



Brussels, November 29th 2018

On the 25th of November, a Russian ship forcefully prevented three Ukrainian military ships from sailing through the Kerch strait. Both the ships and crew were seized, while two crewmembers have since been detained in Russia for a period of sixty days.

This incident does not stand alone but comes on top of the illegal annexation of Crimea, continued financial and military support for the fighting in Donetsk and Luhansk as well as support for and recognition of the illegal elections held in those areas and the building of a bridge over the Kerch strait.

The developments that took place this weekend should be seen as part of a wider strategy to escalate and fuel tensions between Russia and Crimea, a flagrant and provocative violation of international rules and agreements and a direct threat to our own peace and security.

Putin's aggression cannot be left unanswered. We, the undersigned members of the European Parliament therefore call on High-Representative Mogherini and all European government leaders to impose targeted sanctions against Russia. Europe can and must not let itself be sidelined while President Putin slowly but steadily chips away at the foundation of the rules-based international order.

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27. Mary Honeyball (S&D)
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