



Note

Legal Affairs Directorate

MinBuza-2013.274797

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Russian Federation and wishes to inform the Embassy as follows.

On 27 September 2013, the Russian Investigative Committee, by communication of its Investigative Directorate of the North-Western Federal District in St. Petersburg, informed the Consulate-General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in St. Petersburg that, from 28 September 2013 to 2 October 2013, officials of the Investigative Committee would conduct investigations on board of the "Arctic Sunrise", a vessel flying the flag of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, as part of criminal investigations in case Nr. 83543. It was suggested that a representative of the Consulate-General be present during these investigations.

In response to this communication, the Kingdom of the Netherlands informed the Embassy of the Russian Federation in The Hague on 27 September 2013 (DEU-0749/2013) that, pending the receipt of information requested in its Notes of 23 September 2013 (DEU-0725/2013) and 26 September 2013 (DEU-735/2013) and the consideration of this information by the Netherlands, the Netherlands was not in a position to consider the matter addressed in the communication, and noted that boarding and investigation of the "Arctic Sunrise" in the present circumstances is subject to the consent of the Netherlands.

On 28 September 2013, Greenpeace International informed the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs that officials of the Russian Federation have subsequently boarded and investigated the "Arctic Sunrise". Since the Russian Federation has not obtained the prior consent of the Netherlands, the Netherlands formally lodges its protest over the boarding and investigation of the "Arctic Sunrise" that commenced on 28 September 2013.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the Russian Federation the assurances of its highest consideration.

The Hague, 29 September 2013

The Embassy of the Russian Federation

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