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S T A T E M E N T

by the Spokesperson of the EU High Representative on the recent escalation of tensions in the South China Sea

The spokesperson of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, issued the following statement today:

"We are concerned about recent incidents involving China and Vietnam relating to the movements of the Chinese oil rig HD981. In particular, the EU is concerned that unilateral actions could affect the security environment in the region, as evidenced by reports about the recent collision of Vietnamese and Chinese vessels.

We urge all parties concerned to seek peaceful and cooperative solutions in accordance with international law, in particular the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and to continue ensuring safety and freedom of navigation.

We also call on the parties to undertake de-escalating measures and refrain from any unilateral action which would be detrimental to peace and stability in the region.

The EU will keep following these developments closely."

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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