



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

STATEMENT ON DEATH SENTENCE IN BELARUS

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council
Vienna, 26 March 2015

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

This statement is also delivered on behalf of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland.

We condemn the death sentence given to Mr. Siarhei Ivanou by the Homyel Regional Court of the Republic of Belarus, 18 March.

Mr. Chairman,

Death penalty undermines human dignity. We strongly urge all OSCE participating States to stop sentencing its citizens to death, and thereby jointly close the chapter on the death penalty in our region.

In the international community, there is increasing support for the view that the death penalty constitutes a violation of the prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment.

Last December, a record number of countries – 117 – supported the fifth UN General Assembly resolution calling for a global moratorium on the use of the death penalty. Belarus is today the only European country still applying capital punishment.

We would like to see a universal abolition, seeking a global moratorium on the death penalty as a first step.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman