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**CHINA URGES 'RESPECT' FOR 'RIGHT AND FREEDOM' OF COUNTRIES TO CARRY OUT ACTIVITIES IN ARCTIC**

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Saadet Gokce

China on Thursday urged "full respect" for the "right and freedom" of countries to conduct activities in the Arctic after the EU published its new Arctic strategy.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said Chinas activities in the Arctic aim to promote peace, stability and sustainable development in the region.

Her remarks came after EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said Tuesday that the Arctic has become a "front line" in global power competition as Russia and China expanded their "footprint and ambition" in the region.

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