

Brussels, 28 May, 2015

Dear Vice-President/High Representative Mogherini,

Dear Commissioner Hahn,

Dear Ministers,

We, representatives of the people in Europe from all main political parties, call on the Government of Azerbaijan to release all political prisoners unconditionally. At the same time we call on all Members of the Council and the Commission not to attend any official events or ceremonies around the European Games to be held in Baku before all human rights defenders, opposition figures, activists, journalists and political prisoners are unconditionally released from detention.

The label 'European' must be given meaning, in the sense that the European Games should take place while human rights and fundamental freedoms are respected. The event must in no way overshadow the serious violations of human rights, about which we are very concerned.

A true partnership between the EU and Azerbaijan can only develop on the basis of respect for fundamental human rights of people.

We welcome your active engagement to see to the release of the many innocently detained and repressed individuals in Azerbaijan.

Sincerely,

Marietje Schaake (ALDE)

Ulrike Lunacek (Greens/EFA)

Marie-Christine Vergiat (GUE/NGL)

Mark Demesmaeker (ECR)

Róza Gräfin von Thun und Hohenstein (EPP)

Alexander Graf Lambsdorff (ALDE)

Barbara Lochbihler (Greens/EFA)

Kati Piri (S&D)

Ignazio Corrao (EFDD)