[redacted] (GROW)

To: COZIGOU Gwenole (GROW); [redacted] (GROW); [redacted] (GROW); [redacted] (GROW); [redacted] (GROW); [redacted] (GROW)

Cc: [redacted] (GROW); [redacted] (GROW)

Subject: Meeting with Royal IHC 16/01/2019 - Flash report

Meeting Royal IHC
Date: 2019-01-16

Participants

Royal IHC

- [redacted] Marine Mining Consultancy;
- [redacted] R&D
- [redacted]

DG GROW.C

- Gwenole Cozigou
- [redacted]

Objective of the meeting

Royal IHC requested a meeting to present their views on the future strategies for raw materials, with a particular focus on deep-sea mining.

Discussion

- Royal IHC introduced the company. IHC is not a mining company but an equipment producer. IHC produces maritime vessels and equipment and develops services for off-shore extraction, mostly dragging and mineral processing equipment. It's been 10 years IHC started to develop technology for deep-sea mining. IHC became a member of the EIT Raw Materials recently.
- Royal IHC has been involved in several deep-sea mining R&D projects: MIDAS FP7, Blue Mining FP7 and Blue Nodules H2020. While in Blue mining IHC was Work package leader in Blue Nodules is the project coordinator.
- IHC clarified that the company's goal is to develop the technology for deep-sea mining with the least environmental impact.
- IHC pointed out the potential of deep-sea mining to contribute to fulfil the demand on certain raw materials, particularly driven by the electric mobility. That is the case of nickel and cobalt, in particular. IHC advocated that the polymetallic nodules could be extracted in the deep-sea, processed *in-loco* and sent to Europe for metallurgy. While Poland is advancing on the metallurgy of the polymetallic nodules, Norway could be a good solution for metallurgic possessing, due to the low energy costs and ensuring at the same time a low carbon footprint.
- IHC advocated the EU should continue to fund deep sea mining projects in Horizon Europe. It would be particularly important to scale up funding to support a pilot action in the deep-sea, to bring together the main MS with deep-sea mining capacities and interests along the entire value chain. That would allow to test equipment and progress on environmental impacts mitigation and monitoring systems. This support would be relevant to keep the competitiveness of the EU vis-a-vis our competitors, in particular China. China is building its own technological capacity for deep-sea mining, including via the acquisition of EU companies. This was the case of the Soil Machine Dynamics Ltd (SMD), based in the UK. Chinese also showed an interest in IHC.
- From the Commission side it was conveyed that we consider deep-sea important and a potential source for certain raw materials but potential environmental impacts have to be properly managed. In any case it is too premature to say what will be funded under Horizon Europe. We are still in the process of defining the priorities and designing Horizon Europe.

[redacted]
Mining and Minerals

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