

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

BELARUSTV

SEPTEMBER 9, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT



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BELARUS POSITIONS ITSELF AS A STABLE, HIGH-TECHNOLOGY HUB WITHIN A FRACTURING GLOBAL SYSTEM, AGGRESSIVELY PIVOTING TOWARD CHINESE INDUSTRIAL INTEGRATION WHILE FRAMING WESTERN INSTITUTIONS AS ENTERING A PERIOD OF TERMINAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DECAY.

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

September 9, 2026, broadcasts from Belarus state media illustrate a nation operating under a doctrine of "strategic sovereignty" through deep integration with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and China. The overarching narrative contrasts Belarusian domestic order, agricultural success, and technological advancement with a Western world portrayed as paralyzed by political violence, drug-fueled crime, and economic instability. Key developments include the launch of the 5th Anniversary Exhibition of Chinese Goods and Services in Minsk, which signals a multi-year commitment to **industrial and scientific cooperation** for 2026-2027 [with China](#). Simultaneously, the Belarusian state is projecting military and

internal security readiness through high-profile inspections of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD) and joint exercises with Kazakhstan, framing these measures as necessary shields against external "hybrid" threats and regional instability.

On the international stage, Belarusian media is highlighting the perceived collapse of Western democratic norms. Extensive coverage was dedicated to political violence in the United States, including **assassination attempts** on financial executives and a growing public acceptance of force to achieve political ends [in America](#). In Europe, the focus remains on the "narco-state" risks in Belgium and the failure of Western militaries to maintain order without resorting to emergency measures. This "chaos narrative" serves to validate the Belarusian government's strict domestic controls, particularly regarding narcotics and juvenile delinquency, where the state claims significant success in reducing crime rates compared to its European neighbors.

Economically, Belarus reports growth in **gold and foreign exchange reserves**, which reached over \$15 billion in August [due to gold prices](#). The state is aggressively seeking new markets for its agricultural surplus, announcing major shipments of dairy and meat products to Zimbabwe and India, while simultaneously piloting "smart" greenhouse technologies to ensure year-round food security. The convergence of these events suggests a government attempting to decouple from Western-aligned financial and logistical networks (responding to Baltic transit threats) by fostering a parallel "Eurasian" infrastructure supported by Chinese capital and SCO security architecture.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

- **Belarus-China Industrial and Scientific Alignment:** The opening of the 5th Anniversary Exhibition of Chinese Goods and Services in Minsk marks a new phase of the "Great Stone" partnership. The 2026-2027 period has been designated for **industrial cooperation** focus [between the nations](#), involving 127 Chinese companies across pharmaceuticals, construction, and AI-driven agriculture.
- **Internal Security Mobilization and Readiness Checks:** State security officials, including Alexander Volfovich, conducted unannounced inspections of the 7th Separate Special Police Brigade. The MVD is currently undergoing **combat readiness checks** [involving reservists](#), focusing on neutralizing saboteurs and urban warfare scenarios.
- **Escalation of US-Iran and US-Canada Trade/Military Conflict:** Reports detailed **massive US strikes** against Iranian tankers near Khark Island [and Port Jask](#), alongside a deepening trade war between the US and Canada, with retaliatory tariffs targeting \$20 billion in goods.
- **Baltic Transit Blockade Initiatives:** Latvia and Lithuania are moving to **annul bus permits** and passenger transport links [to Belarus and Russia](#), a move framed by Minsk as a "humanitarian rupture" intended to isolate their own citizens from Belarusian reality.
- **SCO as a Global Security Alternative:** Following the SCO summit, Belarus is advocating for a **scientific foundation** [within the bloc](#) to integrate researchers and bypass Western academic and technological dependencies.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Armed Conflict & Militarization

- The "Forest Brotherhood" exercise at the Brest training ground integrated Belarusian special operations forces with **Kazakhstani paratroopers** [to practice](#) searching for and neutralizing illegal armed groups in swampy terrain.
- Ukraine is reportedly facing a "manpower crisis," with Germany offering to help Kiev **locate conscripts** [on German territory](#) via social benefit databases.

