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**Présidence française du Conseil de l'Union Européenne**

**Conseil Permanent No. 722  
17 juillet 2008**

**European Union Statement  
on the death penalty in the USA**

The EU has learned with deep regret that Mr. Mark Dean Schwab was executed in the State of Florida on July 1st this year. The execution broke a de-facto moratorium which was in place in Florida during the Supreme Court's examination of the use of lethal injections in connection with the Baze vs. Rees case. The EU reiterates its disappointment with the Supreme Court's ruling in this regard on April 16, 2008.

The EU confirms its longstanding position against the death penalty in all circumstances. The EU strives to achieve universal abolition of the death penalty, seeking a global moratorium on its use as a first step. We recall the resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 18, 2007 which expressly calls upon all states that still maintain the death penalty to establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty.

While we are aware of the suffering of the victims of violent crime and their families, we recall that, with capital punishment, any miscarriage or failure of justice, from which no legal system is immune, represents an irreparable and irreversible loss of human life. Furthermore, there is no reliable

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evidence that the death penalty provides added value in terms of deterrence. We believe that the elimination of the death penalty is fundamental to the protection of human dignity and to the progressive development of human rights.

The EU encourages resumption of the de-facto moratorium in Florida and calls on all States to maintain or revert to similar moratoria.

The EU trusts that the government of the United States of America will inform the appropriate authorities in Florida and in other federal states of our call for the immediate establishment of de facto and de jure moratoria on the use of the death penalty with a view to abolition.

La Turquie, la Croatie\* et l'ancienne République yougoslave de Macédoine\*, pays candidats, l'Albanie, la Bosnie et Herzégovine, le Monténégro et la Serbie, pays du processus de stabilisation et d'association et candidats potentiels, l'Islande, le Liechtenstein et la Norvège, pays de l'Association Européenne de libre-échange et membres de l'Espace économique européen, ainsi que la République de Moldavie, l'Arménie et l'Azerbaïdjan se rallient à cette déclaration.

\*La Croatie et l'ancienne République yougoslave de Macédoine continuent à participer au processus de stabilisation et d'association.

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