



LATVIJAS REPUBLIKAS ĀRLIETU MINISTRIJA

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA

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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia presents its compliments to the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Riga and has the honor to draw the latter's attention to the fact of unacceptable interference of the Norwegian authorities with legitimate fishing activities of Latvian vessels in the waters around Svalbard pursuant to the Treaty of Paris of 1920.

On 16 January 2017 Latvian fishing vessel "SENATOR" was detained in Svalbard waters (geographic coordinates 75°17'N, 36°45'E) by the Norwegian Coast Guard and was ordered to remove all fishing gears and to proceed to the Norwegian port of Kirkenes for further clarification. The aforementioned vessel was granted a license to fish for snow crab (license No 2017D3426) in the sea areas around Svalbard issued by the competent authority of the Republic of Latvia on the basis of a respective Regulation adopted by the Council of the European Union. The Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs was informed about this fact by the European Commission Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries on 22 December 2016.

In this light the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would like to reiterate the consistent position of the European Union and its Member States on the status of the archipelago of Svalbard pursuant to the Treaty of Paris of 1920 with regard to fisheries, the applicability of the relevant provisions of the said Treaty to fishing activities within the territorial sea, the continental shelf and the Fisheries Protection Zone around Svalbard, and the conditions and limits placed upon Norway's entitlement within these maritime zones under the said Treaty.

On this basis, the Ministry invites the Norwegian authorities to ensure prompt release of the fishing vessel and its crew, and to request authorities charged with at-sea controls and enforcement to desist from interfering with legitimate fishing activities conducted by Latvian vessels within the maritime zones around Svalbard.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Riga the assurances of its highest consideration.

Riga, 18 January 2017

**Royal Norwegian Embassy in Riga**

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