



Council of the
European Union

**Brussels, 15 February 2024
(OR. en)**

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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: International criminal investigation against EU Member State nationals
launched by the Russian Federation -
Request by the Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish Delegations for an
AOB item

Delegations will find in the annex a note from the Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian and Polish Delegations concerning the international criminal investigation against EU Member State nationals launched by the Russian Federation. The topic will be included as an “Any other business” item on the agenda for the Foreign Affairs Council on 19 February 2024.

**AOB item requested by Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland for the FAC
(19 February 2024)**

1. According to information recovered by the Russian Independent media outlet *Mediazona* the Ministry of Interior of the Russian Federation has launched criminal investigation against a number of Estonian, Lithuanian, Latvian and Polish nationals by adding them to wanted persons' database. We see it as a politically motivated action of extraterritorial targeting of foreign citizens.
2. Such a step of an aggressor state waging a full-scale war at the EU border is unacceptable. We consider as a part of information warfare executed by the Russian Federation aimed at persons who are vocal and critical of its aggressive policies. Since it concerns security considerations of more than one Member State it requires a joint EU reaction.
3. As the first step we propose an EU level reach out to global partners by circulating diplomatic notes and carrying out demarches by EU delegations world-wide to clarify our position of unacceptable politically motivated criminal investigations initiated by the Russian Federation aimed at the EU Member States.