Civil Unrest & Social Order

- Media reports highlight "digital rage" and political violence in the US, citing polls that **30 percent of Americans** [believe force](#) may be necessary to return the country to the "right path."
- Belgium is characterized as a failing state where **police stations** [are attacked](#) by drug cartels, prompting the deployment of the army on Brussels streets.

Geopolitical Competition & Bloc Politics

- Belarus is positioning itself as a key link in the SCO, with Lukashenko meeting **leaders from Laos**, Iran, Pakistan, and Togo [to expand](#) non-Western diplomatic reach.
- The US-Canada trade war, featuring mirror 50% tariffs, is portrayed as a **self-destructive impulse** [of the Trump administration](#).

Macroeconomics & Trade

- Belarusian **gold reserves** grew by over \$1 billion in August, hitting \$15.24 billion [by early September](#), driven by high global gold volatility and Chinese central bank buying.

- Agricultural exports are diversifying, with **200 tons of butter** shipped to India [and efforts](#) to supply Zimbabwe's preschool nutrition programs with Belarusian milk powder.

Tech Sovereignty & AI

- Belarus is implementing **5th generation greenhouses** [in Gorki](#), which use automated climate control and "interplanting" to maximize yields.
- The construction sector is developing a **national rating system for contractors** to improve quality and transparency for citizens.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The Narrative of Western Collapse vs. Belarusian Order

A central theme of the day's broadcasts is the "Moral and Security Gap." Transcripts contrast the **unrestricted drug trade** and juvenile automation-gun violence in Brussels [with the success](#) of Belarusian Decree No. 6, which reportedly halved drug crimes and reduced juvenile overdoses [by 90 percent](#). By showing French tourists taping phones to their hands [out of fear](#) and US citizens resorting to "vigilante justice" like the hammer attack on Paul Pelosi, the media reinforces the value of the "police state" as a provider of fundamental safety that Western liberal democracies can no longer guarantee.

Educational Globalization Through Eurasian Hubs

Belarus is emerging as an educational hub for the Global South, hosting **37,000 international students** [from 120 countries](#). The state is moving beyond mere tuition-

gathering to strategic joint programs, such as the linguist training partnerships with Uzbekistan and South Korea. This is framed as "erasing geographical borders" while Western nations (specifically the Baltics) are accused of building new walls [to restrict](#) human contact and family ties.

Sovereignty Through Food and Medicine

True independence is now defined by "substance-level" sovereignty. In the pharmaceutical sector, the company Farmland is moving toward **localizing the synthesis of pharmaceutical substances** (specifically carbapenem antibiotics) to eliminate reliance on Indian or Chinese raw materials and enter the Russian market as a domestic producer. Similarly, the development of high-protein **white lupin varieties** [like "Grek"](#) is presented as a "superfood" strategy to ensure livestock feed independence.

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

The Belarusian domestic environment is characterized by a high degree of state-led mobilization and paternalistic intervention. President Lukashenko's directives in agriculture—specifically the threat to **privatize failing farms** in the Vitebsk region for a nominal 45 rubles [to improve efficiency](#)—demonstrate a leadership style that blends market pressure with administrative force. The state is also addressing potential "youth drift" by integrating military officers into schools and implementing **selective police**

searches of students, a move justified by recent school violence in Russia.

- **Administrative Mobilization:** The MVD readiness checks serve not only as a defense measure but as a demonstration of state power to the domestic audience. The release of reservists **after only one day of training** was used to showcase the high level of existing readiness and minimize economic disruption.
- **Elite Factions:** The transition of figures like Vadim Popov and the prominence of "liberal-market" governors like Rogozhnik indicate a balancing act between technocratic economic management and traditional state control. The government is signaling a **"gentleman's agreement" with private business** to take over social responsibilities, like rural mobile shops, in exchange for continued operations in cities.

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

Belarus is projecting a posture of "Constructive Multipolarity," actively participating in the SCO as its newest full member. The framing of the international environment is one of Western-induced anarchy, where **NATO and the US** are accused of using Ukraine as a "terrorist proxy" **to destabilize Eurasia**. Belarus responds by forging "niche" alliances, such as a joint transformer production plant **in Kyrgyzstan aimed at replacing** Russian and

Chinese imports, and expanding humanitarian aid to **Venezuela following earthquakes**.

