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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on Belarus**

The European Union would like to see Belarus play a full part in Europe in cooperation with European institutions. The European Union is ready to assist Belarus in its development as a democratic country, subject to the rule of law and to internationally accepted constitutional principles, and in its pursuit of economic reform.

The European Union expresses its concern at the deteriorating political situation in Belarus and calls on all parties to reach a solution which fully respects the prerogative of Parliament and the Constitutional Court, democratic principles and in particular, freedom of access to and reporting by the media as well as the freedom to gather in public.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union and the associated countries Cyprus and Malta align themselves with this declaration.
