

Prohlášení Statement Déclaration

Vienna 12 March 2009

Permanent Council No. 754 EU Statement on the Death Penalty in the USA

The EU considers that nations which have not as 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. It is therefore with deep regret that the EU has learned that an execution is scheduled to be carried out in the State of Washington tomorrow on 13 March. The execution of Mr. Cal Coburn Brown would break a de facto moratorium in the State of Washington, where the last execution took place in August 2001.

The EU reiterates its longstanding opposition against the death penalty in all circumstances and accordingly aims at its universal abolition, seeking a global moratorium on its use as a first step. We recall the resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 20 November 2008 that reaffirms its resolution adopted in December 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. 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.

Taking account of these factors, the EU calls upon the appropriate authorities in the State of Washington to continue the moratorium on executions and urges them to grant Mr. Cal Coburn Brown relief from the death penalty.

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

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA* and the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, 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 ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA and AZERBAIJAN align themselves with this statement.

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