- **Bloc Politics:** The SCO is portrayed as the "universal center" for countering the "three evils" of terrorism, separatism, and extremism. The arrival of the UN Secretary-General **at the SCO summit is cited** as proof that even the West must acknowledge the new Eurasian reality.
- **Hostile Neighbors:** Latvia and Lithuania are portrayed as irrational actors that are **punishing their own citizens by cutting** transit links to Belarus, while Minsk maintains a visa-free regime that has reportedly drawn 1.5 million Europeans **since its inception**.

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The Belarusian economy is in a state of transition, characterized by a shift toward high-margin exports and financial insulation from the West. While the state-directed agricultural sector remains a pillar, there is a clear push toward "smart" industry and deep pharmaceutical synthesis to maintain growth and **import independence under sanctions**. The banking sector is also tightening controls, with new **anti-fraud requirements reducing cash theft** by 60 percent in August.

Key Economic Vectors

- **Reserves and Gold:** National bank assets reached \$15.24B, with foreign currency assets **rising by \$1.1B in August**.
- **Agricultural Surplus:** Forecasts include **175,000 tons of apples** and 1 million tons of potatoes, with sugar beet harvest expected to reach 5.8 million tons **to boost exports**.

- **Construction and Housing:** The sector contributes over 6% to GDP, with a goal of **33 square meters of housing per person** by 2030, currently at 29 meters.
- **Trade Disputes:** The US-Iran conflict has triggered a spike in energy prices, costing US consumers **\$100 billion in additional costs**, growing at \$1 million every two minutes.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

The day saw no major removals, but rather a focus on the solidification of the current technocratic and security elite. The "winners" are those who can bridge the gap between state ideology and economic results.

- **Vadim Rogozhnik (Governor of Vitebsk):** Highlighted as a key leader tasked with rehabilitating a "difficult" region. His background as an ambassador to Russia and industrial minister **is framed as essential** for the region's turnaround.
- **Alexander Volfovich and Ivan Kubrakov:** Their high-profile **inspections of MVD troops confirm their status** as the primary architects of domestic stability and military-civilian cohesion.
- **Maxim Ryzhenkov (Foreign Minister):** Led the diplomatic mission to Kyrgyzstan to sign the **transformer project agreement**, cementing his role in "economic diplomacy."

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

The editorial hierarchy is strictly aligned with state interests, emphasizing two primary pillars: Belarusian industrial/agricultural competence and Western social decay. The **lead stories** were the Belarus-China

exhibition, the SCO integration successes, and the MVD readiness checks. These were presented with a tone of reassurance and patriotic pride. **Secondary stories** focused on the "disturbing" reality of the West: the US-Iran strikes, the Paul Pelosi hammer attack sentencing (framed as a sign of distrust in law), and the drug wars in Brussels. **Buried stories** include the specific casualties in the Ukraine conflict, which were only touched upon through the lens of "forced mobilization" and "meaningless killing" by the Kiev regime. A conspicuous omission is the current status of political prisoners within Belarus, which is entirely supplanted by reports on the "equal opportunities" for foreign students and tourists.

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

Belarusian state media uses a "Stability vs. Chaos" spectrum to frame global actors, where alignment with Minsk/Moscow/Beijing equates to principled competence, and alignment with Washington equates to inept corruption.

COUNTRIES

- **China:** Portrayed as the ultimate stable and competent partner. The relationship is described as a **"strategic partnership" that provides** "smart" technology and massive market demand.
- **United States:** Framed as a chaotic, polarized, and violent hegemon. Explicitly described as a place where **"American dreams"** are no longer relevant to 70% of the population **and violence** is a political tool.
- **Belgium:** Implicitly framed as a **"narco-state" where the government** has lost control of its capital to drug cartels.

- **Ukraine:** Portrayed as a desperate, corrupt regime that "**kidnaps**" [citizens for the front lines](#) and is suffering from "meaningless" internal violence.

