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Prohlášení

Statement

Déclaration

Vienna 14 May 2009

Permanent Council No. 761 EU statement on the Death Penalty in the USA

The European Union is opposed to the use of capital punishment under all circumstances and accordingly aims at its universal abolition, seeking a global moratorium on the death penalty as a first step.

The European Union considers that nations which have not as yet abolished the death penalty should not impose this punishment when a de facto moratorium has been in place for an extended period. The execution of Mr. Skillicorn would break the de facto moratorium in the State of Missouri, where the last execution took place on October 26, 2005.

The European Union also notes that on November 20, 2008, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on the death penalty, which reaffirms its Resolution adopted in December 2007, expressly asking all nations that still use the death penalty to institute a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the practice.

Furthermore, the European Union considers that in nations, which still employ capital punishment, its use should be restricted to the "most serious crimes". The death penalty must be limited to cases where it can

be shown that there was an intention to kill which resulted in the loss of life.

Taking account of these factors, the EU calls upon the appropriate authorities in the State of Missouri to continue the moratorium on executions and urges them to grant Mr. Skillicorn 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 Missouri 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.