Article 2(4)(b)(ii) should read as follows:

"The accidental release of harmful substances directly arising from the exploration, exploitation and associated off-shore processing of sea-bed mineral resources, provided that all reasonable precautions are taken."

Explanation

The purpose of this proposal is to prevent the pollution which results from deliberate neglect and the failure to take precautions, for such is the logical consequence of a desire to economise expenditure on the part of companies that specialise in this kind of activity.

The amendment thus aims at requiring those companies to employ up-to-date equipment, even if costly, and an experienced staff, conscious of its responsibilities, subject to penalties in the event of any breach.