



The Hague, 23 September 2013

Europe Department
DEU-0725/2013

DUPLICATE

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Russian Federation and wishes to raise the following matter with the Embassy:

The Netherlands' Government has learned that on Thursday, September 19, 2013, Russian officials boarded the Dutch flagged vessel "Arctic Sunrise". It also learned that these officials have taken over command of the vessel and that the "Arctic Sunrise" is currently taken to Murmansk.

In order to ascertain the factual circumstances of these actions of the Russian Federation, the Ministry would appreciate information by the Russian Federation of these actions and answers to the following questions by Monday September 23, 2013:

- Why did the Russian authorities decide to board the "Arctic Sunrise" on Thursday, September 19, 2013;
- Why was the Netherlands, as flag state of the "Arctic Sunrise", not asked for its consent to board the vessel;
- What are the exact coordinates of the location where the Arctic Sunrise was boarded;
- Has the "Arctic Sunrise" been arrested or detained;
- Has the crew been arrested, or committed to prison or to custody pending trial or detained in any other manner;
- What are the nationalities of the individual members of the crew;
- What is the legal justification of the decision of the Russian authorities to board, arrest and detain the "Arctic Sunrise" and to arrest or detain in any other manner its crew;
- Have the Russian authorities considered alternative, less extreme measures?

The Ministry wishes to underline the importance that vessel and its crew are released by the Russian authorities immediately.

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

The Embassy of the Russian Federation
Scheveningseweg 2
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