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Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on the disappearance of Mr. Victor Gonchar
Deputy Chairman of the 13th Supreme Soviet of Belarus

The European Union is deeply worried by the disappearance of Mr. Victor Gonchar, deputy chairman of the 13th Supreme Soviet of Belarus, on the evening of 16 September.

Referring to the assurances given during discussions held in Minsk between the representatives of the EU and Belarusian authorities, the European Union calls upon the Belarusian authorities to do everything in their power to locate Mr. Gonchar's whereabouts and ensure his safety. The EU expects the results of these investigations to bring early results. The EU also reminds them of the fact that the previous disappearances of Ms Tamara Vinnikova, former Central Bank chairwoman, and General Yuri Zakharenko, former interior minister, are still unclarified.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus and Malta, and the EFTA countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this declaration.