LEADERS

- **Alexander Lukashenko:** The "Strong and Wise Father" figure. He is framed as the "**international leader**" [who navigates](#) global geopolitics while personally inspecting cows and regional grain stores.
- **Donald Trump:** Portrayed as a weak leader whose trade policies are "**bankrupting**" the US [and whose military actions](#) are failing to stop Iranian defiance.
- **Vladimir Putin:** Framed as a **principled mediator** [working with](#) the US to find peace despite Western aggression.

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

The information environment is characterized by "Contrast Operations." State media seeds narratives that equate Western democracy with social collapse to discourage domestic dissent.

- **Narrative Seeding:** The term "Busification" (busifikatsiya) is used to describe the **forced mobilization in Ukraine**, comparing it to a "Russian roulette" where citizens are hunted by their own state.
- **Distortion of 9/11:** On the anniversary of 9/11, the broadcast aired segments suggesting the official version is widely **distrusted by Americans** [and potentially](#) an "inside job," using this to undermine the moral authority of the US government.

- **The "Visa-Free" Magnet:** Belarus heavily promotes its visa-free regime as a sign of its own "**openness and generosity**" [in contrast](#) to the Baltics' efforts to block transit, framing the EU as the one building an "Iron Curtain."

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

- **Full Integration with Chinese Logistics:** As Baltic neighbors close borders, Belarus will likely pivot to **Chinese-managed transit hubs** and financial systems, potentially adopting a regional digital currency through the SCO.
- **Militarization of Rural Governance:** Lukashenko's focus on "**mobilizing**" the **agriculture sector** suggests that failing state enterprises may soon be placed under direct military-style administration or sold to loyalist oligarchs to prevent economic contagion.
- **Pharmaceutical Decoupling:** The success of Farmland's **antibiotic project** [will be the bellwether](#) for whether Belarus can truly survive a total Western pharmaceutical cutoff.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Expect heightened security along the border with Latvia as the bus transit ban **takes effect in early 2027**. Domestic MVD drills will likely transition into permanent "anti-saboteur" patrols in border districts. The outcome of the SCO investment forum in Minsk will result in several signed contracts for AI-integrated mining equipment for Norilsk [projects](#).

Medium Term (1-6 Months): The 2026-2027 "Industrial Year" with China will

see the first units of Belarusian-Chinese **electric transformers** [leaving the Bishkek](#) plant. Belarus will likely petition for the creation of an SCO "Science Fund" to institutionalize technological exchange and mitigate Western brain drain.

Long Term (1-5 Years): Belarus aims to achieve **83% fulfillment of sustainable development goals**, primarily through nuclear energy expansion (3rd block of BelAES) and a massive shift to an electric vehicle fleet (300,000 EVs by 2030). This would cement its status as a high-tech "garrison state" within the Eurasian sphere, largely immune to Western energy or technological blackmail.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The primary risks to the Belarusian state are logistical isolation and the potential for spillover from the Ukrainian theater, which the state is attempting to mitigate through aggressive internal security and Eurasian alignment.

- **Total Transit Blockade by the Baltics:** The risk of Latvia and Lithuania cutting all rail and bus links. **Triggers:** Further EU sanctions or a border incident. **Likelihood:** High. **Impact:** Severe economic disruption and isolation of the exclave/transit routes. **Mitigation:** Building the Bishkek transformer hub and deepening the "Great Stone" logistics [projects](#).
- **Cyber-Financial Destabilization:** The risk of large-scale theft from corporate accounts by "fake boss" schemes. **Triggers:** Advancements in deepfake AI. **Likelihood:** Moderate. **Impact:** Multi-million dollar losses for state enterprises. **Mitigation:** Mandatory **anti-fraud systems** [in all banks](#).

