

Legal regulation of seabed mining beyond national jurisdiction

Abstract

The thesis will focus on the issues surrounding the proposed Mining Code, particularly in the context of protecting the marine environment. Since the Czech Republic is a member of the Interoceanmetal Joint Organization (IOM), whose activities are directly related to the planned seabed mining, I will also address the impacts that the adoption or rejection of the proposed Mining Code will have on this organization. The thesis will draw on insights from personal interviews with the director, deputy director, and environmental specialist of IOM, which will allow for a deeper understanding of the practical aspects and challenges associated with the planned mining operations.

A key aspect of the thesis will be the analysis of the application of the precautionary principle, which is crucial in the context of seabed mining. This principle requires that any industrial activity on the seabed should only be initiated if there is sufficient knowledge of its potential environmental impacts. Given that knowledge of deep-sea ecosystems is still limited, it is essential to assess whether the proposed Mining Code adequately reflects the need to protect these sensitive areas from the negative effects of mining.

The thesis will aim to answer three key questions: Is the proposed Mining Code designed to sufficiently incorporate the precautionary principle and ensure the protection of deep-sea ecosystems? Would the approval of the current draft of the Mining Code prevent the risks of mining, which could have devastating effects on deep-sea ecosystems if conducted outside any legal framework? What will be the specific impacts of the adoption or rejection of the Mining Code on the Interoceanmetal Joint Organization?

Answering these questions will contribute to a better understanding of the current state of seabed mining and to the identification of measures necessary to ensure the protection of the marine environment, which is crucial not only for the Czech Republic but also for global ecological and legal frameworks.

Key words:

Mining. Seabed. The Area.