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## **EU REPROVES BELARUS' WALKOUT FROM THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP**

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Belarus on Monday (28 June) said it was suspending its participation in the EUs Eastern Partnership, an initiative to boost ties between the EU and its ex-Soviet neighbours, a move condemned by Brussels as another step backwards after the skyjacking of a European Ryanair flight last month.

We cannot fulfil its obligations under this agreement in the context of sanctions and restrictions imposed by the EU, Belarus foreign ministry said in a statement.

The Eastern Partnership (EaP) initiative, launched by the EU in 2009 and seen by some countries as a precursor for joining the EU, offers six former Soviet republics – Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia – improved economic and political ties in return for reforms.

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Kaynak/Source: