



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1048 Vienna, 23 April 2015

EU Statement on the death penalty in the USA

It is with deep regret that the EU learnt of the executions of Kent Sprouse on 9 April 2015 in the US State of Texas, and of Andre Cole on 14 April in the State of Missouri, in spite of the concerns as regards their mental health and mental condition, in the case of Mr Sprouse, at the moment of the commission of his crimes, and as regards Mr Cole, at the time of his execution.

We are aware of the severity of the crimes for which Mr Sprouse and Mr Cole were convicted and wish to express our deepest sympathies for the suffering of the victims and of their surviving families and friends. However, the EU notes 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 previous resolutions since 2007. 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* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, MONACO 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.