



PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE
PETRO POROSHENKO
Official website

Russia is opposed to the whole world, blocking the freedom of navigation in the Ukrainian territorial waters - President in the interview to Fox News

8 December 2018 - 11:46



"I want to convey absolutely clear information. Ukrainian merchant ships, Ukrainian naval forces operate in accordance with international law," President Petro Poroshenko said in an interview to Fox News.

The President stressed that Ukraine is acting in the framework of the UN Convention on freedom of navigation, as well as the bilateral Ukrainian-Russian agreement, which specifies the special status of the Kerch Strait and the Sea of Azov. "And this is the Ukrainian and Russian waters - both the Kerch Strait and the Sea of Azov," he said.

The President noted that Ukrainian military vessels, in the framework of international agreements, does not have to make a request or ask for any other form of approval from the Russian Federation.

He also stressed that all Russian companies working in the Kerch Strait are in the US and EU sanctions lists and cooperation with them is not legal. "In this situation, Russia is opposed to the whole world. Russia is blocking the freedom of navigation in the Ukrainian territorial waters," he stressed.

According to the President, in this situation it is necessary to have a scenario how to restore freedom of navigation and stop the illegal occupation of the Kerch Strait and the Sea of Azov.

The President recalled that Ukraine has two ports in the Sea of Azov in Mariupol and Berdiansk, through which 40% of our exports of steel industry goes. He noted that the blockade, the occupation of the Azov Sea has significant economic consequences. "We cannot accept this - either we, or the European Union," Petro Poroshenko said, adding that this is also related to the United States. He noted that the passage through the Kerch Strait was also blocked for vessels flying the flags of the EU.

"In this situation Russian vessels should be banned from entering European and American ports," Petro Poroshenko said.

The Head of State stressed that Ukraine is ready to coordinate actions with its partners in this matter.