



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Permanent Council No. 1231 Vienna, 6 June 2019

## EU Statement on Abolition of Death Penalty in the US State of New Hampshire

On 30 May, the State of New Hampshire abolished the death penalty with a two-third majority in both the State Senate and the House. This brings the number of US States that have abolished the death penalty to 21, in addition to four states that have declared a moratorium on executions.

The European Union strongly hopes that this decision will encourage other US States to join the growing trend to eliminate capital punishment worldwide, where two thirds of countries have already, by law or de facto, abolished the death penalty.

Still, the European Union regrets that nine executions took place in the US this year and twelve execution dates have been set so far for the remaining of 2019.

The death penalty is cruel, inhuman and degrading in nature and makes any miscarriage of justice irreversible and fatal. Furthermore, the death penalty does not have any proven deterrent effect.

The EU will continue its long-standing campaign against the death penalty, including within the OSCE. We call on the two participating States that still maintain the death penalty in law and in practice, as well as on relevant OSCE Partners for Cooperation, to introduce a moratorium on executions as a first step towards full abolition.

The Candidate Countries REPUBLIC of NORTH MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\*, SERBIA\* and ALBANIA\*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

\* Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.