



EUROPEAN UNION

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EU statement on European and World Day against the Death Penalty

On the occasion of the European and World Day against the Death Penalty, the European Union wishes to reiterate its strong opposition to the use of the death penalty at all times and in all circumstances, even when backed by due process in a democratic society. As highlighted by EU High Representative/Vice President Mogherini and Council of Europe Secretary General Jagland, the death penalty is incompatible with human dignity. It constitutes inhuman and degrading treatment, does not have any proven deterrent effect, and allows judicial errors to become irreversible and fatal.

Therefore, the EU calls for universal abolition of the death penalty. Abolition of the death penalty contributes to the enhancement of the protection of human dignity and the respect of human rights. As a step towards this, the EU advocates for a global moratorium on the use of the death penalty.

The EU also strongly calls on States not to reintroduce death penalty once it has been abolished or suspended. The scourge of terrorism affects all parts of the world, and the OSCE region is not an exception. However, the threat of terrorism cannot serve as a legal justification for the death penalty.

The EU welcomes the global trend towards the abolition of the death penalty, and we call on Belarus and the United States to seize the momentum, suspend all executions and take decisive steps towards abolition.

Even though more than two-thirds of all countries have abolished the death penalty by law or in practice, the trade in goods used for executions and torture

by some States goes on. To end this trade, the European Union, Argentina and Mongolia launched the “Alliance for Torture-Free Trade”. We encourage all States to support this initiative as a way to strengthen international cooperation in this area and share best practices.

Thank you.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, SERBIA* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and ANDORRA align themselves with this statement.

* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.