



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1038 Vienna, 5 February 2015

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### EU Statement on the Application of the Death Penalty in the United States of America

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The EU is very concerned by the situation in the US regarding the application of the death penalty to mentally disabled and mentally ill persons. Last week, two inmates whose intellectual capabilities were considerably diminished, were executed, one in the State of Georgia and one in the State of Texas. This was contrary to widely accepted human right norms and to the minimum standards set forth according to international human rights law, which prohibits execution of the mentally disabled and mentally ill.

The death penalty is cruel, inhuman and irreversible, and does not serve any deterrent purpose. The European Union is opposed to the use of capital punishment under all circumstances and aims at its universal abolition, seeking a global moratorium on the death penalty as a first step.

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

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