



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council Nr 957 Vienna, 27 June 2013

EU statement on two death sentences in Belarus

The EU deeply regrets that two persons were sentenced to death in Belarus on 12 and 14 June 2013, in addition to the previous death sentences handed out this year. We hope that their right to appeal will be fully respected.

The EU opposes the use of capital punishment 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 in 2007, 2008 and 2010.

While we are aware of the suffering of the victims of violent crime, we recall that, with capital punishment, any miscarriage of justice, from which no legal system is immune, represents an irreversible loss of human life. Furthermore, no reliable evidence supports the argument that the death penalty is a deterrent to serious crime.

We take note of the re-establishment of the parliamentary working group on the death penalty in Belarus. We urge Belarus, the only country in Europe still applying capital punishment, to join the global moratorium on the death penalty as a first step towards its universal abolition.

The Acceding Country CROATIA*, the Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, ICELAND+ and SERBIA*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates ALBANIA and BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, as well as the Republic of MOLDOVA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO, align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

+ Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.