

**TO THE EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF THE
NETHERLANDS**
Moscow

No. 4642/1едн [edn]

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the Russian Federation and has the honour to inform the Embassy as follows concerning the situation with regard to the Dutch-flagged vessel *Arctic Sunrise* which was seized by the Committee of Investigation of the Russian Federation in connection with criminal case no. 83543 concerning the attack on the offshore ice-resistant platform *Prirazlomnaya* in the Barents Sea.

Although the prosecution of all 30 crew members of the vessel *Arctic Sunrise* has been halted in accordance with paragraph 6 of Resolution no. 3500-6 ГД [GD] of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation of 18 December 2013 'On the proclamation of an amnesty on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Constitution of the Russian Federation', the investigation into this criminal case is continuing in order to establish all the circumstances under which the criminal offence was committed.

Since most of the investigative steps and other procedural steps in the criminal case have been completed, the Russian side is now considering the possibility of taking a decision on transferring custody of the vessel to representatives of the owner.



However, this will be possible only if written guarantees are forthcoming from the Dutch side on the basis of which representatives of investigative authorities and other competent authorities are given unhindered access at all times to the vessel *Arctic Sunrise* outside the territory of the Russian Federation, without having to resort to international legal assistance procedures, should the need arise to take any further investigative steps or procedural steps.

The Ministry requests the Embassy to bring this information to the attention of the competent authorities of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and to inform the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation of the response from the Dutch side.

The Ministry avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy the assurances of its highest consideration.

Moscow, 16 May 2014

[stamp:] Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation * no. 1

=====End of translation=====

This is to certify that the above is a true translation of the sworn translation into Dutch of the original Russian document.

L.J. van Foreest-Blood, sworn translator, registered under no. 2001 with Bureau WBTV (Bureau for Sworn Interpreters and Translators) of the Dutch Legal Aid Council

