



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**Javier SOLANA,
EU High Representative for the CFSP
regrets the decision by the Azerbaijani National TV and Radio Council
to stop broadcasting foreign radio stations**

Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), very much regrets the decision by the Azerbaijani National TV and Radio Council not to renew the broadcasting licence of foreign radio stations. The decision to stop broadcasting foreign radio stations on national frequencies as of 1 January will deprive listeners of a valuable alternative source of news and information.

The High Representative understands the legal constraints on which this decision is based but is convinced that the issue can still be resolved for the good of all concerned. He therefore encourages the Azerbaijani authorities to reconsider their plan to shut down the broadcasting frequencies of the BBC, Radio Liberty and Voice of America.

If implemented, this decision will impede the development of freedom of expression and of pluralism of the media in Azerbaijan.

The European Union stands ready to further discuss the legal conditions under which these radio and TV broadcast services can be maintained and to support Azerbaijan in strengthening the development of democratic institutions in the country.

The above statement is attributable to Cristina Gallach, Spokesperson for Javier SOLANA