- **Regional Conflict Spillover:** The risk of Iranian-US conflict affecting energy prices or Russian military attention. **Triggers:** Full-scale naval war in the Persian Gulf. **Likelihood:** Moderate. **Impact:** Fuel price volatility and supply chain shocks. **Mitigation:** Increasing domestic **gold and currency reserves**.
- **Social Instability via Juvenile Delinquency:** The risk of school shootings or knife attacks mirroring Russian/Western trends. **Triggers:** Unregulated social media influence. **Likelihood:** Low. **Impact:** High political damage. **Mitigation:** Increased **police presence in schools**.
- **Pharmaceutical Raw Material Shortage:** The risk of losing access to Indian/Chinese precursors. **Triggers:** Supply chain collapse or trade wars. **Likelihood:** Moderate. **Impact:** Public health crisis. **Mitigation:** Localizing **antibiotic synthesis in Nesvizh**.

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

- The broadcast fails to detail the specific **indebtedness levels** to China, mentioning only "investments" and "cooperation" without the repayment terms or sovereign risk implications.
- There is a total lack of information regarding the **actual casualty rates** of Belarusian volunteers or the impact of regional conflict on the domestic labor market, which is already under strain from "mobilization" drills.
- While the success of anti-drug Decree No. 6 is touted, the **social cost** of high incarceration rates for minor drug offenses is not addressed.

- The report on US-Iran tensions ignores the **Russian diplomatic role** in preventing a wider war, focusing instead only on US "failure" and Iranian "defiance."

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

Against the state consensus of "stability through control," an alternative reading of the day's news suggests a nation in a state of quiet, high-stress mobilization. The unannounced **MVD checks and school searches** could be interpreted not as strength, but as a fear of imminent domestic unrest triggered by the deepening isolation from Europe. The aggressive pivot to China may be a "stalling tactic" for an economy that is struggling with the loss of Western transit fees, hidden by the temporary boost in gold prices. A "Black Swan" event would be a sudden Chinese economic cooling that leads to a withdrawal of investment from the "Great Stone" park, leaving Belarus with massive, half-finished infrastructure and no Western alternative.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- Monitor the Latvian and Lithuanian transit bans as a precursor to a potential "total blockade" scenario, requiring the rapid build-up of strategic stockpiles via Russian rail corridors.
- Leverage the **SCO Scientific Foundation proposal** to secure long-term technological transfers from China, particularly in microelectronics and medical synthesis.

- Ensure the "smart" greenhouse and lupin feed projects are scaled up to offset the risk of global food price volatility caused by **Middle East tensions and trade wars**.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- Opportunities exist for firms capable of assisting in the **localization of pharmaceutical precursors** in the EAEU market, as Western sanctions create an absolute void.
- Investors should price in high regulatory risk in the construction sector as the new **rating system may be used** to consolidate the market toward state-preferred entities.
- Supply chain managers must diversify away from Baltic transit immediately, as the political trajectory **points toward a total closure** of bus and passenger links by early 2027.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Recent legislative activity focuses on economic incentives for workers and

increased state control over housing and construction quality.

- **BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:**

- Decree No. 344 (2025): Provides **subsidies to legal entities to build housing** for their own employees, intended to anchor young specialists in rural and industrial jobs.
- National Construction Rating Proposal: A move by the Ministry of Architecture to create an **online reputation database for contractors** to ensure transparency and accountability.
- Decree No. 6 (Historic Review): Cited as the foundation for current **anti-narcotics successes by implementing** harsh penalties and systemic prevention.

- **HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:**

- Opening of the 5th Belarus-China Exhibition: Strategic intent to cement the **2026-2027 years as a period** of industrial and medical cooperation.
- SCO Summit Sideline Meetings: Lukashenko met with **leaders of Laos and Georgia to discuss** tourism and economic cooperation expansion.

KEY STORIES

- **China-Belarus Exhibition:** Launch of the 5th anniversary exhibition at BelExpo featuring 127 companies focusing on industrial cooperation for 2026-2027.
- **MVD Readiness Check:** Unannounced inspections by Volfovich and Kubrakov of the 7th Separate Special Police Brigade, testing urban warfare and saboteur response.

