"The outrageous murder of the American journalist Steven Sotloff is another demonstration of the ISIL's determination to pursue and extend its terror strategy.

The EU remains more committed than ever to support international efforts to fight ISIL and all the terrorist groups who endanger regional and global stability.

We extend our deepest condolences to the family of Steven Sotloff.

This atrocity, like the considerable number of other human rights violations for which ISIL claims responsibility, is an affront to universally recognized values and rights.

The EU supports the Human Rights Council in its endeavour to investigate those crimes and underlines the need to spare no effort to ensure that all perpetrators are held accountable."