

**United States Mission to the OSCE**



**On Provocations on the EU border between  
Estonia and Russia**

As delivered by Acting Deputy Chief of Mission Tracey Newell  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
May 30, 2024

Russia's May 23rd unilateral removal of buoys on the Narva River marking its agreed boundary with Estonia is unacceptable. Russia's latest action is yet another indication the Kremlin considers the principles of respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the inviolability of frontiers to be open to its unilateral interpretation. They are not.

The United States stands with Estonia in denouncing Russia's action. Estonia's borders are NATO borders. Actions that undermine the certainty they give to our collective security are a concern of all NATO Allies, including the United States.

This activity appears intended to provoke a NATO Ally and advance the Kremlin's false narratives on the defensive Alliance. Moscow's irredentist agenda, which we witness with horror in Ukraine daily, contradicts the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act. It has no place in the modern world.

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