- **SCO Science Initiative:** Belarus proposes a scientific fund within the SCO to integrate scientists and foster technological independence.
- **US-Iran Strikes:** Pentagon reports massive strikes on Iranian tankers near Khark Island; Iran retaliates against US bases in Jordan.
- **US-Canada Trade War:** US imposes 50% tariffs on Canadian steel, aluminum, and furniture; Canada retaliates with mirror tariffs on \$20 billion in US goods.
- **Gold Reserves Surge:** Belarusian ZVR reached \$15.24 billion in August, bolstered by a \$1.1B increase in foreign currency assets.
- **Pharmaceutical Sovereignty:** Farmland company announces a project in Nesvizh to synthesize carbapenem antibiotic precursors, targeting the Russian market.
- **Baltic Transit Closure:** Latvia moves to ban all bus transit to Belarus and Russia by early 2027, citing security concerns.
- **Forest Brotherhood Exercise:** Joint military maneuvers in Brest between Belarusian Special Forces and Kazakhstan paratroopers.
- **Brussels "Narco-State" Report:** Coverage of police stations under fire in Belgium and the deployment of the army to combat drug cartel violence.
- **US Political Violence:** Reports on the sentencing of Paul Pelosi's attacker and a poll showing 30% of Americans support force for political change.
- **Kyrgyzstan Transformer Plant:** Ryzhenkov signs an agreement in Bishkek for a joint venture to produce electrical transformers, replacing Russian/Chinese imports.

- **Foreign Student Influx:** Report on 37,000 international students in Belarus, focusing on joint master's programs with China and Uzbekistan.
- **Zimbabwe Food Security:** Belarus passes health inspections to supply milk powder and meat products for Zimbabwe's state nutrition programs.
- **Agricultural Innovation:** Launch of 5th generation automated greenhouses in Gorki and development of "Grek" high-protein lupin.
- **Minsk City Day Prep:** Plans for the 959th anniversary, including fire rescue competitions with teams from Russia, Serbia, and Vietnam.
- **Bank Anti-Fraud Success:** National Bank reports a 60% drop in cash theft due to new mandatory AI-driven anti-fraud systems.
- **Belarusian Water Sector Corruption:** DFR uncovers a bribery scheme involving 140,000 rubles across three regional water utilities.
- **9/11 Anniversary Skepticism:** Broadcast features US analysts claiming the majority of Americans distrust the official 9/11 report.
- **Norilsk Mining Tech:** Belarusian engineers testing new underground dump trucks and loaders in Norilsk to create joint intellectual property.
- **Farmland-ALPharma Partnership:** Strategic cooperation involving 28 new import-substituting drugs in the pipeline.
- **UNESCO Partnership:** UNICEF representative Rustam Khaidarov discusses corporate social responsibility and inclusive education in Belarus.
- **Lithuanian Bus Ban:** Calls in the Seimas for Lithuania to join Latvia in annulling bus permits to avoid becoming a transit hub for Russia.
- **North Korea Foundation Day:** Lukashenko congratulates Kim Jong-un, noting the "warmth" of his March 2026 visit to Pyongyang.
- **Vitebsk Privatization Threat:** Lukashenko warns that failing state farms will be sold to private owners for 45 rubles to ensure management discipline.
- **Brest Drug Courier Arrest:** Kyrgyz national arrested after only one day of work for a drug shop, carrying 1.5kg of 4-CMC.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Today's Media Trends is a public interest experiment in applying deep thematic trend analysis to television news coverage from around the world to explore how responsibly applied advanced AI can help journalists and scholars better understand the overarching trends, themes and patterns of our global world.

No data is used to train or tune any AI model.

Each morning, in collaboration with the Internet Archive's TV News Archive, we apply Google's Gemini 3 to deeply examine yesterday's coverage from each television news channel to tease out the overarching themes and trends of its news coverage into a richly annotated thematic analysis. Each high-level insight is connected back to the original broadcast, allowing journalists and scholars to understand the dominate themes and trends and instantly click out to the underlying sources for details.

By helping journalists and scholars see the broader trends and patterns of global news coverage, this analysis helps them identify relevant stories and coverage they might not otherwise have encountered and uncover connections, emphases and narrative shifts that enable more comprehensive reporting and deeper, evidence-based research.

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