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ALMA MATER STUDIORUM UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA | DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE GIURIDICHE

FONDAZIONE FLAMINIA PER L'UNIVERSITÀ IN ROMAGNA

DSG 2023-2027 DIPARTIMENTO DI ECCELLENZA MUR

Ravenna Conference on Critical Minerals

Looking for Resilient and Responsible Supply Chains for Critical Minerals: The Contribution of International Economic Law

Thursday 19 November 2026 h. 09:00 – 17:00
Aula Magna, School of Law, *Alma Mater Studiorum* - Università di Bologna
Via Oberdan 1, Ravenna

Scientific Committee:	**Elisa Baroncini, Isha Das, Ilaria Espa, Lukasz Gruszczynski, Sunayana Sasmal**
Secretariat:	*Giulio Siepi*

Opening Greetings

h. 09:00 – 09:30

Prof. Federico Casolari	Director of the Department of Legal Studies (*Alma Mater Studiorum* - Università di Bologna)
Prof. Enrico Al Mureden	Director of the Organisational Unit (UOS) Ravenna of the Department of Legal Studies (*Alma Mater Studiorum* - Università di Bologna)
Prof. Corrado Caruso	Director of the Single Cycle Degree in Law, Ravenna Campus (*Alma Mater Studiorum* - Università di Bologna)

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Presentation of the IEL Critical Minerals Research Project

h. 09:30 – 09:45

Elisa Baroncini (*Alma Mater Studiorum* - Università di Bologna)

Isha Das (Universität Passau)

Ilaria Espa (Università della Svizzera Italiana, World Trade Institute (WTI) - University of Bern)

Lukasz Gruszczynski (Kozminski University - Warsaw, ELTE CSS)

Sunayana Sasmal (University of Sussex Business School)

The Italian Strategy on Critical Raw Materials – Actions Implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security

h. 09:45 – 10:00

Nunzia Bernardo (Policy Advisor – Senior Expert on Energy and Environment at the Minister's Technical Secretariat – Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security) *(online)*

Session One

h. 10:00 – 11:40

Critical Minerals and International Trade Law: the WTO, and the EU, US and China's Approaches

Chair: Giulio Peroni, Università degli Studi di Milano

Critical Minerals in the WTO System and Beyond: From China – Raw Materials to the US Initiative for a Plurilateral Agreement on Trade in Critical Minerals (**Elisa Baroncini**, *Alma Mater Studiorum* - Università di Bologna)

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Some Reflections on the Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA) in the Framework of the European Union's Most Recent Growth Strategies: Can the CRMA Still "Solidify" the Strategic Autonomy of the Union?	(**Celeste Pesce**, Università degli Studi di Bari Aldo Moro) *(online)*
Critical Minerals, New Trade Arrangements, and Development: Rethinking Supply Chains for the Energy Transition	(**Ilaria Espa**, Università della Svizzera Italiana, World Trade Institute (WTI) - University of Bern; **Swati Sharma**, Independent Economic Policy Consultant)
Different Means, Same Ends: A Comparative Analysis of US and EU Critical Minerals Strategies	(**Lukasz Gruszczynski**, Kozminski University - Warsaw, ELTE CSS; **Marcin Menkes**, Warsaw School of Economics, Vrije Universiteit Brussel)
Between Rule-Taker and Rule-Shaper: China's Multifaceted Responses to the Critical Minerals–Supply Chain Nexus	(**Wenhua Ji**, University of International Business and Economics, China) *(online)*

Coffee Break · h. 11:40 – 12:00

Session Two

h. 12:00 – 13:00

Critical Minerals and National/Economic Security

Chair: Ilaria Espa, Università della Svizzera Italiana, World Trade Institute (WTI)

What's in a Name? Critical Minerals Supply Chains and the Rise of Economic Security in International Investment Law	(**Nicolette Butler**, University of Manchester; **Isha Das**, Universität Passau)

Back to the Future? Security, Commodity Governance, and Supply-Chain Security in Critical Minerals	(**Sunayana Sasmal**, University of Sussex Business School)
Critical Raw Materials and the Proposed Industrial Accelerator Act: Aligning EU Trade and Industrial Policy under a 'Made in EU' Approach to Manufacturing	(**Diana Wade**, Deloitte Legal)

Lunch Break · h. 13:00 – 14:30

Session Three

h. 14:30 – 16:00

Critical Minerals Frontiers and Sustainable Mining Funding

Chair: Lukasz Gruszczynski, Kozminski University - Warsaw, ELTE CSS

Mining the Final Frontier: The Legal Challenges of Mining Critical Minerals in Space	(**Rodrigo Polanco**, World Trade Institute (WTI) - University of Bern, Swiss Institute of Comparative Law; **Merve Erdem Burger**, Independent Space Law & Policy Consultant, co-founder of the Swiss Space Law Forum) *(online)*
Suing the Steward of the Common Heritage of Humankind: Critical Minerals, Corporate Claimants, and the Asymmetry of Accountability in the Area	(**Tibisay Morgandi**, Queen Mary University of London; **Lena Raxter**, American University, Washington College of Law) *(online)*
State and Market in Global Economic Governance: The Case of Critical Minerals Agreements	(**Lorenzo Cotula**, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), Durham Law School) *(online)*

Critical Raw Materials and International Financial Law: Between Economic Cooperation and Strategic Autonomy

(**Giulio Peroni**, Università degli Studi di Milano)

Conclusions

h. 16:00 – 16:30

The Scientific Committee of the IEL Critical Minerals Research Project