



Brussels, 06 October 2016

Dear High Representative,

We are writing to you to draw your attention to the fact that as a result of so-called elections to the Russian State Duma of 18 September, six deputies were elected to represent Crimea, a region of Ukraine, illegally occupied and annexed by Russia in 2014.

As rightly stated in the EEAS press release following the elections in Russia, "the European Union has not recognised the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol by the Russian Federation and therefore does not recognise the holding of elections in the Crimean peninsula".

In our view, it is therefore in full consistence with the EU's policy in support for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine to demand that six so-called Crimean deputies – namely Ruslan Balbek, Mikhail Sheremet, Andrey Kozenko, Konstantin Bakharev, Dmitry Belik, and Svetlana Savchenko – are included into the sanctions list, considering that the seventh one, Natalya Poklonskaya, is already sanctioned.

We hereby reiterate that we remain fully committed to the EU's policy of non-recognition of the illegal occupation and annexation of Crimea, a region of Ukraine, and that we have no intention to deal in any way or form with those individuals who were illegally "elected" in Crimea.

It is also our deep conviction that the presence of these individuals in the Russian State Duma is casting a dark shadow on the Russian parliament as such. In addition, we strongly regret to have learnt that according to the OSCE/ODIHR the electoral environment in Russia was negatively affected by increasing restrictions to fundamental freedoms and political rights. We are convinced that inclusion of the above mentioned Russian citizens illegally "elected" in Crimea, a region of Ukraine, is in full compliance with the existing EU policy line and we therefore are waiting for the subsequent decision from the Council.

Sincerely,

Petras Auštrevičius

Pavel Telička

Jasenko Selimovic

Hans van Baalen

Lars Adaktusson

Ivan Štefanec

Anna Elżbieta Fotyga

Mark Demesmaeker

Charles Tannock

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Tibor Szanyi

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Ramona Nicole Mănescu

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Artis Pabriks

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Dariusz Rosati

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Nathalie Griesbeck

Fredrick Federley

Anna Maria Corazza Bildt

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