



PC.DEL/867/10
2 September 2010

ENGLISH only

EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 827
Vienna, 2 September 2010**

EU statement on the death penalty in the United States

The EU opposes death penalty in all cases and under all circumstances and calls for a global moratorium as a first step towards its universal abolition, in line with resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 18 December 2007 and on 18 December 2008.

We remain particularly concerned by the imposition of the death penalty in cases where the convicted is suffering from mental or intellectual disabilities and we consider this practice contrary to widely accepted human rights norms. It is therefore with deep concern that the EU has learned about the imposition of the death penalty on Mr Holly Wood whose execution is set to be carried out in the State of Alabama on 9 September 2010. The EU notes that expert testimonies suggest that Mr Wood suffers from a number of serious mental deficiencies. The EU calls upon the appropriate authorities in the State of Alabama to commute Mr Wood's death sentence.

The EU is also gravely concerned to learn that Mr Kevin Keith is scheduled to be executed in the State of Ohio on 15 September 2010. The case of Mr Keith casts substantial doubt as to his culpability. While we are aware of the suffering of the victims of violent crime and their families, we recall that with capital punishment any miscarriage of justice, from which no legal system is immune, represents an

irreversible loss of human life. The EU urges the appropriate authorities in the State of Ohio to ensure that the case of Mr Kevin Keith is given a full and thorough review.

The EU has furthermore learned with deep regret that Mr Cal Coburn Brown is to be executed in the State of Washington on 10 September 2010. The EU considers that states that have not yet abolished the use of capital punishment should not impose this punishment when a de facto moratorium has been in place for an extended period. The execution of Mr Brown, whose case we have also raised on an earlier occasion, would break the de facto moratorium in the State of Washington, where the last execution took place on 28 August 2001. The EU calls upon the appropriate authorities in the State of Washington to continue the moratorium on executions and to grant Mr Brown relief from the death penalty.

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 EU considers capital punishment cruel and inhuman. Furthermore, it has not been found to act as a deterrent. While the EU fully respects the democratic process of other countries, the concern for human integrity and human dignity, which has inspired us to abolish capital punishment, obviously applies to all human beings.

The EU trusts that the Government of the United States of America will ensure that the appropriate State authorities will be informed of this statement.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA*, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA* and ICELAND, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO and SERBIA, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, AZERBAIJAN and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement

*Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.