

To: [REDACTED] GROW); [REDACTED] GROW)  
Cc: [REDACTED] (GROW)  
Subject: Raw Materials in International waters - Meeting report 25 November

#### Meeting between DEME Group and GROW C2 Unit

25 November 2020

DEME Group: [REDACTED] Global Sea Mineral Resources NV (GSR) and [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] DEME Concessions

DG GROW C2: [REDACTED]

GROW C2 Unit met DEME Group representatives on the request of the second, to discuss the potential of deep-sea mining to supply critical raw materials in the future.

DEME group representatives:

- Introduced the group and explained they hold several concessions, including in the deep-sea, sponsored by the Belgium state, from which have policy support as well. DEME group permit is in the CCZ, where France and Germany also hold permits.
- Clarified that only a small area out of the entire permit has economic relevance.
- Informed that they were part of the consortium of several R&I RU funded projects since 2012 (Blue mining and Blue Nodules), they are members of ERMA and of the Battery Alliance.
- Stressed that the shift to a carbon-neutral economy and urbanization will be drivers to increase raw materials demand and recycling will not meet the demand;
- Explained they have a focus on Mn, Co, Ni and Mo and their goal is contributing to supply from 2030, contributing both to mitigate environmental footprint of raw materials and security of supply.
- Explained that underwater technology for deep-sea operations developed a lot over the past 8 years and step by step will need to be tested in situ;
- Stressed that it is important including deep-sea mining in the ERMA's strategic vision for long term 2030 and 2050;
- Explained the importance of evidence-based decision making and said that a moratorium is not the right tool for addressing deep-sea mining challenges.
- Informed about ongoing studies comparing the environmental footprint of land-based mining with deep-sea mining

DEME explained that India is developing and will do a test in a few months. Japanese are preparing tests on Co-rich crusts still for 2020. China is doing tests at 500m depth and wants to partner with advanced technologic countries in view of doing the processing of the ores in China. China is advancing in their own EEZ. South Korea also carried some tests. Norway holds a significant potential on deep-sea minerals. Italy and UK also have an interest on the sector. In the context of ISA, standards and guidelines are being developed and royalty fees are being negotiated.

DEME said that next steps include looking at a business case for deep-sea mining. The Group has the ambition of getting deep-sea mining in the agenda in the future. There is no need for funding in short term but needs going into the strategic vision for the future.

DEME will send a series of published documents about deep-sea mining.

DG GROW took note of the information provided by DEME.



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