baseline studies (ISBA/19/LTC/8)
- Strategic Environmental Management Plans
- Development of new regulations for the exploitation of marine minerals
- Closed and Open Meetings of the LTC
Towards the Development of a Regulatory Framework for Polymetallic Nodule Exploitation in the Area

Technical Study: No. 11

ISA Stakeholder Consultations 2014 and 2015

Responses published on the web

(long but worthwhile read)

Industry, Government Regulators, NGOs, Scientific groups, Individuals
Current environmental issues in the draft exploitation regulations

- Definitions – VMEs and ‘serious harm’
- Adaptive management
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
- Content of Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan (EMMP) (including closure plan)
- Regional Environmental Management Plan (REMP)
- Assessment of SEA, EIS, EMMP and REMP
- Environmental bonds, insurances, compliance
- Seabed Sustainability Fund