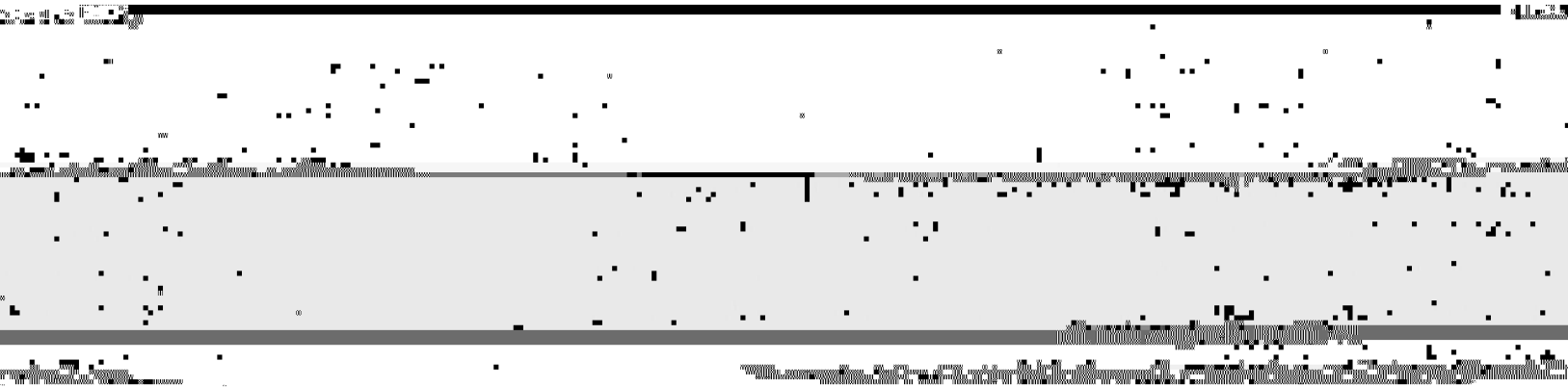


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Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, and Romania*

Albania* as well as Bulgaria and the Republic of Moldova* are also candidates for membership in the European Union.