

**EUROPEAN UNION****OSCE Permanent Council Nr 920  
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**EU statement on the death penalty in the USA**

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It is with deep regret that the EU has learnt that the execution of Mr Warren Lee Hill is set to be carried out in the State of Georgia on 18 July 2012.

There is evidence to suggest that Mr Hill is mentally disabled, since in 2002 he was found by a State court judge to have heavy mental retardation, accompanied by significant adaptive deficits. It is also with deep regret that the EU has learnt that the execution of Mr Daniel Cook is set to be carried out in the State of Arizona on 8 August 2012.

Mr Cook has a long history of severe mental illness, including schizophrenia and passive aggressive personality.

The EU strongly believes that the execution of persons suffering from a mental disorder, including limited mental competence, is contrary to widely accepted human rights norms and is in contradiction to the minimum standards of human rights set forth in several international human rights instruments.

The EU would like to express its sympathy to the victims' families but stresses that their loss will not be mitigated by the deaths of Mr. Hill and Mr. Cook.

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 and their families, we recall that, with capital punishment, any miscarriage of justice, from which no legal system is immune, represents an irreversible loss of human life. The EU believes that the abolition of the death penalty is essential to protect human dignity and to the progressive development of human rights. Furthermore, no reliable evidence supports the argument that the death penalty is a deterrent to serious crime. While the EU fully respects the democratic process of other countries, the concern for human integrity and human dignity, which has inspired us to abolish capital punishment, obviously applies to all human beings.

Taking these factors into account, the EU urges the appropriate authorities in the State of Georgia and the State of Arizona to grant Mr Hill and Mr Cook, respectively, relief from the death penalty.

The EU trusts that the United States delegation will ensure that the appropriate authorities in State of Georgia and the State of Arizona will be informed of this statement.

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, and the EFTA countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, 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.