



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1045 Vienna, 19 March 2015

EU Statement on the death penalty in the USA

It is with deep regret that the EU has learnt of the execution of Mr Cecil Clayton on the 17th March in the State of Missouri.

Mr. Clayton suffered the loss of part of his brain in an accident years before the commission of his crime, which led to several mental disorders. There is evidence indicating that his mental capacities were seriously impaired.

The EU strongly believes that the execution of persons suffering from an intellectual disability or mental illness is contrary to the minimum standards set forth in several international human rights instruments as well as being prohibited by the US Constitution.

The EU is opposed to the use of capital punishment under all circumstances and aims at its universal abolition, seeking a global moratorium on the death penalty as a first step towards its universal abolition, in line with the United Nations General Assembly Resolution adopted in December 2014, which reaffirms its Resolutions of 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2012. The EU believes that the abolition of the death penalty is essential to protect human dignity and to the progressive development of human rights.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, ICELAND+ and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

+ Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.