STATEMENT

by the Spokesperson on the arrest in international waters and detention of a Lithuanian vessel by authorities of the Russian Federation

"We are concerned by the forced apprehension of the Lithuanian fishing vessel "Jūros Vilkas" by Russian border guards in high seas waters of the Barents Sea on 18 September, the subsequent detention of the vessel and its crew, as well as its forceful towing to Russian territory.

The European Union calls on Russia to respect its international obligations and to immediately release the vessel. The EU also calls on Russia to refrain from any action in contravention of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea vis-à-vis fishing vessels flying the flag of a Member State of the EU.

The matter has been raised with the Russian Ambassador to the EU."

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