Brussels, 18 September 2014
140918/01

STATEMENT

by the Spokesperson on the ongoing intimidation of Medzhlis of Crimean Tatars in Crimea

"We are concerned about the ongoing intimidation of Medzhlis of Crimean Tatars in Crimea, including raids on their Headquarters in Simferopol, searches and interrogations of several Medzhlis activists, as well as intimidation of journalists who cover the events. The reports of orders by the Russian court for the Medzhlis to leave their current premises in Simferopol are likewise worrying.

These are not isolated events and reflect the disturbing human rights situation on the Crimean peninsula. The precarious situation of the minority groups in Crimea, as documented in the relevant OSCE and UN reports, remains of serious concern. We call once again for full respect of all fundamental rights and freedoms in Crimea and reiterate that the EU does not recognise its illegal annexation"