

DEEP-SEA MINING FACTS

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It adds to geopolitical stress.

Deep-sea mining does not offer a [shortcut to mineral security](#). There is currently **no proven end-to-end industrial supply chain for turning seabed minerals into usable metals at commercial scale**. Developing processing, refining and downstream capacity would take many years. Any deep-sea minerals would therefore have to plug into **existing global mineral value chains**, rather than create new, independent ones. Deep-sea mining would risk creating [a new arena of geopolitical competition](#) in which existing industrial advantages are reinforced, rather than rebalanced.

So don't be fooled when the pro-mining lobby says:

"Deep-sea mining will reduce dependence on foreign suppliers of critical minerals."



Want to know the truth?



With [sufficient land-based reserves](#) and [overhyped high-demand projections](#), deep-sea mining is too speculative and unproven to change mineral supply chains. These risks are compounded by **regulatory gaps**. If countries like the U.S. pursue mining [outside the globally recognised International Seabed Authority](#), it would trigger a **"wild west"** scenario, escalating tensions instead of protecting the international principle of the [common heritage of humankind](#). Political pressure to rush an ISA Mining Code under this **race to the bottom** would lock in a weak rulebook difficult to reverse, making governance failures and geopolitical imbalances structural and long-lasting rather than temporary.

True strategic autonomy is achieved by...



...reducing overall dependence on raw materials through [recycling, material substitution, domestic processing and demand reduction](#). These measures **strengthen resilience** and cut exposure to supply shocks and align with climate and biodiversity goals.