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Int’l ire over mid-air diversion of plane by Belarus authorities to arrest dissident



Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis on Monday morning emphasized that European leaders must now agree over what he called “clear and severe consequences”, ones that will leave no room for the government in the eastern European country of Belarus to question the EU’s unity and determination, in a statement carried by the Financial Times.

The development came a day after dissident journalist and blogger Roman Protasevich was hauled off a Ryranair plane in Minsk, Belarus’ capital, after Belarus authorities forced an Athens to Vilnius flight, carrying the 26-year-old man, to land in Minsk – on the pretense of a bomb scare.

The Greek prime minister stressed that the EU’s past failures to demonstrate a common and united front, in terms of relations with other countries, should not be repeated in the case of this “unacceptable aggression”, as he said, by Belarus.

Mitsotakis stated: “…The forced landing of a passenger plane with the aim of illegally detaining a political opponent and a journalist is absolutely reprehensible and constitutes an unacceptable offensive action that cannot be tolerated.”

