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**P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

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

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The EU is deeply concerned by recent arrests and the anonymous harassment of journalists critical of the government of Pakistan, the latest incident being the nighttime arrest of Najam Sethi, chief editor of the Friday Times. The European Union expects that all cases where accusations have been made will be dealt with in accordance with due legal process.

Underlining its firm commitment to the respect of the freedom of the press the EU will closely monitor the situation in this regard.

The EU reaffirms its interest in cooperation with Pakistan. Respect for human rights and democratic principals are an essential element of this cooperation.

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