



ROYAL NORWEGIAN
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Republic of Latvia and has the honour to refer to EU Council Regulation 2018/120, published in the EU Official Journal 31.01.18, fixing for 2018 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters. Further, the Ministry refers to oral confirmation from the Ministry of Agriculture of Latvia to the Embassy of Norway in Riga, that Latvia has issued licenses for 2018 to vessels flying the flag of Latvia for catching snow crab on Norway's continental shelf, without Norway's consent.

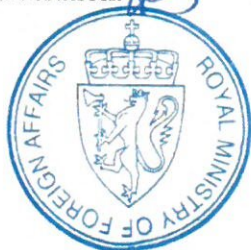
The Ministry refers to the note verbale dated 8 February 2017 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway to the Embassy of Latvia and the note verbale dated 30 December 2017 from Norway to the EU, enclosed for easy reference.

Considering the notes verbale mentioned above, as well as other communication between representatives of our countries, the Ministry is astonished that Latvia again issues licenses contrary to international law. The licensing constitutes an internationally wrongful act.

Norway considers illegal licensing of exploration or exploitation of natural resources on the Norwegian continental shelf to be a very serious matter. Norway calls on Latvia to refrain from this, and to recall any such licences that it may have issued. Norway considers any licence issued without its consent to be without legal effect.

The Ministry recalls that harvesting of snow crab on the Norwegian continental shelf is prohibited by regulation No. 1836 of 19 December 2014, with later amendments. Norway will continue to enforce, including by arrest and prosecution, applicable regulations in a consistent and predictable manner, in accordance with international law.

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



Oslo, 15 February 2018

Embassy of the Republic of Latvia
OSLO