



Council of the
European Union

**Brussels, 6 December 2022
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ADD 1**

**POLMAR 76
POLGEN 155
CONUN 302
COMAR 58
MARE 68
MAR 218
TRANS 742
ENER 633
ENV 1208
SUSTDEV 205
PECHE 478**

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: Draft Council conclusions on International Ocean Governance
- Statement by Spain

Delegations will find in the Annex a statement by Spain on the draft Council conclusions on International Ocean Governance, to be added to the minutes of Coreper and Council.

Statement by Spain

Council conclusions on International Ocean Governance

1. Spain appreciates the efforts of the Presidency in reaching a consensus text, and is satisfied, in general terms, with the outcome of the Council Conclusions on International Ocean Governance.
2. However, we would like to point out that one of the subjects of the circulated text, that of deep sea mining, does not meet the expectations that our country had, and even lower the ambition set out in the European Union's Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and in the subsequent Council Conclusions on Biodiversity, adopted in October 2020.
3. Under the "precautionary principle", our country has been calling for this issue to be reflected in the text. Thus, we have been in favour of making explicit the need to ensure that there is no deep sea mining until the effects of deep sea mining on the marine environment, biodiversity and human activities have been sufficiently researched, the risks are understood and the technologies and operational practices can demonstrate that the environment is not seriously damaged, and sufficient environmental measures and safeguards are in place to ensure the protection of marine ecosystems and biodiversity.
4. We therefore call on EU countries to pursue this level of ambition in the various fora where underwater mining is being addressed, and in particular in the ongoing negotiations in the International Seabed Authority.

Statement by Spain

Council conclusions on International Ocean Governance

1. Spain appreciates the Presidency's efforts to reach a consensus text and is generally satisfied with the outcome of the Council conclusions on International Ocean Governance.

2. However, we wish to point out that with regard to one of the subjects of the circulated text, deep-sea mining, Spain's expectations have not been met, and the level of ambition has even been lowered from that set out in the EU's Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and the subsequent Council conclusions on Biodiversity adopted in October 2020.
3. In accordance with the 'precautionary principle', Spain has been calling for this issue to be reflected in the text. We are in favour of making explicit the need to ensure that no deep-sea mining takes place until its effects on the marine environment, biodiversity and human activities have been sufficiently researched, the risks are understood, and the technologies and operational practices can demonstrate that the environment is not seriously damaged, and sufficient environmental measures and safeguards are in place to ensure the protection of marine ecosystems and biodiversity.
4. We therefore call on EU countries to pursue this level of ambition in the various fora in which underwater mining is being addressed, and in particular in the ongoing negotiations in the International Seabed Authority.
