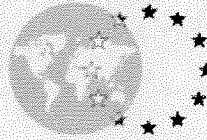


EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



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Human Rights and Democracy

Brussels, 04 SEP. 2014
EEAS V.I.A./NR/JBB Ares (2014)

Concerns : Your petition of 14 August on the appointment of William Schabas as member of the Human Rights Council's Commission of Inquiry

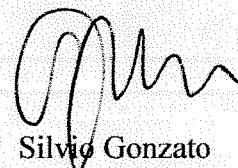
Dear Petitioner,

Thank you for your petition of 14 August to the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security policy, Catherine Ashton, in which you refer to the appointment of Mr William Schabas as member of the Commission of Inquiry, established by the UN Human Rights Council at its 21st Special Session, on July 23, 2014.

The High Representative has asked me to reply to your petition on her behalf.

As you probably know, the appointment of members of a Commission of Inquiry is the prerogative of the President of the UN Council. The EU is therefore not in a position to intervene in the process. Furthermore, the EU, which abstained when the resolution establishing the CoI was voted, notes the fact that the mandate of the CoI is to address human rights violations perpetrated by all sides and expects that the commission will carry out its investigations in full impartiality and independence, with the support of the relevant actors. In this respect the EU will closely monitor the implementation of the mandate and continue to strive for a balanced outcome of the investigations.

Yours faithfully,



Silvio Gonzato