

Press release: G7 Foreign Ministers' statement on recent events near Kerch Strait

The Foreign Ministers of the G7 countries issued a statement on Russia's actions against Ukraine in the Kerch Strait

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We, the G7 foreign ministers of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and the High Representative of the European Union, express our utmost concern about Russia's actions against Ukraine in the Kerch Strait and surrounding waters, which have dangerously raised tensions. There is no justification for Russia's use of military force against Ukrainian ships and naval personnel.

We urge restraint, due respect for international law, and the prevention of any further escalation. We call on Russia to release the detained crew and vessels and refrain from impeding lawful passage through the Kerch Strait.

We, the G7, once again reiterate that we do not, and will never, recognize Russia's illegal annexation of the Crimean peninsula, and we reaffirm our unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Press release: Virtual reality to revolutionise UK's construction sector

Virtual reality, digital design and offsite manufacturing technologies are the future of UK construction thanks to £72 million investment from the government.

[News story: SCOTTISH EXPORTS TO THE FORE AHEAD OF EU EXIT](#)

Some of Scotland's finest food and drink producers had the chance to boost export sales at a showcase in London

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The Scottish Secretary with Shonaig Macpherson and Macallan whisky

Scottish companies had the chance to boost export sales yesterday [29 November] when they were showcased in London to an audience of Ambassadors and High Commissioners from all around the world including Japan, Denmark and Paraguay.

The 'Taste of Scotland' event hosted by Scottish Secretary David Mundell came following the UK's Brexit agreement with the EU which will create huge opportunities for Scottish companies – not just in trade with the EU but across the globe.

Scottish Secretary David Mundell said:

Scottish food producers are world-renowned. New and innovative companies are thriving while iconic brands remain much-love household names.

The 'Taste of Scotland' event is not just a St Andrew's Day celebration, but a fantastic opportunity for producers to build on Scotland's great export record.

That is as important as ever as we prepare to leave the EU and the deal secured by the Prime Minister in Brussels this week creates positive opportunities for Scottish companies – continuing frictionless trade with the EU and opening up new markets across the globe.

Held in Dover House on Whitehall, the event saw influential guests from around the world enjoy a range of high-quality Scottish produce. From the Isle of Arran to Aberdeenshire though to the central belt, products on display included seafood, whisky, gin and shortbread.

The products on show at the reception were

- Loch Fyne Seafood – Argyll seafood
- Tunnock's – Lanarkshire bakery
- Edinburgh Gin – Edinburgh distillery
- Walkers – Speyside shortbread
- AG Barr – Glasgow soft drinks manufacturer
- Really Good Fudge Co – Edinburgh fudge
- Scottish Bakers – Trade Association for the production, retail and craft bakery in Scotland
- Simon Howie – Scottish butcher
- Arran Aromatics – Isle of Arran fragrance products
- Mackie's of Scotland – Aberdeenshire dairy farm
- Harris Tweed – clothing made from Outer Hebrides fabric
- Gin Bothy – Angus distillery
- First Milk – creameries on the Mull of Kintyre and Isle of Arran
- MacAllan – Moray distillery

- Ishga – Organic Skincare Products from the Outer Hebrides

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