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**DECLARATION BY THE PRESIDENCY ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ON  
KAREN REFUGEES**

The European Union expresses its concern about renewed violent conflict on the Myanmar side of the Thai/Myanmar border. The present situation seriously affects the civilian population. It urges the parties involved to exercise maximum restraint and to seek non-violent means to resolve their dispute.

As a result of the conflict large numbers of refugees have again been crossing the border into Thailand. The European Union appreciates that the Royal Thai Government has been providing assistance to refugee populations on its territory for many years, in fulfilment of its humanitarian obligations.

With regard to the new influx of refugees from Myanmar the European Union urges the Government of Thailand to apply internationally recognized norms and standards relating to the treatment of refugees. The European Union trusts that Thailand will allow all civilians seeking refuge onto its territory to stay until the underlying causes for their flight have been removed, and to provide them the necessary protection.