



Dutch Ministers Accuse Russia of Developing Cruise Missile Violating INF Treaty

November 28, 2018



Flickr

The Netherlands accused Russia on Monday of developing a prohibited cruise missile in violation of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty.

The 1987 INF treaty, considered a major arms control accomplishment of the Cold War, forbids the development of missiles with a range of more than 500 kilometers. Last month, both [NATO](#) and the [U.S.](#) accused Russia of violating the treaty.

Related article: [NATO Head Accuses Russia of Violating INF Nuclear Treaty](#)

“The Netherlands can independently confirm that Russia has developed and is currently introducing a ground-based cruise weapon,” the country’s Foreign and Defense Ministers

wrote in a joint letter [published](#) on the website of the lower house of the Dutch parliament on Tuesday.

Citing unspecified intelligence reports, the ministers said Moscow had developed a SSC-8 missile that has a range of over 500 kilometers, which violates the terms of the INF treaty.

The ministers said the violation “cannot remain unanswered” and vowed that the country would “closely cooperate with the United States and other NATO allies on the future of the INF Treaty.”

Last month, U.S. President Donald Trump [warned](#) that Washington could pull out of the treaty over alleged Russian violations.

Related article: [After Ditching the INF Treaty, the U.S. Risks Further Isolation \(Op-ed\)](#)

The U.S. has previously accused Moscow of developing and deploying a ground-launched system in breach of the INF treaty that could allow it to launch a nuclear strike on Europe at short notice.

Russia has consistently denied any violations and [warned](#) that it would retaliate if the U.S. withdrew from the accord.

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2018/11/28/dutch-ministers-accuse-russia-developing-cruise-missile-violating-inf-treaty-a63630>