



Royal Norwegian Embassy
His Excellency Trolle Andersen
Giacomettistrasse 1
3006 Bern

Zurich, 29 September 2023

Stop Deep Sea Mining

Dear Mr Ambassador

Deep sea mining is a nascent, highly-destructive extractive industry that is on the cusp of launching into the global oceans. We now face a once in a generation opportunity to stop an industry from gaining a foothold and ravaging one of the last biodiverse boundaries – the ocean floor, covering over half the surface of the planet.

In Oslo, early this week, Greenpeace Nordic activists confronted Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre with a giant purple octopus. This is a part of a protest against the Norwegian government's recent proposal to open up a huge area in the Arctic to deep sea mining.

By opening for deep sea mining in the Arctic, the Norwegian government disregards grave warnings from its own Environmental Agency. A broad scientific community and companies in Norway and globally, have warned against deep sea mining. Furthermore, 21 countries are speaking out against deep sea mining and calling for a ban or a moratorium – such as Switzerland, France, Germany, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Fiji, Palau, Samoa and Vanuatu.

As a member and the co-chair of the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy, Norway has committed to «protect and restore the health of our ocean», to manage the ocean «100% sustainably», and to «secure ocean health and wealth for future generations». Deep sea mining stands in contradiction to these and other core principles of the Ocean Panel.

Norway still has the opportunity to reconsider the plans. It is time to listen to science and stop deep sea mining.

With sincere respect

Iris Menn
Executive Director of Greenpeace Switzerland, Marine Biologist