



Brussels, 16 September 2016

Dear High Representative,

We are writing to you to draw your attention to so-called elections to the Russian State Duma that Moscow is going to organise in Crimea, a region of Ukraine, illegally occupied and annexed by Russia in 2014.

In addition to our deep regret concerning the fact that the coming Duma elections are being conducted in an atmosphere which is lacking most of the elements of free and fair elections, we would in particular like to stress the illegality of Duma elections in Crimea, a region of Ukraine.

These "elections" is yet another cynical act of violation of Ukraine's territorial integrity. In our view, this step of Moscow will be yet another proof of necessity of keeping up to our policy of sanctions vis-a-vis certain persons and entities of Russia, which actually were introduced in reaction to Crimea's occupation.

We hereby confirm 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 this is going to be exactly our stance – non-recognition in any way or form – of those individuals who will be "elected" in Crimea.

We hope, Madam High Representative, that this position will be duly reflected in your assessment of the Russian Duma elections.

Sincerely,

Petras Auštrevičius

Cristian Dan Preda

Bart Staes

Tunne Kelam

Anna Maria Corazza Bildt

Ana Maria Gomes

Fredrick Federley

Pavel Telička

Heidi Hautala

Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea

Miroslav Poche

Marju Lauristin

Tibor Szanyi

Artis Pabriks

Sandra Kalniete

Renate Weber

Milan Zver

Mark Demesmaeker

Dita Charanzová

Anna Elżbieta Fotyga

Nathalie Griesbeck

Rebecca Harms

Charles Tannock

Inese Vaidere

Ramona Nicole Mănescu

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Julie Ward

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